

University of Waterloo
SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting held February 28, 2024
[in agenda order]

Present: Nasser Abukhdeir, Judy Castaneda, Charmaine Dean, Paul Fieguth, Vivek Goel, Rob Gorbet, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Narveen Jandu, Lili Liu, Kristiina Montero, Jacinda Reitsma, Diana Vangelisti, Mary Wells, Annie Yang

Absent: Sheila Ager*, Jeff Casello, Trevor Charles, Bruce Frayne, Mark Giesbrecht, Kevin Hare*, Chris Houser, Shana McDonald*, James Rush*, Siva Sivoththaman*
*regrets

Resources/Guests: David DeVidi, Bernie Duncker, Christine McWebb, Fayaz Noormohamed, Allan Starr

Organization of Meeting: In the absence of the chair Vivek Goel took the chair, and Mike Grivicic acted as secretary. The secretary advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2023 MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Gorbet and Abukhdeir. Carried.

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Goel indicated that the committee can expect a variety of strategic items to come forward at the upcoming meetings e.g. campus master plan, library space strategy, KPI reports etc.; additionally, as the approach to integrated planning is developed, this committee will be utilized as a sounding board.

4. GLOBAL FUTURES NETWORKS

Duncker, McWebb and Noormohamed provided a presentation, including: problems exist at the intersection of the five global futures, and the networks will support collaborations towards solving those problems; in some cases the networks will support coordination while in others there may be funding support required; some similar projects are already independently underway within the University; framework is guided by the Waterloo at 100 vision as well as the Provost's Advisory Committee on Building a Resilient University of Waterloo; as part of this framework, it is envisioned that there could be a Global Futures office to foster collisions and connections, with AVP-level leadership of the office; the variety of existing program budgets for interdisciplinary activities can be harnessed, coordinated, and reimagined within the Global Futures framework; governance of these networks would be two-pronged between Deans' Council Plus and a Global Futures Operations Council; recent launch event on January 31st.

Members discussed: examples of similar cross-cutting initiatives at other institutions, and these often include both Faculties and administrative support units; the problem-based approach is suitable and the overall approach is well-suited to seeking philanthropic support; as the networks are established and take hold, the ease of joining the networks/adding units allows for efficient scaling; efforts in these areas are susceptible to losing momentum and can result in opportunities forgone; the centres and institutes (C&Is) align with the Global Futures themes and the networks would aim to offer a suite of capabilities that are complementary and take a broader approach than C&Is; the networks could encounter tensions with respect to Faculty structures but aim to find ways for people to work together on shared goals; this framework will be positive in the STEAM space, for Arts and the AFIW; question of how to link with academic programming when the initiatives in question may be time-limited; the new budget model should support the incentives to collaboration; some repurposing of central funding for C&Is would aim to provide more coordinated staff support and create efficiencies toward collaborations; potential to leverage capacity and interest from the alumni community within these networks.

Goel thanked members for their observations and contributions, and indicated that this will come forward to Senate at a later date for approval.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

6. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is Wednesday April 10, 2024 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., NH 3407

April 3, 2024

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary