University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 18 November 2013 Meeting


Guests: Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Peggy Jarvie, Lynn Judge, Jennifer Kieffer, Cathy Newell Kelly, Diana Parry, Chris Read, Ellen Réthoré, Tina Roberts, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Gordon Stubble, Dave Wallace

Secretariat: Logan Atkinson, Tracy Dietrich

Regrets: Graham Brown, Bruce Frayne, Peter Frick, Robert Henderson, Sue Horton, Kevin Lynch, Terry McMahon, Markus Moos, Tracy Peressini, Bill Power, Susan Schultz Huxman, Jay Shah, Barbara Veale, Prem Watsa, Nicollette Zaptse

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 1-5 below, subject to moving Motion 3 in the report from Undergraduate Council to the Regular Agenda and changing Marek Stastna’s cross reappointment from “Assistant Professor” to “Associate Professor” in the report from the dean of science.

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

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

   Undergraduate
   • Calendar Dates. Senate approved the 2014-15 calendar dates as provided in the report.
   • Undergraduate Admission Requirements. Senate approved the undergraduate admission requirements for 2015 as provided in the report.
   • Examinations and Standings, Faculty of Environment. Senate approved changes to the faculty’s regulation for the graduating Dean’s Honours List as provided in the report.
• Faculty Information and Regulations, Faculty of Science. Senate approved changes to the faculty’s information and regulations as provided in the report.

• Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Software Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. Senate approved changes to the degree requirements of the plans as provided in the report.

• Actuarial Science, Faculty of Mathematics. Senate approved changes to the admission requirements of the plans as provided in the report.

The remaining items in the report were received 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
   Report from the COU Academic Colleague. Senate received the report for information.

   Committee Memberships [handout at senators’ places]. Senate approved the following appointments/reappointments:
   • Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Committee:
     Rohan Jayasundera as faculty representative (reappointment); Yasaman Shahtaheri as graduate student representative (reappointment); Junghee Seo as undergraduate student representative (reappointment); Charis Enns as graduate student representative (appointment); Chris Lolas and Keemo Delos Santos as undergraduate student representatives (appointment). All terms are to 31 December 2014.

   • Distinguished Teacher Awards Committee: Carey Bissonnette as faculty representative and Tiffany Bradley as alumni representative (both reappointments, terms to 31 December 2015); Yasaman Shahtaheri as graduate student representative and Junghee Seo as undergraduate student representative (both reappointments, terms to 31 December 2014); Maxwell Hartt as graduate student representative, and Chris Lolas and Keemo Delos Santos as undergraduate student representatives (all appointments, terms to 31 December 2014).

Porreca and Hunt.

It was noted that the number of University of Waterloo students taught in the Anthropology program during the period spring 2004 and winter 2011 inclusive is incorrectly stated at the beginning of the fourth paragraph under the heading “Students” on page 3 of the “Final Assessment Report of the Review of the Anthropology Program (BA) September 2013.” The secretary undertook to recalculate the total based on information appearing later in that paragraph, and to correct the final version.

[Secretary’s note: the accurate number of students taught is 1355, based on the information on page 3 of that report, and the correction has been made.]

In response to a question, Lavigne explained the relationship between examinations, marking and submitting grades, auditing files, and the timing of the May and June Senate meetings. In the fall term, the timing ordinarily works to allow Senate to review matters before convocation. The only reliable way to manage this is through a delegation to the Executive Committee.

The question was called, and the motion carried.
**Regular Agenda**

Prior to moving to the Regular Agenda, Senate discussed Motion 3 from the report from Undergraduate Council referred to above. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the Faculty of Environment’s standings regulation as provided in the report.

Roy and Andrey.

Senate was advised that the proposed changes represent a codification of the existing procedure.

The motion carried.

6. **TEACHING PRESENTATION**

Coniglio introduced Gordon Stubley, professor of mechanical & mechatronics engineering. Stubley reported on his work in recognizing the challenges students face in learning fluid mechanics in engineering. Faculty must provide motivation, high expectations, opportunity for practice, and encouragement, to best ensure the success of the student.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**University Strategic Plan 2013.** Hamdullahpur presented information on the process by which the university strategic plan was approved by the Board of Governors. Concern was expressed by members of Senate on the rationale used to have the plan finally approved without seeking further Senate endorsement. Hamdullahpur advised that this was a decision fairly reached, without intention to bypass the authority of Senate in matters of the academic mission of the university. He agreed that, had he known the extent of Senate discomfort with this decision, he would have brought the plan back for further consideration and endorsement. That is what is being done at this meeting. On the examples used to highlight research excellence, they were intended to be examples only, without intention to exclude other research areas. The implementation of the academic plan by which the strategic plan is moved forward will be Senate’s to decide, first through the Long Range Planning Committee, and then through Senate. The interview with the Waterloo Record that was mentioned by some senators in debate was a misconstruction of his remarks, and we ought not to read too much into this.

