University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 17 June 2013 Meeting


Guests: Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Adam Garcia, Peggy Jarvie, Cathy Newell Kelly, Kelly McManus, Wendy Mitchinson, Diana Parry, Ellen Réthoré, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Bud Walker, Dave Wallace, Nancy Weiner

Secretariat: Logan Atkinson, Tracy Dietrich, Alice Raynard


*regrets

Organization of Meeting: Geoff McBoyle 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 1-5 below.

1. MINUTES OF THE 21 MAY 2013 MEETING
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS
Executive Committee. Senate received the report for information.

Graduate & Research Council. Senate received the report for information.

Undergraduate Council
- Undergraduate Admission Requirements for 2014. Senate approved the undergraduate admission requirements for 2014 as presented.

- Degree Requirements, Faculty of Mathematics. Senate approved the recommended change to the failure limit for Mathematics Honours as presented.
• Averages, Faculty of Mathematics. Senate approved the recommended changes to mathematic averages as presented.

Senate received the remaining items 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.

5. OTHER BUSINESS
Undergraduate Council Appointment. Senate approved the appointment of Tom Brenner, academic dean, Rension University College, as the affiliated university colleges representative, term to 30 April 2015.

Busch and Freeman. Carried.

Regular Agenda

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Strategic Plan. McBoyle announced that the strategic plan was sent to the Board of Governors by Senate for consideration at its meeting of 4 June. The board returned the plan to the administration for some adjustments. It is intended to take the revision to the Executive Committee of the board for further feedback, and then on to the board for final approval.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS
Graduate & Research
• Physics, Faculty of Science. Senate heard a motion to approve the deactivation of the graduate co-op option in physics for the program offered by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Horton and Freeman. Carried.

• Tourism, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve the change in degree names from “Master of Arts in Tourism Policy and Planning” to “Master of Arts in Tourism” and from “Master of Environmental Studies, Tourism Policy and Planning” to “Master of Environmental Studies, Tourism,” and to approve the change in degree requirements for the programs offered jointly by the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies and the Department of Geography and Environmental Management as presented.

Horton and Andrey. Carried.

• Diploma in Green Energy, Faculty of Engineering. Senate heard a motion to approve the type 3 graduate diploma in green energy offered by the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering as presented.

Horton and Porreca.

Horton explained the differences among type 1, type 2 and type 3 diplomas. She explained as well that the financial plan is for approval by the Provost’s Office, and not for Senate’s approval.

The motion carried.
Undergraduate Council

- Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Mathematical Economics 2+2 Programs), Faculty of Arts.
  Senate heard a motion to approve 2+2 programs in economics and mathematical economics with Shandong Normal University as presented.

Peers and Porreca.

The motion as presented relates solely to programs in the Faculty of Arts, and not in the Faculty of Mathematics.

The motion carried.

8. RESEARCH PRESENTATION
Dixon introduced Wendy Mitchinson, professor of history. Mitchinson reported on her research in the area of women and medical history. Her specific focus is the perception in medicine toward obesity through the twentieth century, especially related to nutrition, height and weight. Charts in this respect were inventions of the life insurance industry, and therefore they were constructed based on the assumptions at that time current in the industry. Her research uncovers sources of various perceptions of obesity, and where blame is placed for obesity as a phenomenon of twentieth century life, reflecting in particular on gender biases in the construction of blame. She reviewed some of the treatment options through the twentieth century, concluding that the options have largely failed.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

10. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
There was no report from the president.

11. REPORT FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST
McBoyle congratulated Bruce Mitchell on his retirement from administrative service at the university, and Senate showed its appreciation through a round of applause.

McBoyle announced that Beth Jewkes has been appointed associate provost, resources, term 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016; Flora Ng has been named chair of the University Appointments Review Committee, term 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2016; and Bud Walker has been appointed interim associate provost, human resources, to serve until a permanent appointment is made.

