University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Tuesday 21 May 2013 Meeting


Guests: Nello Angerilli, Kelly Anthony, Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Peggy Jarvie, Jennifer Kieffer, Kelly McManus, Chris Read, Ellen Réthoré, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Bud Walker, Dave Wallace, Nancy Weiner

Secretariat: Logan Atkinson, Tracy Dietrich


*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.

OPEN SESSION

Consent Agenda
Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 1-4 below.

1. MINUTES OF THE 15 APRIL 2013 MEETING
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS
Graduate & Research. Senate received the report for information.

Undergraduate Council
- Geomatics Option, Faculty of Science. Senate approved the option for students in the science and aviation plans as provided in the report.
- Honours Geography and Aviation (Regular), Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Environment. Senate approved the changes to the plan as provided in the report.
- Honours Science and Aviation, Science and Aviation, Faculty of Science. Senate approved the changes to the plan as provided in the report.
Withdrawing and Returning, Faculty of Engineering. Senate approved the additional information to be added to the engineering section of the undergraduate calendar as provided in the report.

Transfer Credits, Planning and Knowledge integration, Faculty of Environment. Senate approved lowering the external transfer credit grade requirement from 65% to 60% for planning and knowledge integration, effective 1 September 2014.

Senate received the remaining item in the report for information.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
   Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

4. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES
   Senate received the reports for information.

   Porreca and Busch. Carried.

Regular Agenda

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

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS
   Finance Committee
   • 2013-14 Operating Budget. Following a summary by McBoyle of some of the assumptions relied on to prepare the budget, some of the challenges inherent in budget preparation given the current situation with respect to both the government grant and the tuition framework, and the highlights of the budget on both the revenues and expenses side, the floor was opened for questions.

   On differences in faculty complements, McBoyle indicated that much of the differences relate to retirements, faculty moving to new appointments elsewhere, and historical agreements on needs relative to strategic planning objectives and business plans on new programs. In response to a question on the expense reduction, McBoyle advised that each faculty will make its own decisions on how to meet their objectives.

   McBoyle explained the provincial government’s assessment on international students.

   Senate heard a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors give favourable consideration to the 2013-14 operating budget as provided in the report.

   McBoyle and Ramdev. Carried.

   Long Range Planning Committee
   • University Strategic Plan. Senate heard a motion to conduct an electronic vote following the meeting to measure support for the adoption of the strategic plan, and to recommend to the Board of Governors that it adopt the strategic plan as presented.

   Ramdev and Forstner.

   There was some comment that the version distributed to Senate was not the final version to be approved, and that the timing of the deliberations by Senate is inconsistent with the idea of Senate
due diligence. McBoyle summarized some of the major changes made since the most recent draft was circulated, and some of the challenges in being appropriately responsive to input received from the community.

Because aspects of the plan link the university’s focus to the identification of societal need, the question was posed about how needs in this respect are identified. McBoyle explained that this would be resolved through the committee process as a plan of execution is developed.

The motion carried.

Hamdullahpur thanked McBoyle and his committee for their exemplary service in preparing the strategic plan.

**Graduate & Research Council**

- **Psychology, Faculty of Arts.** Senate heard a motion to approve the revised numbering system, course inactivations, program description changes, new course and course revisions for courses in clinical psychology as provided in the report.

  Horton and Porreca. Carried.

**Undergraduate Council**

- **English for Academic Success (EFAS) Admission Requirements.** Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the EFAS minimum admission requirements as provided in the report.

  McMahon and Ramdev.

  An explanation was offered with respect to the differences in faculty standards for admission, and with respect to some of the wording used in the report.

  The motion carried.

- **Bachelor of Science, Materials and Nanoscience 2+2, Faculty of Science.** Senate heard a motion to approve a 2+2 program in materials and nanoscience with Beijing Jiaotong University as provided in the report.

  McMahon and Power. Carried.

- **Geomatics Option, Faculty of Environment.** Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the plan.

  Roy and Brenning. Carried.

7. **TEACHING PRESENTATION**

Coniglio introduced Kelly Anthony, professor of public health & health systems. Anthony reported on her methods in experiential learning and shared sample class materials.

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

8. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Hamdullahpur presented a broad report covering a number of items. New and continuing senators were welcomed by Hamdullahpur. It was reported that the provincial budget will pass in the legislature, according to reports, such that a summer election will be avoided.
Hamdullahpur reported on projects related to the status of international graduate students, including their status relative to domestic students and the graduate student assessment levied by the provincial government. The university is doing its best to negotiate change on these two items, but in the meantime will charge international students a portion of the assessment to function as an offset.

The university is also making representations on the changes in research funding by the federal government.

A short report was presented on the recently completed Executive Council retreat and the action plan to emerge from the retreat. A report will be provided in due course. Some of the items discussed included research impact, student entrepreneurship and experiential learning, budgetary issues, and advancement projects.

Hamdullahpur advised that he would soon be appointing two special advisors, one on entrepreneurship and one on women and gender issues.

9. **Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT**

Hamdullahpur answered a number of questions arising from his report.

He advised that other universities are dealing with the graduate student assessment in a way similar to the way it is being managed at this university.

At Hamdullahpur’s request, Haslett advised that the university no longer has a relationship with Access Copyright, such that its proposals to make changes in the tariff have no application to this university.

Hamdullahpur advised that the special advisor on women’s and gender issues and the new director of equity will work very closely together, but that the special advisor will focus exclusively on women’s and gender issues.

The federal plans to reduce research funding will have an impact on faculty work, and there is a “special research grant” available internally to meet special requirements.

Hamdullahpur suggested that there is no attempt at the provincial government level to divide universities against each other, despite the plans to force universities to differentiate from each other, initially through the strategic mandate agreements. There is a significant challenge here, compelling us to distinguish ourselves as a research intensive university without contributing to the emergence of a two-tiered system.

In response to a question, Hamdullahpur summarized the standard approaches the university takes in seeking change through government offices, relying on its own resources and the resources of collective efforts such as those through the Council of Ontario Universities and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Hamdullahpur reaffirmed his position on the importance of academic freedom, and that statements from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada do not bind this institution.

10. **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST**

**Roster of Graduands.** Senate heard a motion to delegate approval of the roster of graduands to the Executive Committee for its 3 June 2013 meeting.

McBoyle and Porreca. Carried
Undergraduate Admissions Update. On behalf of Lavigne, Nancy Weiner reported that almost 24,000 offers have been made to date (target is 6000 new students by 1 November) and final results will be presented at the June meeting.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/admissions%20update.pdf

11. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
   There was no report from the vice-president.

12. OTHER BUSINESS
   There was no other business.

Senate convened in Confidential Session.

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University

22 May 2013
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 15 APRIL 2013 MEETING
Senate heard a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

McBoyle and Weckman. Carried.

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

15. OTHER BUSINESS
Hunt raised questions about the recent situation involving the banning of a Wilfrid Laurier student from campus due to disruption at a recent event. He asked if there were any procedure to allow the student to appeal the decision as he claims to be intending to study at the University of Waterloo to complete his program at Wilfrid Laurier. Hamdullahpur directed Hunt to the Secretariat for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University