Senate heard a motion to endorse the version of the strategic plan approved by the Board of Governors of the university at its meeting of 28 August 2013.

McBoyle and Freeman.

Debate on the motion ensued, including discussion of the following aspects of the motion and the strategic plan: whether modifications in certain language in the plan would be entertained; that some interpretations of the transformational research section of the plan tend to ostracize certain members of the research community; the relationship between research foci in the plan and the requirements of grant applications; the continued centrality of the university strategic research plan, and the role of Senate in approving that plan; the extent to which resources will be directed to those areas of research highlighted in the strategic plan; the utility of a resolution by Senate to clarify the interpretation of the transformational research section of the plan; confirmation of the list of areas of research focus from the research plan; explanation of the transformational research theme, with particular reference to the work underway and anticipated in this working group; concern about the range of interpretive possibilities for the plan, and the need to ensure a consistent interpretation is understood and applied, rather than placing Senate in opposition to the Board of Governors; the idea that the few problematic words in the transformational research section hold the potential to undermine the real strengths of the plan; the observation that the plan will be an organic document and the particular words are more for the external impression they might leave.
Senate heard a motion to amend the main motion, to the effect that Senate’s endorsement of the strategic plan is subject to the direction of Senate to the implementation team on transformational research to design a strategy consistent with the strategic research plan of the university.

D’Alessio and Porreca.

This amendment was received as a friendly amendment to the main motion.

The main motion, as amended, was called, and the motion carried.

It was observed that the administration ought to commit to bringing the final version of any future strategic plan to Senate for approval.

Senate heard a motion in the following terms:

Whereas the University of Waterloo Act 1972 grants the Board of Governors the power to conduct the university’s business and affairs “. . . save with respect to such matters as are assigned by this Act to the Senate, . . . ,” and

Whereas the same Act, in section 18, states that “The Senate has the power to establish the educational policies of the University . . . this includes the power . . . j. to undertake, consider and co-ordinate long-range academic planning,” and

Whereas research and teaching are both fundamental components of the educational and academic functions of the university, and

Whereas any strategic plan for the university will address the strategies and approaches to be taken to further education and research at the university, and will identify potential areas of opportunity or importance,

Be it resolved that
a. Senate asserts the powers granted to it under the Act which give Senate the final authority over all academic aspects of any Strategic Plan, including those to do with research and education.
b. No Strategic Plan for the university shall be regarded as being in effect until an explicit motion to that effect is discussed and approved by Senate.

Busch and Porreca.

It was observed that this motion is intended to alert the university community to the effect that Senate’s input and final approval is necessary.

Senate heard a motion to defer consideration of the main motion to the January meeting of Senate.

Skidmore and Hunt. Defeated.

Senate heard a motion to limit debate on the main motion and call the question.

Struthers and Richter. Defeated.

Debate on the main motion resumed.

It was observed that it is important to recognize the collaborative nature of bicameral governance, and the important role that trust plays in the relationship among administration, Senate and the Board of
Governors. Comment was provided that there was no intent in the motion to raise distrust of the board or the administration. It was pointed out that Senate has the powers necessary to put the academic implementation plan in place, and that power resides in Senate inherently, by virtue of the statute.

Senate heard a motion to amend the main motion, by deleting the word “Senate” where it appears in part (b) of the motion, and by replacing it with the words “both Senate and the board.”

Hunt and Collins.

It was observed that this poses significant procedural impediments, making it difficult for the university to conduct its business.

The question was called on the amending motion, and it was defeated.

Senate heard a motion to amend the main motion, by deleting the words after the comma in paragraph (a) of the main motion. This motion was received as a friendly amendment to the main motion.

The main motion, as amended, was called, and it was defeated.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Executive Committee
- **December Meeting of Senate.** Since there currently appears to be insufficient agenda to call a December meeting of Senate, it was understood that the secretary would advise the Senate Executive Committee within a week of its December meeting whether a meeting of Senate is warranted and that Senate would be so advised.

- **Senate Bylaw 5.** Senate heard a motion to give second reading and approval to the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 5.

  Forstner and Hunt.

  Explanation was provided as to the rationale for the proposed changes, focusing on the alignment of the bylaw with other procedures internal to the Federation of Students.

  The motion carried.

