

Report of the Senate Membership Committee

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Tamara Buckwold, Member of the Senate Engagement Working Group

Date of Meeting: October 25, 2025

Subject: Senate Engagement Working Group – Report on Activities

Summary of Activities:

The members of the Senate Engagement Working Group are Aaron Genest, Bruce Richet, Jane MacLeod, Lorne Vanin, Rhonda Gough, Tamara Buckwold, Wade Hainstock. The working group was established in April 2024 and has been meeting over the past academic year. The following is an update from the working group meeting since the last Senate meeting.

Summary

Between April and July 2025, the Senate Working Group focused on strengthening Senator engagement and preparing for the transition to the newly established Senate Engagement Committee.

The group refined foundational language to better articulate the Senate's governance role, emphasizing Senators as elected ambassadors committed to consultation and leadership. Members also initiated planning for the committee transition and recommended enhancing the Chancellor's visibility during meetings.

The group explored ways to deepen Senator involvement, including a proposed mentorship initiative and improvements to meeting logistics and interactivity. Feedback from the Senate reception highlighted the value of connection and communication, prompting suggestions for more dynamic engagement formats at the Senate Meeting.

The group turned its attention to onboarding and orientation, recommending mentorship pairings, clearer guidance, and structured opportunities for new Senators to integrate into their roles. The group also proposed updates to the Terms of Reference and communication pathways to support transparency and meaningful consultation.

With the Senate's approval of the new committee structure, the Working Group concluded its work, passing forward a set of recommendations to guide the Senate Engagement Committee's launch and ongoing efforts.

Acknowledgements

The Working Group extends its gratitude to Bruce and Jane for their leadership and collaboration in shaping the engagement framework.

Next Steps and Timeline:

This information and further work will be transferred to the Senate Engagement Committee to continue the work started by the Senate Working Group.