University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 24 March 2014 Meeting


Guests: Nello Angerilli, Nathaniel Barr, Barb Blundon, Mario Coniglio, Mike den Haan, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Donna Ellis, Jennifer Kieffer, Brenda Lee, Kashif Memon, Cathy Newell Kelly, Sonia Rahman, Ellen Réthoré, Erin Sergeant Greenwood, Anindya Sen, Maryam Shahtaheri, Allan Starr, Marilyn Thompson, Levent Tuncel, Christina Vester, 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.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and extended a special welcome to Ray Darling, attending his first meeting as registrar.

The agenda was approved by consensus as circulated.

OPEN SESSION

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

1. MINUTES OF THE 24 FEBRUARY 2014 MEETINGS
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

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

3. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES
Senate received the reports for information.
4. **REPORT OF THE COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**
   Senate received the report for information.

Skidmore and Andrey. Carried.

**Regular Agenda**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
   **Confucius Institute.** Atkinson reported that the Confucius Institute did not come to Senate for approval when it was established.

6. **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN** *[Library Update 2014 at senators’ places]*
   Haslett provided his annual update focusing on the Library’s four strategic directions and their alignment with the university strategic plan.

   In answer to questions from senators, Haslett spoke to plans to continue renovation projects in the Library, and to the Library’s role in bibliometrics. A short summary of the status of copyright matters was provided in response to a further question.


7. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**
   **Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Committee** [report at senators’ places]. Following an explanation of the criteria on which nominees are assessed, Horton presented the names of this year’s recipients to Senate: Rania Al-Hammoud, civil and environmental engineering; Nathaniel Barr, psychology; Brenda Lee, biology. A round of applause followed.

   **Distinguished Teacher Award Committee** [report at senators’ places]. Coniglio provided background and context to these awards and presented the names of this year’s recipients to Senate: Kashif Memon, science and business; Anindya Sen, economics; Levent Tuncel, combinatorics and optimization; Christina Vester, classical studies. A round of applause followed.

   **Finance Committee.** McBoyle made a presentation on the proposed university operating budget for 2014-2015, and the supplementary data submitted to support the budget. He spoke particularly about the proposed temporary deficit and measures being planned to address that deficit, and about the proposal for a reduction in the operating budget for the faculties. Other highlights of the budget were summarized.

   Senate heard a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2014-2015 operating budget as presented.

   McBoyle and Guild.

   McBoyle responded to a question about the relationship between increasing or decreasing enrolments, the projected deficit and the proposed cuts to faculty budgets. With respect to the prospect of faculty hires in relation to projected enrolment growth over the next five to ten years, McBoyle indicated that he expects the coming year to be an anomaly, and that hiring ought to return to normal in years following. Comment was provided on the relationship between staff hiring and faculty hiring. The hiring freeze will continue following 1 May. McBoyle was asked if further detail could be provided on non-salary expenditures, both by faculties and by academic support units. Huber indicated that
certain of this information, not related to the budget but related to actuals, are provided in a schedule to the annual financial statements.

Huber provided an explanation of the relationship between the operating budget and the capital budget. Senate was advised as to various methods of financing new buildings.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

8. PRESENTATIONS
   Graduate Student Association. The president of the Graduate Student Association, Robert Henderson, provided a presentation on the work of the GSA over the past year, positioning projects and accomplishments relative to the history of the GSA.

   There was discussion of the termination of the ombudsperson office and the alternatives available to graduate students in this respect.


9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
   Hamdullahpur presented a broad report covering a number of items, including an update on the strategic mandate submission and timeline, the visit of the president and the vice-president, university research to Israel and the Technion Israel Institute of Technology and the outcomes of that visit, some items of interest from the recent federal budget, the visit of Premier Wynne to VeloCity, the provincial announcement about the eligibility of co-op students for student funding, and some ranking results positioning particular disciplines at the university in their global and national contexts. With respect to our financial situation, Hamdullahpur indicated that the expectation is that the provincial budget will not be unduly difficult for the sector, given the rumored election to come.

   Hamdullahpur indicated that there has not yet been an attempt made to fill the position of vice-president, university relations, on either an interim or permanent basis. Consultations in this respect continue. The search for a new chancellor is underway through the efforts of the Executive Committee.


10. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
   Hamdullahpur answered a number of questions arising from his report, including the possibility of a formal response from the university on the recent HEQCO report on the relative strengths of particular programs (philosophy, economics and chemistry). The president indicated that no formal response would be prepared. On rankings, Hamdullahpur described some aspects of the methodology by which reputational rankings are established, especially in the context of employer quality.

11. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST
   Strategic Mandate Agreement. McBoyle offered further information on the Strategic Mandate Agreement, providing Senate with an update on the current status, the strength of the revised version submitted to the province, the province’s focus on experiential education and internationalization, and some minor criticisms on the numbers used to support graduate student projections. McBoyle pointed
out some changes to the submission by reference to the document accompanying the Senate agenda. He expects to have the arrangement finalized by the end of March.

**Undergraduate Admissions.** Weiner summarized first year admission targets and provided updates re: applications and early entrance scholarships.

Weiner answered questions on the numbers of offers made to students with greater than 90% graduating averages, and on the relationship between grade inflation in both private schools and public schools, and the fairness of providing scholarships to students based on grades in this environment. In response to a comment about the light attendance at the March Open House, she informed Senate that the matter is being reviewed and agreed to bring a report on the findings to Senate.


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

Dixon reported on recent awards from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation Leaders Opportunity Fund, totaling $4.2 million over three years. He indicated that 22 letters of intent have gone forward from the University of Waterloo, among more than 200 province-wide, for the Research Excellence Awards from the Ontario Research Funds. He observed that we have a new minister of science and technology on the federal side, Ed Holder. Senate was advised that there is no NSERC Discovery Award news yet, although it is expected soon.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Senate convened in Confidential Session.

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel

25 March 2014
14. MINUTES OF THE 24 FEBRUARY 2014 MEETING  
Senate heard a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

Porreca and Busch. Carried.

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

16. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR HONORARY DEGREES  
Pool of Candidates for Honorary Degrees. Senate heard a motion to approve the inclusion of Brant Fries, David Butler-Jones, Roy Romanow, Lloyd Axworthy, Ralph Keeney, Nancy Reid, Wallace Broecker, Anne Glover and Jo Handelsman in the Pool of Candidates for Honorary Degrees.

Eagles and Elliott. Carried.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Senate heard a motion to approve Adel Sedra and Frank Tompa for the title Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

Peers and Porreca. Carried.

Honorary Member of the University. Senate heard a motion to approve Ken Lavigne and Susan Sykes for the title Honorary Member of the University.

Skidmore and Ramdev. Carried.

17. OTHER BUSINESS  
There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Logan Atkinson  
University Secretary & General Counsel