University of Lethbridge

SENATE APPROVED MINUTES

Friday, April 10, 2026
1:30 p.m., AH100 & Zoom

Present: T. Whitehead (Chair), S. Acharya, F. Baskerville, M. Booyens, A. Boras, V. Boras, T. Boulet, N. Buis-Deering, M. Campmans, A. Cormican (virtual), C. Crane (virtual), S. Darain (virtual), A. Day Chief, R. DeGagne, J. Doan, R. Doria, A. Figueroa, B. Galts, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood, T. Grindle, M. Helstein, C. Irakoze, S. Koppe (virtual), O. Kovalchuk, O. Legg, D. Lucas, G. Mankee, K. Massey, D. McMartin, S. Mintz, E. Mundell, R. Myndio, L. Neufeld, M. Neumeier (virtual), J. Oldfield, H. Ortega Arango (virtual), U. Patel, B. Pike, J. Prus, M. Qazi, K. Rabbit-Young Pine, T. Rempel, T. Saunders, B. Scott, L. Spadavecchia, B. Tucker, P. Warris, L. Wyton

Regrets: J. Dempsey, D. Jayas, L. Kolk, S. Pahulje, S. Parmar, D. Piper, J. Shriner, S. Sjovold, J. Steed, MD. Tareque, S. Whimster-Collier, D. Yellow Horn

Other: J. Gallais, A. Mohamed, M. Letts, M. Slomp

The Chancellor opened with the territorial statement.

Introduced new ULSU Representatives.

Presentation by Dr. Matt Letts, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

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1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

1.1. Approval of the Senate Meeting Agenda – April 10, 2026
1.2. Approval of the Senate Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2026

MOTION: sen.2026.04.01

Buis-Deering/Scott

That the Senate approve the Consent Agenda for April 10, 2026.

Motion: Carried

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2. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

T. Whitehead presented the Chancellor's Report as enclosed.
He highlighted the following:

- Thanked organizers of International Women's Day event for a successful and impactful event.
- Attended two classes and appreciated the professors who welcomed him
- Attended ULSU Changeover dinner and congratulated the students for a wonderful evening.
- Reminded the Senators that the Abbondanza Fundraiser is scheduled for next week

and is sold out, and that Vibe Fest, which is free and open to the public, will also take place.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. Jayas sends his regrets and in place M. Helstein presented the President's Report as enclosed and highlighted the following:

- It was noted that on April 1st, the University of Lethbridge participated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support a post-secondary union across Alberta.
- A leadership gathering took place throughout the day, with funding provided by Mastercard.
- The Destination Phase II initiative remains ongoing, supported by $3 million in provincial planning funds intended to extend the lifespan of the University Hall Campus building. This project prioritizes safety and renewal, with a focus on reimagining educational spaces for the next 60 years. Currently, 30% of courses are held in University Hall. In addition, a substantial funding request has recently been submitted to the government for the upcoming year, and Senators are encouraged to advocate for University Hall within the community.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Senate Committees

- Executive Committee
  T. Whitehead noted the report is enclosed. No questions arose.

- Engagement Committee
  T. Saunders/R. Myndio presented the enclosed Engagement Committee report.

- Honorary Degree Committee
  B. Galts presented the enclosed Honorary Degree Committee report.

- Volunteer Award Committee
  T. Whitehead shared the joy of the recipients of the Senate Volunteer Award, Shawn & Erin Pinder.

4.2. Other Member Reports

- Board of Governors
  No questions arose on the submitted report.

- General Faculties Council
  K. Massey noted the enclosed General Faculties Council Report enclosed. No questions arose.

- Alumni Association
  C. Crane noted the enclosed Alumni Association Report enclosed. No questions arose.

- Graduate Students' Association
  J. Oldfield gave a verbal update and highlighted the following:
  - The GSA Meeting of the Minds Conference received over 80 abstract submissions. The Association was also proud to distribute well-curated swag bags and coordinated with Wacky Events to provide students with a professional headshot photo booth.
  - Efforts are underway to ensure a smooth transition as responsibilities are passed on to the incoming executive GSA team.
  - Progress is being made in food sustainability initiatives, including collaborations with food delivery services and partnerships with several community and internal

organizations to expand housing options for students.
- The nominations process for GSA positions is currently ongoing, with elections scheduled to take place in the near future.

