University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 15 October 2012 Meeting


Susan Crowley, Tim Jackson, Mary Jane Jennings, Cathy Newell Kelly, Geoff McBoyle, Ken McGillivray, David McKinnon, Chris Read, Ellen Réthoré, Bud Walker, Dave Wallace

Secretariat: Logan Atkinson, Tracy Dietrich, Karen Jack


*regrets

Organization of Meeting: Feridun Hamdullahpur, chair of Senate, took the chair, and Logan Atkinson, secretary of Senate, acted as secretary. Atkinson advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

Consent Agenda
Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 1-6 below.

1. MINUTES OF THE 17 SEPTEMBER 2012 MEETING
   Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2. REPORT FROM GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
   In response to a question, Horton explained the distinction among various scholarship and award categories, and Huber outlined the basis on which the new Master of Digital Experience Innovation ought to be considered as “full cost recovery.”

   Senate received this report for information.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
   Recognition and Commendation. Senate received this report for information.
4. **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST**
   Call for “University Professor” Nominations. Senate received this call for nominations for information.

5. **REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES AND RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**
   Senate received these reports for information.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**
   **Undergraduate Council Appointment.** Senate approved the appointment of Brad Henry as the applied health sciences undergraduate student representative, term to 31 December 2012.

   Hamdullahpur and McGinnis. Carried.

**Regular Agenda**

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
   There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**
   **Executive Committee.** On the recommendation of Executive Committee, a proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 11 was read for the first time. If passed, this amendment would add the vice-president, advancement and the vice-president, university relations as *ex officio* members of Senate. So as to preserve prescribed ratios, the addition of these two *ex officio* positions would necessitate the addition of one faculty-at-large senator.

   Hamdullahpur explained that all vice-presidents are heavily involved in the business of Senate as members of the president’s executive team, and ought to be able to take part in the formal meetings of Senate as full participating members.

   **Graduate & Research Council**
   - **Master of Arts in Classical Studies.** Senate heard a motion to approve the establishment of a Master of Arts in Classical Studies program to be offered by the Department of Classical Studies in the Faculty of Arts.

     Peers and Porreca. Carried.

   **Long Range Planning Committee.** On the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee, a proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 4 was read for the first time. If passed, this amendment would add one member of the Faculty Association (FAUW) Board of Directors to the committee membership. Such member would be appointed by FAUW.

   In discussion, it was pointed out that all other members of the committee are senators, but that there is no requirement in the proposed amendment that the FAUW representative be a senator. The secretary undertook to consider the question and advise. It was also pointed out that, in the proposed amended bylaw 4, there is some inconsistency in language. The secretary undertook to review the proposed amendment and make the necessary adjustments.

9. **TEACHING PRESENTATION**
   McBoyle introduced Donna Ellis, director of the Centre for Teaching Excellence and chair of the Innovative Teaching Task Force. Ellis delivered a presentation on the results of the work of the task force and provided an update on the status of the task force recommendations.
Discussion ensued on the relationship between the possibility of “deep learning” and the pressures placed on students, and on the projected timelines for implementation of recommendations.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
The president presented a broad report covering a number of items, including:

Bill 55, the bill intended to freeze executive compensation until the annual provincial budgetary deficit is eliminated. The president summarized the university’s position on the bill.

International Rankings. The university’s international rankings are generally on the decline. The president outlined a plan to work toward improvement in those rankings.

Strategic Planning. The next phase in the mid-cycle review is underway, but the provincial government’s demand for the strategic mandate agreement by the end of September was a distraction. It is hoped to bring results of the mid-cycle review to Senate in advance of bringing the matter to the board in February.

Strategic Mandate Agreement was submitted to the ministry before the end of September as required. This is intended to be the first step toward a much broader differentiation project in the sector in Ontario.

Grand Openings of Quantum-Nano Centre and Stratford Campus. The president referred to the great success in opening the Mike & Ophelia Lazaridis Quantum-Nano Centre, and to the anticipated opening of the Stratford Campus on 16 October.

Annual Performance Indicators. The president reviewed the university’s performance relative to a number of key indicators. The full document may be seen at
http://analysis.uwaterloo.ca/pubs/uwpi.php

Some discussion followed this portion of the president’s report, including questions on continuing challenges in achieving a better gender balance among faculty, and on the challenges in managing the new provincial government assessment on international graduate students (other than PhD students).

CAUT Pending Motion of Censure. The president advised that he was confident that the threat of censure would be removed by CAUT, based on conversations and negotiations with CAUT over the summer and into the early fall. The president confirmed that any agreement reached to settle the matter would not affect the governance document for the Balsillie School of International Affairs in any substantive way. Conversations with CAUT suggest that the censure motion be withdrawn. Only clarification has been done on the governance document.

UAE Campus. The president advised that Keller and Van Vlasselaer had recently completed a fact finding mission to Dubai, and that they would return to the university with a recommendation on the future of the Dubai Campus. It is acknowledged that the current situation is not a strong one for the university, primarily due to operational challenges. The president expects to be in a position to provide a recommendation to Senate within a month or two.

Slides used in the president’s presentation may be seen at
11. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
A question and answer period with the president followed presentation of his report. It was pointed out that the ratio of graduate students to undergraduate students as stated in the Sixth Decade Plan is probably not a realizable target. The president indicated that the university is still committed to achieving that goal, primarily because of the impact it has on the university’s ambitions with respect to research intensity.

Hamdullahpur commented that, while undergraduate research involvement is an important feature of learning at the university, graduate research productivity is the dominant measure of research intensity.

Some discussion took place on the possibility of providing a predictable tuition framework for international students. Hamdullahpur responded by saying that tuition fees are driven by budget necessities, and that challenges emerge because of the continued uncertainty in the provincial tuition framework connected to provincial budget planning. Horton pointed out that the university’s scholarships program for international students is a continuing draw for top students.

There was further discussion on the university’s efforts to improve in the international rankings, and the president advised that, in his view, the clearest path to improved rankings lies in recruiting PhD students more aggressively.

12. OTHER BUSINESS
Approval of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates [lists of graduands available at the meeting]. Senate heard a motion to approve the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as recommended by the faculty councils and the associate provost, graduate studies, and to authorize the chair, the registrar and the associate provost, graduate studies to add to or change the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as approved at the meeting on 15 October 2012.

Horton and Lavigne. Carried.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/20121015convocation.pdf

Senate convened in confidential session.

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University
CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

It was understood that senators are to keep confidential any discussion and decisions reached in this section of the meeting.

13. MINUTES OF THE 17 SEPTEMBER 2012 MEETING
Senate heard a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

Hamdullahpur and Freeman. Carried.

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
There was no business arising.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University

16 October 2012