University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 19 January 2015 Meeting


Guests: Steven Amirikah, Nello Angerilli, Dwight Aplevich, Ila Berman, Mario Coniglio, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Donna Ellis, Wayne Loucks, Flora Ng, Wayne Parker, Neil Randall, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Marilyn Thompson, 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

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Senators were asked to declare any conflicts they may have in relation to the items on the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

Consent Agenda
Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 2-9 below.

2. MINUTES OF THE 17 NOVEMBER 2014 MEETING
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

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

Undergraduate Council
• Transfer Credits, Faculty of Arts. Senate approved amendments to the faculty’s regulation on transfer credits as presented in the report.
- Transfer of Work Term Credits, Co-operative Education and Career Action. Senate approved amendments to the undergraduate calendar text providing clarity to students on the transfer of co-op work term credits as presented in the report.

Senate received the remaining items in the report for information.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
- Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.
- Tenure and Promotion of Faculty Members. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES
Senate received the reports for information.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
Senate approved the following appointments:
- Committee on Student Appeals: Doug Turner (political science) as arts undergraduate student representative, replacing Renishaki Kamalanathan, term to 30 April 2015.
- Executive Committee: John Garcia (public health & health systems) as AHS faculty senator representative, replacing Richard Wells, and Coleen Even (French studies) as graduate student senator representative, replacing Maryam Shahtaheri, terms to 30 April 2015.
- Long Range Planning Committee: Maryam Shahtaheri (president, GSA) as graduate student senator representative, replacing Coleen Even, term to 30 April 2015.

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

8. REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PROVOST, GRADUATE STUDIES
- Early Issuance of Graduate Degree. Senate received the report for information.

9. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
- International Programs Office Name Change. Senate received the report for information.

Hamdullahpur and Porreca. Carried.

Regular Agenda

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- Teaching on Saturday. Atkinson was asked why the report from the Registrar’s Office including Saturday teaching during fall 2015 was not brought back to Senate as originally intended. He advised that additional changes to the report are to be made and it is anticipated that the report will come back to Senate in February.

11. GAMES INSTITUTE PRESENTATION
Dixon introduced Neil Randall, director of the Games Institute and professor of English language and literature. Randall gave an interesting presentation, outlining some of the history of the Games Institute, and summarizing some of the exciting research projects underway. He commented in particular on the extraordinary opportunities for integration of games into teaching and learning.
In response to a question, Randall commented on the relative advantages and disadvantages of table top games and electronic games.


12. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

University Appointments Review Committee. Flora Ng, chair of the committee, made a presentation to Senate, and thanked Associate University Secretary & Senior Legal Counsel Sian Williams for her management of process. She also thanked the members of the committee, each mentioned in the report distributed to Senate.

In response to questions, Ng advised that: data generated by UARC will be very helpful in developing strategies for equitable hiring processes in each faculty; work continues to improve the governance of the faculty hiring process to ensure compliance with the temporary foreign workers program; the applicant pools in different disciplines and faculties may be quite different in their composition, and those differences may have an impact on strategies for equitable hiring; information is gathered by those making offers to prospective faculty to help understand why certain candidates refuse an offer.


Executive Committee

- **Delegation of Authority to the Executive Committee.** Senate heard a motion to delegate to the Executive Committee authority to approve the appointment of the Dean of Mathematics on behalf of Senate.

  Orchard and Peers.

  Orchard explained the circumstances under which the delegation of authority is recommended. The alternative is a special meeting of Senate in advance of the meeting of the Board of Governors on 3 February. He also advised that the logistics of making the appointment and the need for fairness to the candidate require us to move as quickly as possible when the successful candidate has been identified.

  The question was called, and the motion carried.

Graduate & Research Council. Senate heard a motion to the following effects:

- **Course-based/Experiential Option, Master of Science in Kinesiology, Kinesiology, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences** – to approve the new course-based/experiential option as presented in the report.

- **Graduate Diploma in Accounting, Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Arts** – to approve the new Graduate Diploma in Accounting as presented in the report.

- **PhD in French Studies, French Studies, Faculty of Arts** – to approve amendments to the comprehensive examination requirements for the doctoral program in French studies as presented in the report.

- **MA in French, French Studies, Faculty of Arts** – to approve the proposed program name change from MA in French to MA in French Studies.
• **Master of Applied Science in Developmental and Communicative Science, Psychology, Faculty of Arts** – to amend the Master of Applied Science in Developmental and Communicative Science plan to provide an additional research apprenticeship pathway as presented in the report.

• **Master of Architecture, Architecture, Faculty of Engineering** – to approve amendments to the Master of Architecture plan as presented in the report.

• **Coursework Option, Master of Mathematics (Computer Science), Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics** – to approve amendments to the Master of Mathematics (Computer Science) Coursework Option as presented in the report.

• **MMath and PhD in Pure Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics** – to approve amendments to the doctoral and master’s plans in pure mathematics to remove one approved field of research as presented in the report.

• **Collaborative Water Program** – to approve the participation of the School of Architecture in the Collaborative Water Program as presented in the report.