- Students' Union
  A. Figueroa provided a verbal update and highlighted the following:
  - Elections have concluded, and appreciation was extended to student representatives for their dedication over the past year; both new and returning representatives were listed.
  - The Arts and Science Trivia Night saw an excellent turnout with strong community support, including contributions from local foundations. Senators were thanked for their donations.
  - Senators were also thanked for attending the ULSU Changeover Gala, which celebrated student achievements and raised just over $2,000 for the food bank.
  - There are concerns that Canada Student Loans & Grants may not return to the 40% increase implemented two years ago; however, a federally sponsored petition led to an extension, marking a significant federal accomplishment.
  - Efforts are being made to support the new student council through smooth transitions and to increase ULSU's involvement within various university departments.
  - Senators were invited to attend the Flare Symposium in the Science Commons, scheduled for Friday, April 24th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
  - Achieved a federal advocacy victory with CASA when they introduced a requirement for international students to obtain a co-op work permit.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. Chancellor Search Committee Appointments

MOTION: sen.2026.04.02

Galts/Figueroa

The Senate Executive Committee met on March 25, 2026 and recommends:

That Senate approve the appointment of the following three (3) members of the Senate to the Chancellor Search Committee for terms effective immediately until conclusion:

- *Christa Irakoze*
- *Ryan Myndio*
- *Tim Rempel*

Motion: Carried

5.2. Senate Member Reappointments

MOTION: sen.2026.04.03

Myndio/ Kovalchuk

The Senate Executive Committee met on March 25, 2026 and recommends:

That Senate approve the reappointment of the following Representative

Members for their second and final term ending on June 30, 2029.

- *Valerie Boras (Coaldale)*
- *Anthea Boras (Lethbridge)*
- *Michelle Campmans (Picture Butte)*
- *Sydney Koppe (Lethbridge)*
- *Gyan Mankee (Lethbridge)*
- *Terri Saunders (Lethbridge)*
- *Jason Shriner (Lethbridge)*

Motion: Carried

5.3. Senate Bylaws (revised)

MOTION: sen.2026.04.04

Saunders/ Mundell

The Senate Executive Committee met on March 25, 2026 and recommends:

That Senate approve the revised Senate Bylaws effective immediately. (2/3 Approval Required)

Motion: Carried

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. Chancellor's Dinner – May 28, 2026

T. Saunders encouraged Senators to join Terry's final Chancellor's Dinner. J. Gallais gave a presentation demonstrating how the event supports student scholarships via ticket sales and sponsorships. J. Gallais also asked Senators to buy tickets early when invitations are sent out next week.

6.2. Senate Engagement Schedule

R. Myndio shared the upcoming engagement events and reminded Senators to attend and support. T. Saunders announced a new addition to the engagement schedule: the Junior Achievement Careers event on Thursday, May 21st, where 350 high school students will explore careers and receive mentorship from professionals. K. Massey reminded Senators that further information was sent by email, including the option to volunteer as a mentor. Senators are encouraged to register by May 11th.

3:00 pm – The Grove Presentation

Kathleen Massey, Vice-Provost (Students) and Mark Slomp, Executive Director, Student Services

Senators were invited to the Grove First Dig Construction Kickoff & Community Market on May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1. Senate Moments

T. Saunders and R. Myndio led Senate Moments, and the following moments were shared:

7 Senate moments were shared.

- R. Myndio – Appreciated questions that were asked by the students at the Mentorship

Gala

- J. Prus. – Attended Brain Awareness week and Aboriginal week events. Connected with Faculty about upcoming events. Attended annual Potato Symposium at the University of Lethbridge.
- R. Doria – Had an opportunity to be one of the judges at the Meeting of the Minds and was impressed by the research that was presented. Felt passionate about the research happening to improve food insecurity.
- K. Massey – shared the joy she has in seeing the impact that the Meeting of the Minds events created for students.
- L. Spadavecchia – shared that she looks forward to continuing to advocate for the University of Lethbridge and it's role in the community beyond her term as a Senate Member
- K. Rabbit-Young Pine – reflected on her six years as a Senate Member, expressing her appreciation for her tenure. She encouraged new Senators to actively engage in their roles to foster a stronger connection with their responsibilities.
- A. Figueroa – Introduced Jessica Sumber and thanked her for her work and thanked Senators for their genuine engagement and sincere connection with each of the student representatives and University community

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: sen.2026.04.05

Pike/Piper

That the Senate be adjourned for April 10, 2026.

Motion: Carried