University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 23 February 2015 Meeting


Guests: Steven Amirikah, Nello Angerilli, Sanjeev Bedi, Barb Blundon, Mario Coniglio, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Donna Ellis, Stéphane Hamade, James Koo, Nick Manning, Ellen Réthoré, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Marilyn Thompson, Bud Walker, 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. DECLARATIONS OF 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 2-6 below.

2. MINUTES OF THE 19 JANUARY 2015 MEETING
   Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS
   Executive Committee. Senate received the report for information.

   Graduate & Research Council. Senate received the report for information.

   Undergraduate Council
   • Undergraduate Admission Requirements. Senate approved the undergraduate admission requirements for 2016 as provided in the report.

   The remaining items in the report were received for information.
4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Honorary Degrees and Convocation Speakers. Senate received notice of the call for nominations.

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

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

6. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES AND RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Senate received the reports for information.

Hamdullahpur and Busch. Carried.

Regular Agenda

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.
Professional Accreditation. Orchard advised that the question of professional accreditation of programs was referred to the Executive Committee for advice. The Executive Committee decided to request input from each of the six deans on the involvement of professional bodies on programs in their faculties. The request has been made to the deans, and a report will be coming forward in due course.

8. TEACHING PRESENTATION
Coniglio introduced Sanjeev Bedi, professor of mechanical & mechatronics engineering. Bedi provided a presentation on “Integrative Learning, the Mechatronics Experience.”

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

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS
Graduate and Research. Senate heard a motion to the following effects:

• Economics, Faculty of Arts. To approve the proposed removal of the Thesis Option in the Master of Arts in Economics plan.

• Sociology, Faculty of Arts. To approve changes to the doctoral plan in sociology as presented in the report.

• Management Sciences, Faculty of Engineering. To approve changes to the Master of Applied Science, Master of Management Science and doctoral plans in management sciences as provided in the report.

• Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Environment. To approve changes to the Master of Climate Change plan as provided in the report.

Frank and Andrey. Carried.

Senate heard a motion to the following effects:

• Classical Studies, Faculty of Arts. To approve the proposed deactivation of the Master of Arts in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures plan.

• Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. To approve the proposed deactivation of the Master of Engineering in Infrastructure Systems plan.

Frank and Peers. Carried.
Undergraduate

- **Calendar Dates.** Senate heard a motion to approve the 2015-16 calendar dates as provided in the report.

  Darling and Ramdev.

  Following discussion of the way in which the dates are presented on the chart, it was heard that the chart would be amended accordingly.

  There was discussion of the benefits of pre-examination study days, focusing on the possibility of harmonizing the winter and spring terms for purposes of vacation days. The matter will be referred to the Undergraduate Operations Committee for consideration.

  The motion carried.

  The remaining item in the report was received for information.

10. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Hamdullahpur presented a wide ranging report, including: comments on the NSERC awards reception where Chris Eliasmith, professor in the Departments of Philosophy and Systems Design Engineering and the Cheriton School of Computer Science, received the John C. Polanyi Award (the only one awarded this year). David Blowes, professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, received the Synergy Award for Innovation. Michael MacTavish from the Faculty of Environment received the André Hamer Postgraduate Prize, awarded to the most outstanding candidate in NSERC’s doctoral scholarship competition. Senate joined the president in acknowledging these significant accomplishments.

The president mentioned the recent CBC report on sexual assault on campus. The issue is a challenging one, and there were some methodological errors in the reporting. We are providing proper policy and prevention measures, and will continue to work on this. The director of equity, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, reported on the activities of the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Equity, and its working group on sexual violence awareness, prevention and education. The working group will meet regularly, consider things happening at other campuses, do an initial gap analysis, and come to an understanding of best practices.

Hamdullahpur noted a strong desire among faculty and students to be in an interdisciplinary environment, and we will continue to work toward doing this better. Under George Dixon’s leadership, we are doing a brown bag luncheon series to explore greater interdisciplinary opportunities.

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

There was no questions.

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

**2014-15 Operating Budget Update and the 2015-16 Budget Plan.** Orchard provided an update on the status of the current budget, indicating a projected deficit of approximately $1.9 million. He summarized the planning assumptions for the 2015-16 cycle.

