

University of
Lethbridge



Connecting Communities

SENATE PLAN 2023-2027



Territorial (Awahsinii) Statement

Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University of Lethbridge Senators acknowledge and deeply appreciate the Siksikaitapii peoples' connection to their traditional territory. We, as people living and benefiting from Blackfoot Confederacy traditional territory, honour the traditions of people who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We recognize the diverse population of Indigenous Peoples who attend the University of Lethbridge and the contributions these Indigenous Peoples have made in shaping and strengthening the University community in the past, present, and in the future.

Approved by Senate: **April 12, 2024**



Chancellor's Message

Oki, as the University of Lethbridge's 15th Chancellor, I am pleased to present the inaugural Senate Plan.

We have listened to our Senators, and I am grateful for their investment in the planning process and their continued commitment to the success of the University of Lethbridge. As the University is currently reimagining and developing a new institutional strategic plan, our Senators are here to support the University and promote the plan to the community.

Through the implementation of our own Senate Plan, which includes annual progress updates and metrics, we become accountable in ensuring the impact of Senate is visible and aligned. This plan develops a framework that will allow future Chancellors and Senators to build upon. As an alumnus and former ULSU President, I am excited by the ideas and priorities that are presented in this plan, and I am inspired by the motivation and engagement of our Senate members to advance this plan forward. I look forward to promoting our Senate initiatives and fostering community connections for the success of the University of Lethbridge.

Terry Whitehead Ksikkikhkíni (BA 94'),
Chancellor, University of Lethbridge





Senate Mission

Senate is an articulated body within the PSLA¹. As volunteer ambassadors for the University of Lethbridge, Senators support the success of the University of Lethbridge in achieving its strategic directions and plans. Senators shall educate and be educated to build awareness of the University and connect into their communities. Senators shall activate to support the University through their involvement in the activities of the Senate. In addition, the Senate is expected to share the views of the community on matters involving and reflecting the University's activity in the community, with the University.

¹Post-secondary Learning Act of Alberta (PSLA) 13(1), the primary duty of Senate is to "inquire into any matter that might benefit the university and enhance its position in the community." Additionally, the PSLA 6(1) provides for the Senate to also elect the Chancellor and to grant an honorary degree upon a person PSLA 107(1).

Senate Priorities

These three identified priorities of Senate along with their corresponding metrics will be assessed annually at the first Senate meeting in the Fall.

Promote Awareness of the University in the Community

In alignment with the strategic priorities of the University, develop an outreach plan in the community to assist with increased awareness.

METRICS

- Review current Senate community engagement activity to define terms of reference and intended impact for the appropriate measurement of outcomes. This includes Chancellor's Dinner and other outreach events.
- Identify areas for future community engagement activities, in collaboration with External Relations, to align with strategic University priorities.
- Increase visits with external community groups to support the new President and the new Strategic Plan, once approved.
- Ensure opportunities for all Senators to continue to be educated and made aware of the University and its current priorities.
- Ensure opportunities for Senators to share what they are hearing in their communities at each Senate meeting.
- Attend other University functions and events as representatives of the Senate when possible.

Increase Senate Supports for Students

Understand and support the needs of our students on campus.

Celebrate and support the students at convocation and the Senate award winners.

METRICS

- Have opportunities to learn about priority needs of students such as food security.
- Provide professional networking opportunities by senators for students.
- Continue to celebrate the success of our Convocation Student Medalists by hosting and recognizing them at the annual Chancellor's Dinner.
- Continue to celebrate the Student Senate Award Winners by hosting and recognizing them at the annual Chancellor's dinner.

Build on the Success of Senate Duties

Maintain a full Senate membership with appropriate community representation that aligns with the University's' commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) principles and best practices.

Educate Senators through orientation, mentorship of duties and responsibilities, and provide ongoing support.

Review the governance, selection, and awarding processes related to Honorary Degree Recipients, Chancellors and Volunteer Award recipients. Ensure a clear understanding and effectiveness in helping celebrate and build the profile of the University.

METRICS

- Develop and implement skills and EDI matrices and plan for Senate member recruitment and succession planning.
- Complete and implement recommendations that may arise from a review of the Honorary Degree, Volunteer Award Recipient and the Chancellor appointment process.
- Build on the Senate Member Orientation to ensure appropriate education and support.

Celebrating Senate

As of January 2024 please find some celebratory successes of the University of Lethbridge Senate!

Senate Award

The Senate Scholarship fund was formally established in January 2007 by Chancellor Emerita Shirley DeBow, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the University of Lethbridge. The goal at the time was to create one new student award by establishing an endowment, funded through gifts made by University Senators.

- Value \$380,000
- 167 Student Recipients
- Averaging over \$800/recipient

Honorary Degree Recipients

Recipients of these degrees personify the values expressed in the liberal education philosophy of the institution - they cultivate humane values and seek to foster such things as intellectual growth, social development, aesthetic sensitivity, personal ethics, and the dimensions of a scholar's personality .

- 242 – first awarded in 1969

Volunteer Award Recipients

The University of Lethbridge Volunteer Award commenced in 2005 and is a prestigious award honoring worthy recipients having a record of distinguished volunteer service by volunteering for the University or whose volunteer service has increased the profile of the University within the community.

- 29 individuals or groups recognized

Senate Membership

- 60 individuals
- Over 1,000 Volunteer Hours Annually
- Current Members from across Alberta and British Columbia

Chancellor's Dinner

The Chancellor's Dinner is an annual event, held in conjunction with spring Convocation, that celebrates and honours the achievements of our community, student, faculty, and staff award recipients. Among those recognized are our Honorary Degree Recipients, UofL Volunteer Award recipient, Speaker Research Medal recipient, Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, President's Award recipients, and all student Medal recipients.

Chancellor

Elected Terry Whitehead as the 15th Chancellor in 2023, an alumni and first former ULSU president to serve as Chancellor.

