University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 15 September 2014 Meeting


Guests: Nello Angerilli, Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Rayeh Kashef Al-Ghelea, Carlos Mendes, Cathy Newell Kelly, Chris Read, Ellen Réthoré, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, 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

Hamdullahpur extended a welcome to the following new senators: Trevor Bechtel, CGR faculty representative; Shikha Gandhi, alumni representative. He also welcomed the following individuals, attending their first meeting of Senate in their new roles: Ian Orchard, vice-president, academic & provost; Jean Andrey, interim dean of environment; Jim Frank, interim associate provost, graduate studies; Wendy Fletcher, principal of Renison University College.

Consent Agenda
Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 1-6 below.

In connection with materials related to Legal Studies in the report from Undergraduate Council, a question was raised about the calculation of cumulative overall averages, and the explanation was offered that the courses referred to are Legal Studies standalone courses. The request was made to ensure that the definition of “cumulative Legal Studies average of 70%” is clear in the calendar.

It was noted that the section of the report from Undergraduate Council titled “Double Counting of Courses” in the Faculty of Science is simply putting into words what has been the normal practice.
1. MINUTES OF THE 16 JUNE 2014 MEETING
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

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

   Nominating Committee for Honorary Degrees [list of honorands for fall convocation at senators’ places]. Senate received the list for information.

   Undergraduate Council
   • Anthropology, Faculty of Arts
     – Three-year General Anthropology. Senate approved amendments to the Three-year General Anthropology plan as presented in the report.
     – Four-year General Anthropology. Senate approved amendments to the Four-year General Anthropology plan as presented in the report.
     – Honours Anthropology. Senate approved amendments to the Honours Anthropology plan as presented in the report.
     – Honours Anthropology (Arts and Business, Co-op and Regular). Senate approved amendments to the Honours Anthropology (Arts and Business, Co-op and Regular) plan as presented in the report.
     – Joint Honours Anthropology. Senate approved amendments to the Joint Honours Anthropology plan as presented in the report.
     – Minor in Anthropology. Senate approved amendments to the Minor in Anthropology plan as presented in the report.

   • Legal Studies, Faculty of Arts
     – Four-year General Legal Studies. Senate approved amendments to the Four-year General Legal Studies plan as presented in the report.
     – Honours Legal Studies. Senate approved amendments to the Honours Legal Studies plan as presented in the report.
     – Honours Legal Studies (Arts and Business, Co-op and Regular). Senate approved amendments to the Honours Legal Studies (Arts and Business, Co-op and Regular) plan as presented in the report.
     – Joint Honours Legal Studies. Senate approved amendments to the Joint Honours Legal Studies plan as presented in the report.
     – Minor in Legal Studies. Senate approved amendments to the Minor in Legal Studies plan as presented in the report.

   • Double Counting of Courses, Faculty of Science. Senate approved the new regulation on double counting of courses in the Faculty of Science as presented in the report.
• **English Language Proficiency Requirement, Faculty of Science.** Senate approved amendments to the faculty regulation on English language proficiency requirements as presented in the report.

• **Letters of Permission, Faculty of Science.** Senate approved amendments to the faculty regulation on 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. **REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES, CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

   Senate received the reports for information.

5. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

   Senate approved the following appointments:

   • **Executive Committee:** Maryam Shahtaheri as graduate student senator representative (replacing Coleen Even), term to 31 December 2014.
   
   • **Long Range Planning Committee:** Wendy Fletcher as AFIW faculty senator representative (replacing Glenn Cartwright), term to 30 April 2015, and Coleen Even as graduate student senator representative (replacing Maryam Shahtaheri), term to 31 December 2014.

6. **REPORT OF THE COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

   Senate received the report for information.

Richter and Jowhari. Carried.

**Regular Agenda**

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

   **Confucius Institute.** A request was made for further information on the status of the Confucius Institute. Hamdullahpur informed Senate that the Confucius Institute would continue in its current format for the time being. All existing agreements have been reviewed, and discussions are underway with Nanjing University on continuation of the institute. The university will soon host a delegation from Nanjing to continue discussions. The university community will be consulted before any decision is made on what to do with this project on a long term basis, the university will exercise due diligence and come to a position based on the best interests of the university, and any decisions related to renewal or re-establishment of the institute at the University of Waterloo will come to Senate for approval.

8. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**

   **Executive Committee**

   • **Revision and Consolidation of Senate Bylaws.** Senate heard a motion to give first reading to the consolidated Senate Bylaws 1, 2, 3, and 4 as presented in the report.

   Hamdullahpur and Wray.
Senators raised several questions, including: whether the bylaws ought to point out that senators in a conflict of interest ought not to vote on relevant motions; whether it ought to be expressed that motions are carried on an ordinary majority in most cases; if the composition of Senate committees and councils, especially with respect to *ex officio* members, is justifiable; whether the timing of notice to various constituencies during election periods is fair. The secretary agreed to review these matters and advise.

