

William Cunningham

Mr. Chancellor, I present William Cunningham.

Professor Cunningham is an internationally renowned pioneer in the field of Combinatorial Optimization and his work has had tremendous influence on the development of this field. He has made fundamental contributions to problems on matchings, matroids, polyhedral combinatorics, and combinatorial decomposition.

His research is characterized by deep insights on thoughtfully chosen research topics. Consequently, his work has maintained its relevance over the years and his insights have played a role in some of the biggest advances in the field, including: a polynomial-time algorithm for submodular function minimization, a recognition algorithm for totally unimodular matrices, and the proof of the Strong Perfect Graph Conjecture.

Professor Cunningham has more than 50 scientific publications including a book on Combinatorial Optimization, which is standard text for graduate courses and researchers in the area. In addition to his scholarly achievements, he served as Chair of the Department of Combinatorics and Optimization for eight years and held the title of University Research Chair from 2004 to 2011. He is also one of the department's best teachers and has an outstanding record in graduate supervision.

Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of his outstanding scholarship and service to the University of Waterloo, I request that you bestow the title 'Distinguished Professor Emeritus' upon William Cunningham.