University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Tuesday 20 May 2014 Meeting


Guests: Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Steven Furino, Peggy Jarvie, Cathy Newell Kelly, Jennifer Kieffer, Carlos Mendes, Chris Read, Helen Réthoré, Marilyn Thomson, Dave Wallace

Secretariat & Office of General Counsel: 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 1-6 below.

1. MINUTES OF THE 21 APRIL 2014 MEETINGS
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

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

Honorary Degrees Committee [news release at senators’ places]. Senate received the new release for information.

Undergraduate Council [all motions effective 1 September 2015]
- Faculty Regulation, Faculty of Environment. Senate approved a new Faculty of Environment regulation concerning eligibility for a second Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree as presented in the report.
- Faculty Regulation, Faculty of Engineering. Senate approved amendments to the Faculty of Engineering’s regulation regarding examinations and promotions as presented in the report.
Faculty Regulation, Faculty of Environment. Senate approved amendments to the Faculty of Environment’s regulation regarding letters of permission as presented in the report.

The remaining item in the report was received for information.

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

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

5. REPORT OF THE COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE
Senate received the report for information.

6. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS [revised report at senators’ places]
Senate approved the following appointments:

- **COU Academic Colleague/Colleague Alternate**: Marios Ioannidis (chemical engineering) as COU Academic Colleague, replacing Dan Brown, term 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2016; John Garcia (public health & health systems) as COU Academic Colleague Alternate, replacing Marios Ioannidis, term 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

- **Faculty Policy Drafting Committee**: Kelly Anthony (public health & health systems) and George Freeman (electrical & computer engineering).

- **Graduate & Research Council**: Samantha Shortall (pharmacy) as the science graduate student representative, replacing Maya D’Alessio, term to 30 April 2015.

Guild and Freeman. Carried.

Regular Agenda

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Exceptions to Policy 40, The Chair. Senate heard a motion to approve exceptions to Policy 40 as presented in the report.

McBoyle and Porreca.

McBoyle explained the rationale for the proposed policy exceptions, and indicated that there is no procedure for rotating the chair through the participating units and institutions. There was some discussion of eligibility for serving as chair, respecting tenure and rank.

The motion carried.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS
Executive Committee

- **Roster of Graduands**: Senate heard a motion to delegate approval of the roster to the Executive Committee for its 2 June 2014 meeting.

Freeman and Peers. Carried.
Graduate & Research Council

- **Environmental Health Sciences Field, Master of Public Health, Public Health & Health Systems, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.** Senate heard a motion to approve the new Environmental Health Sciences field of the Master of Public Health program as presented in the report.

  Horton and Garcia. Carried.

- **Master of Architecture, Architecture, Faculty of Engineering.** Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the Master of Architecture program as presented in the report.

  Horton and Sullivan. Carried.

- **English Language Proficiency Requirements, Graduate Studies Calendar.** Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the English language proficiency requirements as presented in the report.

  Horton and Leat. Carried.

Long Range Planning Committee

- **New Academic Department, Faculty of Environment.** Senate heard a motion to approve the transformation of the Centre for Knowledge Integration into the Department of Knowledge Integration within the Faculty of Environment, effective 1 September 2014, as presented in the report.

  McBoyle and Roy.

  The centre currently has five faculty members and 125 students. There will be very little cost impact in this transformation.

  The motion carried.

Undergraduate Council [all motions effective 1 September 2015]

- **International Trade Minor, Political Science, Faculty of Arts.** Senate heard a motion to approve a new minor in international trade as presented in the report.

  Peers and Porreca. Carried.

- **Bioinformatics Option, Bachelor of Mathematics, Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics.** Senate heard a motion to approve a new option in bioinformatics under the Bachelor of Mathematics plan as presented in the report.

  Richter and Freeman. Carried.

- **International Trade Specialization, Arts & Business, Dean of Arts, Faculty of Arts.** Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the International Trade Specialization.

  Peers and Porreca. Carried.