The motion carried.

**Graduate & Research Council**

- **Optometry & Vision Science, Faculty of Science.** Senate heard a consolidated motion to address the following matters:
  - **Accelerated Master of Science in Vision Science.** To approve amendments to the accelerated Master of Science in Vision Science program as presented in the report.
  - **Master of Science in Vision Science.** To approve amendments to the Master of Science in Vision Science program as presented in the report.
  - **Accelerated Doctor of Philosophy in Vision Science.** To approve amendments to the accelerated Doctor of Philosophy in Vision Science program as presented in the report.
  - **Doctor of Philosophy in Vision Science.** To approve amendments to the Doctor of Philosophy in Vision Science program as presented in the report.

  Frank and Leat. Carried.

- **Sub-specialization in Community Research Methodology, Sociology and Legal Studies, Faculty of Arts.** Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed cancellation of the Sub-specialization in Community Research Methodology.

  Frank and O'Connor. Carried.

**Undergraduate Council**

- **Political Science, Faculty of Arts.** It was noted that motions numbered 1, 2 and 16 in the report from Undergraduate Council distributed to Senate are to be deferred.

  Senate heard a consolidated motion to address the following matters:
  - **Honours Political Science.** To approve amendments to the Honours Political Science plan as presented in the report.
  - **Joint Honours Political Science.** To approve amendments to the Joint Honours Political Science plan as presented in the report.
  - **Honours Political Science Co-op.** To approve amendments to the Honours Political Science Co-op plan as presented in the report.
  - **Minor in International Studies.** To approve amendments to the Minor in International Studies plan as presented in the report.

  Peers and Busch.
Discussion followed on the appropriateness of the requirements to receive a Joint Honours Political Science degree. Peers replied by saying that the proposed changes are part of the standardization of programs in the Faculty of Arts, and that joint honours programs are to be encouraged for interdisciplinarity and depth. Some caution was expressed about the relative value of programs with lower course requirements for majors and the impact this has on entry into graduate school. Peers suggested that the two disciplines in a joint honours degree tend to be complementary, and this makes graduates more attractive for graduate school entry. Further, we are equipping students for many pursuits, including graduate school but also a number of others. We are envisioning in arts both a more entrepreneurial degree based in skills development, and a proper preparation for graduate school.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

- **Sociology, Faculty of Arts.** Senate heard a consolidated motion to address the following matters:
  - **Three-year General Sociology.** To approve amendments to the Three-year General Sociology plan as presented in the report.
  - **Four-year General Sociology.** To approve amendments to the Four-year General Sociology plan as presented in the report.
  - **Honours Sociology.** To approve amendments to the Honours Sociology plan as presented in the report.
  - **Honours Sociology (Arts and Business, Co-op and Regular).** To approve amendments to the Honours Sociology (Arts and Business, Co-op and Regular) plan as presented in the report.
  - **Joint Honours Sociology.** To approve amendments to the Joint Honours Sociology plan as presented in the report.
  - **Minor in Sociology.** To approve amendments to the Minor in Sociology plan as presented in the report.

Peers and O’Connor. Carried.

- **Deactivations, Faculty of Arts.** Senate heard a consolidated motion to address the following matters:
  - **Honours Anthropology Co-op, Anthropology.** To approve the proposed inactivation of the Honours Anthropology Co-op plan.
  - **Diploma in Management Studies, Management Studies.** To approve the proposed inactivation of the Diploma in Management Studies plan.
  - **Specialization in Criminology, Honours Legal Studies/Sociology, Legal Studies.** To approve the proposed inactivation of the Specialization in Criminology plan.
  - **Specialization in Criminology, Honours Sociology/Legal Studies; Specialization in Business and Technology; Specialization in Crime and Deviance, Sociology.** To approve
the proposed inactivation of the Specialization in Criminology plan, Specialization in Business and Technology plan and Specialization in Crime and Deviance plan.

Peers and Richter.

It was observed that the deactivation of the Honours Anthropology Co-op plan ought to be justified in terms of the university’s strategic plan. In response, it was confirmed that low enrolments are the key to this proposed deactivation, and anthropology students have access to co-op through arts and business.