Frank and Andrey. Carried.

**Undergraduate Council**

• **Honours Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Architecture, Faculty of Engineering.** Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the Honours Bachelor of Architectural Studies plan as presented in the report.

Sullivan and Porreca. Carried.

• **International Joint Education Programs, Faculty of Science.** Senate heard a motion to approve three new partner universities, Chang’an University in Xi’an, Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, and Northwest University in Xi’an, to the existing China 2+2 program for programs in biology, biochemistry, biomedical science, chemistry, environmental science, earth sciences, mathematical physics, materials and nanoscience, and physics.

Duncker and Lin.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that quality control consistent with university standards is applied when considering student participation in these programs.

The motion carried.

• **Administrative Structure, Software Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Mathematics.** Senate heard a motion to approve an amendment to the administrative structure of the software engineering program as presented in the report.

Sullivan and Goulden.

Freeman distributed a document outlining his concerns with the consequences of the changes captured by the motion and the potential threats to academic freedom and academic quality represented in the proposal. Essentially, this relates to the ways in which the accreditation process has an impact on program design and delivery at the university. Freeman suggested that the accreditation process is becoming more and more dictatorial from outside the university. This is
affecting teaching assignments, and is possibly disadvantaged faculty members who are not licensed.

Parker answered by pointing out that engineering is a regulated profession, and that a key piece of this is the protection of public health and safety. We prepare our students to enter this profession and accept their responsibility to society. The process is peer reviewed, and academics have a major role to play in qualification of engineers and accreditation of programs. There are opportunities for those who are not professional engineers to participate on undergraduate curriculum committees, although a majority must be professional engineers. Parker indicated that he disputes whether or not this is a threat to academic freedom.

Tizhoosh responded, saying that while the process includes outside academics, it is still intrusive. It compels people to undertake a course of licensure that perhaps they do not want to undertake, especially so as to preserve their teaching preferences. Freeman added that we do not want to be merely consistent with our peers; rather, we must insist on the preservation of academic freedom as the best guarantee of excellence.

Coniglio suggested that our students must be competitive with graduates of other engineering programs, and that accreditation is an important aspect of this competitiveness. Francis agreed, saying that a recent meeting of engineering students unanimously endorsed the motion currently in debate, and confirmed that the value of their degree would be seriously compromised if accreditation were lost.

Aplevich indicated that if we believe that professional degree programs belong in the university, then the question of accreditation must be addressed in a manner consistent with the profession’s legal responsibilities.

Sullivan referred to the Memorandum of Agreement with faculty, especially article 6.2 related to academic freedom. She argued that the pillars of academic freedom described there remain well protected in the Faculty of Engineering, and that nothing inconsistent with academic freedom is being imposed on the Faculty. The accreditation of engineering programs has no impact on tenure, promotion, or performance reviews. She suggested that the framework for accreditation is about high quality and nothing else. We must maximize the benefits of our programs to our students, and observe a very high standard of responsibility to the public.

If there are deficiencies in our curriculum, respecting teaching of ethics and the legal regulation of the profession, then perhaps we ought to reflect on that internally rather than allow an outside body to direct our decisions.

Freeman argued that it is time to make a statement to the accreditation body that our academic decision-making is not to be interfered with. He expressed confidence that our accreditation would not be removed, and our resistance to interference would start a conversation toward making change for the better.

It was observed that, in some other provinces, teaching engineering is considered to be practicing engineering, meaning teachers must be licensed to be a member of faculty. There are no concerns with academic freedom in those situations.

Parker advised that an immediate loss of accreditation would not likely happen if this motion were defeated, but it would be the first step in a process that could lead to that result. Ultimately, however, this is about students, and the student voice must be heard on this question. And the
accreditation body must be addressed on this issue in other ways, rather than by rejecting this proposal.

Sullivan advised that this motion has no impact on hiring decisions in the Faculty of Engineering. The Faculty hires the best people available, from engineering backgrounds and from other disciplines, without reference to professional qualification.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Senate heard a motion to direct Faculty Relations Committee to investigate accreditation issues around institutional autonomy and academic freedom with a goal to establishing limits on accreditation interference in activities such as (but not limited to) faculty hiring, curriculum design/management, and the assignment of teaching duties.

Freeman and Tizhoosh.

Senate agreed, by consensus, to table this motion and to refer the matter to the Executive Committee for advice.

13. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
The president presented his report, mentioning our submissions on infrastructure to the province of Ontario. Both of our submissions have survived the first round of assessments, and we await information on whether they have survived the second assessment. Undergraduate numbers suggest that we are doing well, and the registrar will analyze the numbers and make a presentation to Senate at an early opportunity. The president also mentioned the recent campus visit of Premier Wynne.

14. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
There were no questions of the president.

15. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST
There was no report.

16. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
Dixon reported that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Grand River Hospital, by which a collaborative research agenda has been established and space for university researchers at the hospital has been identified.

17. OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.

Senate convened in Confidential Session.

20 January 2015
Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel
Secretary to Senate