A question was raised about increases in supplies expense as a possible source of the current year deficit. Orchard replied that the supplies expense is not as easily interpreted as it may appear. Orchard was asked about how faculties implement a 3% cut, and whether such a cut emerges in reduced support for core activities in the faculties. He replied by saying that the faculties rely on carry forwards to fund certain things, and some of the cut would have flowed back to fund new initiatives. In response to a question, Orchard advised that a greater focus on international recruitment will assist
with revenue generation. He also advised that about 35-40% of total expenses relate to non-academic units.

The budget for 2015-16 is built on the old model. The new resource allocation model will come to Senate and the Board of Governors for information. There will be no piloting of this model per se, but there will be reviews made along the way to see whether adjustments ought to be made, probably three or so years out. This model is very similar to what has been implemented at many other universities across Canada and in the United States. Many presentations have been made to members of the community, including Senate, to educate constituencies. The drivers, about 13 or 15 in all, have essentially been established. Orchard agreed to provide a list of the drivers to Senate.

In graduate enrolment, we are under our targets in both master’s and doctoral programs, and the group looking at strategic enrolment management will be considering this very seriously going forward.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/20150223_budget.pdf

Undergraduate Applications and Admissions Update. Darling presented the report on undergraduate applications and admissions for the coming cycle, advising that we are on track to meet our fall 2015 admissions target. He was asked whether growth in business schools provincially is affecting recruitment to our non-business programs. He responded by saying that the movement away from the Faculty of Arts predominantly has sent students to the STEM disciplines and business schools. In response to a question on how the “x and business” programs translate into recruitment possibilities, Darling advised that the demand for these programs in higher than our capacity to accept students, and the interest in business schools is starting to flatten. But a strategy must be developed to capitalize on our strengths in business education, and the associate vice-president, academic is undertaking this work now.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/20150223_admissions.pdf

13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
Dixon reported that Geoff Fong, professor in the Department of Psychology, will receive the Luther R. Terry Award from the American Cancer Society for outstanding contribution on a global basis for work in the field of tobacco control. Philippe Van Cappellen in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences has received the 2015 Science Innovation Award from the European Association of Geochemistry, and Brian Dixon in the Department of Biology has won the 2015 Robert Arnold Wardle Award from the Canadian Society of Zoologists.

Dixon advised that discussions on restructuring of the CIHR funding council is causing some concerns in the research community.

There is an attempt underway to harmonize standards for research ethics boards to allow for streamlining of project approvals where multi-institutional researchers are involved. The University of Waterloo has been fully accredited, the fourth university in Ontario to receive accreditation and the first without a medical school. There is a movement in the same direction with clinical research ethics boards, although this works through a formal certification process.

14. WEATHER CLOSING GUIDELINES
Orchard summarized the judgment involved in making the decision on 2 February 2015. The campus was accessible, although we continue to look at our capabilities, and a plan will come forward from Huber soon in this respect. The recent decision was made in keeping with the guideline that was reviewed and updated in 2014. It is a judgment call, and it is not likely that tying us to the school
board (which has a different constituency and other considerations) will change the criteria on which our judgment is exercised. Senators offered several comments, including: support for the decision, but a need for better campus preparation; concern over accessibility inside the Ring Road, with mobility issues and with snow removal; a request to consider some prioritization of pathways that attract high volumes of pedestrians; the question of fairness in a situation that requires people to take a day off to look after their children when the daycares are closed, whether this is a gender issue that ought to be considered, and whether we are meant to be leaders in this area; some observation that the process ought to be enshrined in a policy rather than a guideline.

Orchard replied by saying that, in the end, this is a judgment call whether it is in a policy or a guideline. There is a need to communicate the decision as early as possible in the morning. In response to a question, Orchard advised that it is the responsibility of supervisors to manage staff who are unable to come due to inclement weather when the University is open. Manning provided a summary on enhanced extreme weather communications managed in his office. In response to a further question, Orchard advised that instructors have to realize that there are times when they have to make accommodations because of inclement weather, and instructors will be advised of their responsibility in this respect. Reference was made to the many student grievances filed after 2 February, and to a student petition in circulation, and whether the relief they receive ought to be available to all students. Should this be enshrined in a policy at the university level, at least approved by Senate?

Orchard agreed to take under advisement the question of a policy on the matter, and Hamdullahpur suggested that the two principal questions to be resolved involved the academic implications for students and the safety of the campus.

15. OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.

Senate convened in Confidential Session.

24 February 2015

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel
Secretary to Senate