- **Honours Bioinformatics Option, Bachelor of Computer Science; Honours Bioinformatics and Honours Biology and Bioinformatics, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics.** Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the Bachelor of Computer...
Science (Honours Bioinformatics Option) plan, the Bachelor of Science (Honours Bioinformatics) plan and the Bachelor of Science (Honours Biology and Bioinformatics) plan, and the inactivation of bioinformatics as a first-year admission plan.

Richter and Freeman. Carried.

9. TEACHING PRESENTATION
Coniglio introduced Associate Dean Steve Furino, Faculty of Mathematics. Furino reported on his work in online mathematics education, and the experience of the Faculty of Mathematics in MOOCS, specifically in relation to the Master of Mathematics for Teachers offered by the faculty exclusively online. The program is growing impressively, with plans developing to assess learning outcomes and student engagement in particular. The faculty is moving toward offering additional online courses, including some key courses in core areas. The School of Computer Science is working to develop online offerings as well, especially in CS Circles, an online platform which helps users to learn the programming language Python.

In response to a question, Furino advised that there is as yet no measure of comparative success for students doing online study and those doing study through the conventional classroom, but plans are underway to compile those comparisons as the offerings mature.

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Hamdullahpur offered a special welcome to new and returning senators. He then presented a broad report covering a number of items, including: a report on the upcoming provincial election and a summary as to the significance of the election for the university and for the sector more generally; federally, the Building Canada Fund is intended to help the sector in its infrastructure needs, to the extent of 1/3 of any project budget; a portion of the federal program will be dedicated to projects where the province is also a participant; communication and cooperation between the federal and provincial levels on these initiatives is unclear; U15 colleagues met with the Prime Minister on Wednesday 14 May 2014; Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the work of the U15 in research and development, but indicated that industry ought to be doing more; special mention was made of our university’s international relations, experiential learning and industry collaborations; the two ad hoc board committees and the reasons why these committees have been established were addressed, with emphasis on the fact that there are no decision making powers associated with these committees, they will perform advisory roles only, and provide as broad a perspective as possible on issues in support of the president; mini town hall meetings on aspects of the strategic plan have been successful, with the idea to get feedback on many of the issues being discussed with respect to the implementation plan; summary of recent trip to China, with emphasis on strategic relationships with Chinese institutions, for both research and other academic purposes, and a meeting with the Chinese Ministry of Education; summary of the partnership with the Université de Bordeaux and the current visit by a delegation from that institution; the recent Town and Gown Symposium, an opportunity to show the university’s commitment to the success of the local municipality.

Slides used in his presentation may be seen at https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/president_140520.pdf

11. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
University of Saskatchewan issues were reviewed by Hamdullahpur in the context of this institution’s commitment to academic freedom. Hamdullahpur commented on expectations for publication of the Canada Excellence Fund qualification criteria, and on further discussion of the relationship with the Confucius Institute and the university’s attempt to fully understand the value proposition and the commitment to academic freedom and integrity. A committee has been struck to help identify the next vice-president, university relations, and the first meeting is pending; an announcement on an
interim appointee is expected within days. Burt asked about the possibility of having an undergraduate student serve on the nominating committee, and Hamdullahpur advised that he would take this under advisement.

12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST

Changes to Policy 59, Reduced Workload to Retirement. Senate heard a motion to approve changes to Policy 59: (i) as presented in the report, and (ii) by deleting the last sentence of the first paragraph in item 2 of the policy.

McBoyle and Porreca. Carried.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, a housekeeping change has been made to Policy 59: change from “Canada Customs and Revenue Agency” to “Canada Revenue Agency” (item 2, 1st bullet; item 3, 4th para.).

New Policy 30, Employment of Graduate Student Teaching Assistants. Senate received the new policy for information.

Working Group on a Fall Term Break. Senate heard a motion to approve the establishment of a working group on the issues and potential impact of a fall term break.

McBoyle and Porreca. Carried.

Undergraduate Admissions Update. Darling presented a summary of offers, confirmations and acceptances to date, with some projections of final numbers based on experience over the past several years.

There was some discussion about the relationship between numbers of offers extended, and the relative percentage of scholarship offers.

Slides used in his presentation may be seen at https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/admissions_140520.pdf

13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Dixon did not report.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in Confidential Session.

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel