

Report of the Governance Office

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Jordan Sherbino, Governance Officer

Date of Meeting: October 26, 2024

Subject: Senate Engagement Working Group

Background:

The Governance Office has established a Working Group on Senate Engagement. The membership of this group is as follows:

- Aaron Genest
- Jane MacLeod
- Tamara Buckwold
- Lorne Vanin
- Bruce Richet
- Wade Hainstock
- Rhonda Gough
- Jessica O'Brien (University Relations staff liaison)
- Jordan Sherbino (committee support)

Approach of Working Group:

The topics being considered by this working group have been organized into three thematic areas, each of which will be considered in turn. It is anticipated that Phase 3 will conclude in June 2025, but this could shift due to extenuating circumstances. The three phases are as follows:

- 1) *Phase 1: Logistics and Administration*
This phase is focused on various meeting logistics (locations, agenda flow, reception, communications, etc) as well as the content of and approach to engagement sessions and education sessions for Senate. This phase will also discuss Senator onboarding.
- 2) *Phase 2: Community and Alumni Engagement*
This phase is focused on the intersections of Senate, community, and alumni engagement and how the Senate can be leveraged in this work. This phase will also consider the ways to strengthen the relationships with the associations represented on Senate.
- 3) *Phase 3: Creating a Culture of Engagement*
This phase will look at how to embed a culture of engaging Senate within the university, including looking at intersections/connections with other governing bodies and the potential of a standing committee on Senate engagement.

Goals of Working Group:

The Senate Engagement Working Group is focused on providing advice and ideas on specific issues to help the Governance Office advance the goals of Senate engagement. Ultimately, the goals are to use a more engaged Senate to help the university better achieve its vision and live up to its mission.

Next Steps and Timeline:

There will be an additional report on the progress of this working group at the next meeting of Senate. The Executive Committee of Senate will also continue to receive reports on the progress of this working group.

Alignment with the *University Plan*:

The goals of Senate engagement align with the following goals of the *University Plan*:

- *Embolden Partnerships*: Foster, expand, and diversify local, national, and global partnerships— with governments, businesses, and civil society in rural, northern and urban communities— rooted in reciprocal learning and the co-creation of knowledge.
- *Energize Champions*: Galvanize and diversify relationships with our alumni and donor community.