Nominating Committee for Honorary Degrees
- **Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees.** Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the guidelines as provided in the report.

  Freeman and Bergman.

  It was observed that, under the heading “Nomination Package” on page 2 of the guidelines, the word “supported” appears in the first paragraph under “For honorary degrees other than the LLD . . .” whereas the word “signed” appears in the first paragraph under “For the LLD . . .” The secretary advised that it was intended to be consistent in the two sections, and that in the final version the word would be “signed” in both places.

  On the strength of the secretary’s undertaking, the motion carried.
Committee Terms of Reference. Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the terms of reference as provided in the report.

Busch and Ramdev. Carried.

Undergraduate Council

• Option in Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Engineering [amendment at senators’ places]. Senate heard a motion to approve the new option as provided in the report.

Sullivan and Weckman. Carried.

• Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the plans as provided in the report.

Sullivan and Freeman. Carried.

• Research Specialization and Practice Specialization, Bachelor of Environmental Studies, Honours International Development, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve the new specializations as provided in the report.

Roy and Andrey. Carried.

• Knowledge Integration, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the plan as provided in the report.

Roy and Andrey. Carried.

• Co-op Academic Plans, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to all of the faculty’s co-op plans and the removal of the statement regarding the non-technical skills professional development course requirement as provided in the report.

Roy and Andrey. Carried.

• Economics Specialization, Environment and Business, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed inactivation of the specialization.

Roy and Andrey. Carried.

• International Development Minor, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the minor as provided in the report.

Roy and Andrey. Carried.

• International Development Option, Faculty of Environment. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the option as provided in the report.

Roy and Andrey. Carried.

• Mathematics/Chartered Accountancy, Faculty of Mathematics. Senate heard a motion to approve the plan name change as provided in the report.

Goulden and Richter.
Senate was advised that the professional body is encouraging the change in name to be consistent as the professional association undergoes transformation.

Senate requested data on how many students in this program ultimately pursue the professional designation.

The motion carried.

- **Biotechnology/Chartered Accountancy, Faculty of Science.** Senate heard a motion to approve the plan name change and the changes to degree requirements associated with the plan as provided in the report.
  
  Goulden and Richter. Carried.

9. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Hamdullahpur presented a broad report covering a number of items, including congratulations to: Jim Walker of the Department of History on admission to membership in the Royal Society and John Thompson on his 25th anniversary of membership in the Royal Society; Roger Melko and Kevin Resch of the Department of Physics & Astronomy on been named Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs by the Government of Canada for their work in quantum physics; and Gerry Schneider of the Department of Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering on his Thermophysics Award from The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics “for outstanding, pioneering, and sustained contributions in developing simple and advanced numerical methods for computational heat transfer, algebraic equation solvers, phase change energy transport, all-speed flows, and conduction heat transfer.” Hamdullahpur commented on the university’s strong performance in the recently released Maclean’s rankings, both generally in the comprehensive category and overall. Comment was provided on a recent report from the Conference Board of Canada. Hamdullahpur encouraged senators to join the conversation around the role of colleges and the continuing role of the universities in applied research.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at

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

In response to a question, Hamdullahpur commented on the relative strength of the University of Waterloo in Queen’s Park.

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

- **Enrolment Update.** Lavigne, along with Kieffer and Roberts, presented a report on the status of enrolments for the fall term 2013, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and provided detail on recruitment strategies.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at

12. **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

- **Communications and Public Affairs – Department Name Change.** Senate heard a motion to recommend to the Board of Governors the following department name change: change from “Communications and Public Affairs” to “Marketing and Strategic Communications.”

  Jackson and Dixon.
Some concern was expressed with the shift to “strategic communications” and away from a focus on ordinary communication for the purpose of carrying on the day-to-day activities of the university. Some further concern with use of the term “marketing.” Jackson advised that these changes are consistent with peer institutions across the sector, and are important when recruitment challenges are faced in the unit.

The motion carried.

13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

No report.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

Amendments to Senate Bylaws. The proposed amendments to Senate bylaws were read for the first time.

Convocation Programs. A question was raised about the omission of degrees and honorifics in the publication of convocation programs. It was agreed to ask Lavigne to answer this question at the next meeting of Senate.

Senate convened in confidential session.

Logan Atkinson

19 November 2013

Secretary of the University
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 OCTOBER 2013 MEETING

Senate heard a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

Bergman and Busch. 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 Elizabeth Bloomfield (LLD), Barbara Ehrenreich (DLitt), Robert Tarjan (DMath) and Vukan Vuchic (DES) in the pool of candidates for honorary degrees.

Porreca and DeVidi. Carried.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University