

Attendance

Members

Program Faculty:

- Jillian Garrett, Education Council Chair (Arts)
- Brenda Ridgeley (Business)
- Morgan Martin, Vice-Chair & Acting Chair (Science and Technology)
- Kelly Brochu (Trades and Apprenticeship)

Regional Faculty:

- Claude Hurtubise (Central Okanagan)
- Bryan White (Shuswap Revelstoke)
- Leanne Mallory (North Okanagan)
- Wendy Wheeler (South Okanagan Similkameen)

Support Staff:

- Michelle Somerville
- Vivian Moretti

Educational Administrators:

- Samantha Lenci, Provost and Vice President, Academic
- Chris Newitt, Associate Dean, Arts and Foundational
- Paul Martin, Dean, Teaching & Learning Innovations
- Joan Ragsdale, Special Advisor, In-community Program Design

Regrets

- Neil Fassina, President
- Rhea Dupuis, Director, Indigenous Relations
- Chelsey Simmons (Student Representative, Central Okanagan)
- Shirelle Nickoli (Student Representative, North Okanagan)
- Malachi Gossen (Student Representative, South Okanagan Similkameen)
- Sara Delgado Soto (Student Representative, South Okanagan Similkameen)

Non-voting:

- Inga Wheeler, Registrar
- JoAnn Fowler (Board of Governors)

Recording:

- Elaine Booi, Governance Administrator

Guests:

- Erin Radomske, Chair, Water Engineering Technology & Faculty, Biology
- Sean Johnston, First VP, Chief Steward, Okanagan College Faculty Association
- Stacey Sakakibara, Faculty, Biology
- Tim Walters, Faculty, English
- Kristen Wiebe (Governance)
- Shannon Hawthorne (Executive Assistant)

Topic	Action
1. CALL TO ORDER	
Quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 5:01p.m.	
2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT	
The Chair suggested that if there is a vote on the Education Plan, the Provost should abstain.	
M. Martin noted that they have a conflict with the cancellation of the Viticulture Technician Diploma as it pertains to their designated department.	

Topic	Action
The Chair added that B. Ridgely will have a conflict with the cancellation of the office administration programs as they are from their respective department.	
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA <i>Recommended Motion: THAT the Education Council approves the June 11, 2026 open special meeting agenda.</i>	
K. Brochu	CARRIED
4. NEW BUSINESS	
Education Plan	
4.1 Education Plan 2026-2027	
The Provost presented the Education Plan to Council noting that minor changes were updated based on written feedback.	
The Chair opened discussion based on each section.	
Section 1: 2026/2027 Program Offerings	
A member noted that the Education Plan provides important transparency for learners regarding what programs and courses are offered. They emphasized that this clarity is beneficial for students.	
The Registrar added that there have been challenges with students thinking they may enroll in courses that remain listed but are no longer offered. They noted that maintaining an accurate and current catalogue is important from a student perspective.	
A member reflected on their experience in student advising, noting that it can be frustrating for students to plan for programs that are not actually available. They emphasized that it is better to clearly communicate current offerings and remove those that are no longer being delivered and expressed support for moving forward with this approach.	
The Chair noted that Council's advice to the Board could include that the Education Plan is a positive development for both students and the institution, particularly in improving clarity.	
Section 2: 2026/2027 Programs Recommended for Intake Suspension	
A member asked about the Environmental Studies Diploma, noting that enrolment did not appear low. The Provost responded that enrolment has been declining and the curriculum is currently under review for potential updates. Another member added that class averages for the program are significantly lower than expected, indicating opportunities for redevelopment.	
A member asked about the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Data Analytics and Economics and the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Marketing and Data Analytics, noting that there had been feedback regarding a lack of consultation. Members discussed concerns about limited knowledge of the consultation process and acknowledged that they don't know exactly what consultation occurred.	
The Chair declared a conflict of interest with respect to the Communications, Culture and Journalism Studies Diploma, which is recommended for intake suspension.	

Topic	Action
Section 3: 2026/2027 Programs Recommended for Cancellation Due to Low Enrolment	
A member suggested that Business Administration programming, particularly the post-baccalaureate programs, are valuable. They acknowledged that these programs have relatively low enrolment but observed that there is minimal cost to run them. The member expressed concern that discontinuing the programs prior to introducing replacement curriculum may be premature and noted that there may be student demand during the redesign process.	
A member suggested that the Viticulture Technician Diploma be removed from the cancellation list. Members discussed including advice to delay cancellation of this program until further consultation has taken place. Discussion also referenced new programming with Niagara College and noted that the Viticulture Technician Diploma has been offered only once.	
A member emphasized the College's responsibility for academic stewardship, noting that programs which have not been offered for several years may warrant removal. They added that, if programs are to be retained, they should undergo a renewal process and be reviewed by Education Council.	
<i>S. Lenci left the meeting at 5:31p.m.</i>	
The Chair suggested including a recommendation in Education Council's advice that the Viticulture Technician Diploma not be cancelled until further consultation has occurred. The Chair also suggested emphasizing the importance of clear processes and meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders before programs are recommended for suspension or cancellation. Members expressed general support for including this advice.	
A member noted that the cancellation of the Office Administration program may impact community stakeholders who value the program. It was acknowledged that enrolment has been low and offerings at other campuses have already been reduced. Members also noted that similar programs are being discontinued at other institutions across the province. Members agreed to include a statement recognizing potential stakeholder impacts.	
A member expressed difficulty in providing meaningful advice due to limited information and the pace of the process. The Chair acknowledged this concern and suggested that Council could include feedback that the process felt rushed and involved reviewing multiple evolving documents.	
A member reiterated the importance of academic stewardship and recommended including advice that supports removing outdated programs and reintroducing them through a renewal process with updated curriculum and rigor. The Chair agreed this should be reflected in Council's advice.	
A member noted that these decisions do not prevent future renewal and that program changes reflect strategic priorities within individual portfolios. They added that the documentation the Provost provided was helpful in outlining the rationale and that this context should be acknowledged in Council's advice.	
A member suggested that refining the process would support more consistent and effective consultation moving forward.	

Topic	Action
The Chair noted that the policies regarding cancellation and implementation currently under review will help clarify processes and roles. A member suggested including this as part of Council's advice. A member recommended that Council request improved communication regarding strategic shifts within portfolios, noting that this would support Education Council's role in providing advice on strategic direction. Section 4: 2026/2027 Courses Recommended for Cancellation A member noted that they were pleased to see evidence of communication with Chairs, as some courses had been removed following further consultation. The Chair acknowledged that S. Johnston had their hand raised but emphasized the need to prioritize comments from Council members. The Registrar expressed support for the updates, noting that a more accurate and streamlined calendar is beneficial, as it is not helpful for students to see courses listed that are not currently offered. A member asked about certain Adult Upgrading and Foundational courses, noting that some faculty outside of Council had expressed interest in keeping them available as electives. It was noted that these electives are not currently being offered, as efforts are focused on targeted upgrading to support student entry into specific programs at the College. The Chair invited S. Johnston to speak, and they noted the value of retaining some Arts and Sciences courses. The Chair emphasized the importance of Council feeling confident and satisfied with the review process to provide informed advice to the Board. They expressed hope that concerns regarding the process this year, particularly those not serving on Education Council, will be addressed and improved in future cycles. The Chair called for a vote, and Council agreed to generally support the Education Plan, with comments to be provided to the Board.	
5. OTHER BUSINESS & BUSINESS ARISING FROM CONSENT AGENDA No other business was raised.	
6. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:04p.m.	