Undergraduate Admissions and Entrance Scholarships. Associate Registrar (Admissions) Nancy Weiner reported on the number of offers, confirmations, entrance scholarships and transfers. She explained the process by which decisions are made to make offers, and how those decisions affect projections at this stage. There is a trend across the sector in Ontario this year toward higher numbers of confirmations, but it is still too early to determine if that trend will hold, and why. Weiner agreed to bring additional information back to Senate to explain changes in confirmations relative to targets.

The increased numbers will have an impact on residence spaces, the use of lab space, and in co-op placements. Plans are underway to address the residence question. Faculties will be responsible for making appropriate adjustments in the use of labs, and staff in Co-operative Education is working now in anticipation of pressures in January.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/uaes.pdf
12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
Dixon reported on SSHRC results in the latest round of awards, yielding a success rate of 38% (about 9% higher than the success rate in the competition overall). He agreed to provide a faculty breakdown for inclusion in the minutes, as follows:

**Successful Grants (11):** Arts 6, AHS 2, Mathematics 1, Environment 1, Renison 1.
**4A Grants (9):** Arts 7, Environment 2.
**Unsuccessful Grants (9):** Arts 5, Environment 3, Engineering 1.

13. REPORT OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Wallace reported on the progress in the development of ideas in “strategic information technology.” He made special mention of the idea of a federated governance model for the information technology function at the university, and generally summarized the process involved in generating the university’s IT strategic plan. In answer to a question, Wallace advised of plans to increase cell access and Wi-Fi connectivity. He commented as well on challenges in protecting the privacy of various forms of online communication. Wallace advised that the university is doing its best to resist spam, but will continue to look for ways to make improvements.


14. OTHER BUSINESS
**Statement on Mid-term Tuition Increases.** A statement submitted by several undergraduate student senators was introduced by Forstner. It was indicated by Forstner that those submitting the statement are concerned more about the nature and extent of communication about the tuition changes and the general process by which that is accomplished, than they are about the increase in tuition itself. He suggested that the practices by which tuition changes are undertaken be reviewed and improved, and that students be involved in this review. The means and content of communication is the key issue, and this will have to be managed more carefully going forward. McBoyle agreed that the process would be reconsidered, and that any changes in practices would be brought back to Senate for information.

Senate convened in confidential session.

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University

18 June 2013
CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

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

15. MINUTES OF THE 21 MAY 2013 MEETING
Senate heard a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

Haslett and Porreca. Carried.

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

17. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR HONORARY DEGREES

- **Pool of Candidates for Honorary Degrees.** Senate heard a motion to approve the inclusion of Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Rolf-Dieter Heuer, and Jean Vanier in the pool of candidates for honorary degrees.

  Power and Lavigne. Carried.

- **Distinguished Professor Emeritus.** Senate heard a motion to approve Christopher Edward “Ted” McGee for the title “Distinguished Professor Emeritus.”

  Frank and DeVidi. Carried.

- **Honorary Member of the University.** Senate heard a motion to approve Sharon Adams for the title “Honorary Member of the University.”

  Peers and Lavigne. Carried.

- **Honorary Degree Nominations from the Faculty of Engineering** [memo at senators’ places]. McBoyle read the memorandum for the benefit of Senate.

  Senate heard a motion to approve that a special meeting of Senate be convened to consider recommendations for inclusion in the pool of candidates for honorary degrees.

  Struthers and Hulan.

  It was observed that it would be preferable to have a full discussion at the Executive Committee than to have an online vote of Senate with little or no debate.

  The motion was defeated.

  Senate heard a motion to approve that the Executive Committee be temporarily granted the power to approve the inclusion of nominees in the pool of candidates for honorary degrees on behalf of Senate until the next regular meeting of Senate on 16 September 2013.

  Freeman and Forstner. Carried.
18. OTHER BUSINESS

Convocation Cost. The comment was made that some students consider convocation as the university’s last attempt to gain funds from the students (charging for provision of regalia, for example). It was observed by Lavigne that the charge is long standing and consistent with practice at other universities, and that the event is funded exclusively by the university otherwise.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Logan Atkinson
18 June 2013
Secretary of the University