The motion carried.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
The president presented a wide ranging report, including the following: observations on recent orientation activities, with over 7000 new and transfer students, and 1800 new graduate students; congratulations offered to the Graduate Student Association for the graduate students’ orientation; sadness at the loss of three students over the summer and into orientation week; there are 77 new faculty and contract faculty; Executive Council served a free lunch to over 3000 students; the university welcomed a dynamic new company to the area, Square, coming here specifically because of our engineering students; the university opened the new Velocity Foundry, and officially opened the renovated Health Services building; a new Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities has taken office, a former academic and researcher, and he has added the Ministry of Research and Innovation; all strategic mandate agreements are now public; a call for proposals on major capital expansion has been made, our letter of intent has been submitted, and our formal proposal will go in on or before 26 September, with one proposal for science and one for engineering; comments on the proposed Canada First Research Excellence Fund – $1.5B anticipated over the next ten years, with approvals pending at the cabinet level; we anticipate four months to prepare our letter of intent on this matter, with a further four months to submit a final proposal if the letter of intent is accepted; the idea is that successful proposals must be game changers and increase Canada’s position on a global scale, with four to seven awards likely; five mini town halls on strategic plan implementation have been held, with three more to be done this fall; the university has been awarded 5+ stars, the highest level of achievement possible and in the top 10 percentile, by the QS Stars ranking, developed through volunteer participation with many categories and participants; the Shanghai ranking was recently released and was not as successful for us, although the basis of the ranking has been changed to our detriment; the top three schools based on most hires in software engineering in California have been announced, with UC Berkeley #1, UCLA #2, and the University of Waterloo #3; a status report was provided for executive searches currently underway, including those for four deans, and the vice-president, university relations.

10. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
There were a number of comments and questions emerging from the president’s report. Concern was expressed about institutional memory when so many positions on Executive Council turn over at the same time, with the view that this is an argument to promote internal candidates while keeping in mind that we want to appoint the best person available for each position.

On the strategic mandate agreements, senators asked about their real impact, whether funding decisions will actually be made on the strength of these documents, and whether differentiation has any real meaning when the SMAs tend to look and feel the same. The president responded by saying that the University of Waterloo is in a good position if the SMAs have the impact they were intended to have, given that our SMA is consistent with who we are and with the ambitions outlined in our strategic plan. Funding decisions may in fact follow the SMAs, given the fiscal constraints facing the
province. The idea of satellite campuses is not a strong attraction for the University of Waterloo, given challenges with student support at those locations and continuing questions about sustainability.

In response to a question, the president commented on the challenges of rising tuition, but tied this issue with the quality of education available at this institution. This is directly based in the ability to hire more faculty, and this requires investment. Government funding is decreasing, meaning we must find ways to generate funds necessary to guarantee a high quality education. At the same time, we will never turn away a student based on financial exigency, and the university is making every effort to ensure that students are aware of available support.

There was discussion of the value of rankings, and how rankings relate to our goals of delivering excellence in everything we do. The president responded by pointing out that if we do not participate we will be ranked anyway, meaning we ought to do whatever we can to show the university in the very best light. Rankings affect our recruitment of both faculty and students.

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

Delegation of Authority re: Decanal Nominating Committee Chairs. Senate heard a motion to grant the vice-president, academic & provost authority to delegate the role of chair of the Dean of Applied Health Sciences Nominating Committee and the Dean of Environment Nominating Committee.

Orchard and Frank.

This motion is intended as a policy exception for these two searches, and not as a permanent change. Delegations will be published in the Daily Bulletin and updated on the Secretariat & Office of General Counsel web pages.

The motion carried.

Repeal of Policy 58 – Search and Nominating Committee for Director Guelph-Waterloo Centre for Graduate Work in Chemistry. Senate heard a motion to repeal Policy 58 – Search and Nominating Committee for Director Guelph-Waterloo Centre for Graduate Work in Chemistry, effective immediately.

Orchard and McNamara.

Policy 58 has been used in the past for the appointment, but it is unnecessarily onerous given the outcome. In the last appointment of a director, the policy was followed. There will not be a new policy, but there will be a new practice in place coincident with repeal of the policy. Changes have already been provided for at the program level. The point was made that there appears to be a gap – when the policy is repealed we do not have a Senate-approved process to replace the policy, but it was observed that this is simply a matter of administrative responsibility.

The motion carried.

12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Dixon advised that in July and August the university submitted research funding applications worth approximately $130M in the following areas: CFI grants, Ontario Research Fund: Research Excellence and Ontario Research Fund: Research Infrastructure.
He reiterated that for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, the university will have about four months to respond to the call for letters of intent, and then a further four months to submit final proposal if the letter of intent is accepted.

Regarding management and funding of high performance computing in Canada, Compute Canada, on instructions of CFI, will have a much greater role in management of allocation of resources and integration and efficiencies in the use of high performance computing across Canada. Compute Ontario has emerged as a result of these activities, attempting to integrate the four main bodies that provide high performance computing in Ontario.

The new president of NSERC is Dr. Mario Pinto who is currently completing his second term as vice-president, research at Simon Fraser University.

The president of SSHRC, Dr. Chad Gaffield, has stepped down to resume his position as professor at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Jack Mintz became interim president of SSHRC on 1 September 2014. The search for a new president is just beginning.

There is a new Mitacs program called Globalink Research Award intended to provide an opportunity for faculty at Canadian universities to strengthen existing international research collaborations and connect with colleagues around the world through the mobility of senior undergraduate and graduate students.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Report from Undergraduate Council. With respect to the original motions 1 and 2 in the report from Undergraduate Council in the regular agenda, motions in a different form will be brought forward to address the contemplated program changes.

Senate convened in Confidential Session.

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel

16 September 2014