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


Guests: Steven Amirikah, Barb Blundon, Bruce Campbell, Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Mostafa Farrokhabadi, Bob Gillham, Stéphane Hamade, Jennifer Kieffer, Greta Kroeker, Mary Louise McAllister, Thomas Ray Mayberry, Allan Starr, Nathaniel Stevens, Marilyn Thompson, Jeff West

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. Rush advised that he would leave the meeting prior to the confidential session due to a conflict of interest. No other 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 23 FEBRUARY 2015 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
   • Software Engineering, Faculties of Engineering and Mathematics. Senate approved the changes to the Software Engineering Program 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.

5. **REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES**
   Constitution and Bylaws for the Assembly and Faculty Council of the Faculty of Engineering. Senate approved the amendment to the Engineering Faculty Council membership (Constitution, section II.A) and the Undergraduate Studies Committee membership (Standing Committees of Council, section II.6) as presented in the report.

   Senate received the remaining items in the reports for information.

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

Hamdullahpur and Porreca. Carried.

**Regular Agenda**

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
   There was no business arising.

8. **THE WATER INSTITUTE PRESENTATION**

   In response to a question, Gillham advised that the institute is differentiated through the research productivity of its groundwater work, and in the breadth it has in understanding watershed processes. There was further discussion of groundwater remediation, especially in the Elmira area.


9. **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN**
   Haslett presented a summary of some recent activity at the Library, indicating three strategic directions: 1. new skills for new times (pilot project for Canada Excellence project, bronze certification process completed in November); 2. enabling student success (NSSE, reflective/integrated learning and learning strategies, areas in which the Library can help); 3. advancing research and scholarship (assistance through the Library with open access publishing through the new digital repository librarian). There was some discussion of the implication of this last item for copyright questions, and the need to deposit in the repository even if the paper is published on some separate website.


10. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**
    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, Frank presented the names of this year’s recipients to Senate: Mostafa Farrokhabadi, electrical and computer engineering; Thomas Ray Mayberry, English language and literature; Nathaniel Stevens, statistics and actuarial science. 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: Greta Kroeker, history; Michael MacDonald, English language and literature; Mary Louise McAllister, environment and resource studies; Jeff West, civil and environmental engineering. A round of applause followed.

Executive Committee
- Senate ex officio Membership. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 4 were read for the first time.

The secretary of Senate agreed to review the resolutions by which ex officio positions were established, and to report that to Senate at an early opportunity.

Finance Committee
- 2015-16 Operating Budget. Senate heard a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2015-2016 Operating Budget as presented.

Skidmore and Ioannidis.

The current year’s projected deficit will be accommodated in the coming year’s budget. The provost answered a question on the Library acquisition budget and the relationship to the exchange rate. A member asked about the sustainability of cuts to academic budgets, and why academic support units are not also asked to reduce. The answer to the question of academic support units speaks to the very high percentage of each budget in salaries, meaning budget cuts necessarily mean layoffs. As far as sustainability is concerned, the problem is addressed through the redistribution of other moneys. The faculties are better able to absorb these cuts because they do have the power to generate revenue. What is “FTEs taught,” and what are the implications for our understanding of the proposed budget? The “FTEs taught” is a calculation that is intended to merge full-time and part-time enrolments.

The motion carried.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/20150323_budget.pdf

Graduate & Research Council
- Planning, Faculty of Environment, and Collaborative Water Program, Faculties of Arts, Engineering, Environment, Mathematics and Science. Senate heard a motion to the following effects:

To approve changing the plan name from the “Master of Applied Environmental Studies in Planning” to the “Master of Planning,” and to approve changes to the same plan as presented in the report.

To approve the participation of the Department of Chemical Engineering in the Collaborative Water Program.

Frank and Porreca. Carried.

Undergraduate Council
- Minor Credential and Minor in Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Engineering. Senate heard a motion to the following effects:
To approve the addition of the minor credential type in the Faculty of Engineering and to amend calendar text as presented in the report.

To approve the new Minor in Entrepreneurship as presented in the report.

Freeman and Ramdev. Carried.

11. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Hamdullahpur presented a wide ranging report, including: special thanks to the negotiating teams for both the University and the Faculty Association on reaching a settlement during recent negotiations; recent visits to campus by NSERC and MP Peter Braid; collaborative research agreement with Grand River Hospital; New York Times article mentioning the University as a place where ideas turn into action; Canada Research Chair competition results, including renewals and new allocations, and the implications for the University as a result; submission of the University’s largest research proposal under the Canada First Research Excellence Fund; provincial minister of MTCU met with university presidents, and discussion focused on, among other things, funding models, funding formulae and international PhD students, with the conclusion that the funding formula will have to recognize the strategic mandate agreements and the differentiation criteria.

12. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT
Hamdullahpur was asked how differentiation and the connection to funding affect the ability of universities to meet their general mission to offer research and teaching in traditional areas. Universities will be expected to exploit their strengths and not propose significant development in areas outside those strengths, and not develop programs that are inconsistent with those strengths.

Some senators commented on the implications of the percentage of public funding slipping below a threshold that would effectively convert Waterloo to a private institution. Hamdullahpur advised that so long as our core mission and our core values are preserved, then to a great extent it does not matter where the funding comes from. As a follow-up, senators asked why we are not building on philanthropy and focusing on our endowment to provide more independence from other funding sources. Hamdullahpur indicated that we are indeed focusing on these things, but the progress will necessarily be incremental over time. There was some comment on the challenges of continuing to increase tuition in an environment of economic challenge for graduating students, in response to which Hamdullahpur reminded Senate that the default rate on loans among graduates of the University of Waterloo is easily the lowest in the sector.

13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST
University Professor Designations. The provost provided background to the designation and announced that William Coleman, political science, and William Cook, combinatorics and optimization, have been awarded the honour this year.

Course Evaluation Project. Seasons spoke to the new course evaluation project. He commented on the use of the narrative portion of the student responses. He spoke as well to the design of the questionnaire and how this will be received by the stakeholder groups. What will be the categories addressed? Will the categories include the instructor, the material and the teaching environment? Seasons advised that this is still under consideration and the committee will be very sensitive to these issues. Supplementary questions could be added to probe faculty-specific needs for example. Online use of the questionnaire does seem to increase the participation rate, and controls will be developed to protect the narrative side of the questionnaire. Senators asked whether the nature of online submission changes the way in which responders comment, and how they evaluate. Privacy and cyber security ought to be very carefully considered. Midterm evaluation would also be helpful. Faculty have been interested in a project like this since 2008, so it is a project that has been driven both by faculty and by students. There should be some clear guidance on the use of the evaluation results. The use of the
results in performance management discussions and the opportunity to use the Centre for Teaching Excellence ought to be very carefully considered. We ought to consider providing students with numerical results to aid them in their decision-making.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/20150323_cep.pdf

**Undergraduate Admissions Update.** Darling presented the report on undergraduate admissions for the coming cycle, advising on the numbers of offers that have been made to students in comparison to last year. He advised that an aggressive campaign means that some faculties are using lower cut offs for initial offers, and it also means that we are actively recruiting in certain targeted ways. Co-op applications are more attractive and general programs are declining in popularity.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/20150323_admissions.pdf

14. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Dixon reported on “public access publications” or open access publishing and the publication repository project to address this. There may be something coming forward on “open access data” as well.

We have submitted a $120 million Canada First Research Excellence Fund proposal, using cyber security, quantum computing and the internet of things as the bases of that submission. Funding is intended to be announced in June.

The allocation of Canada Research Chairs at Waterloo has increased by 3 to 65. This is $500,000 per year directly into our base budget to support these chairs. We have increased our numbers in every reallocation, and because there is a set number of Canada Research Chairs, over time we are taking an ever larger share of a constant number.

Researchers at the University have received four SSHRC Connection Grants, and two NSERC CREATE Grants. Further, researchers have received 19 MRI Early Research Awards, two MRI ORF Research Excellence Awards, and five ORF – RI (John Evans Leadership Fund) Small Infrastructure Awards.

Dixon offered congratulations to the following: Martin Cooke, for receiving the Angus Reid Practitioners/Applied Sociology Award from the Canadian Sociology Association; Terry McMahon, for receiving the 2015 John C. Polanyi Award from the Canadian Society for Chemists; Mohamed Kamel, for receiving the IEEE Canada 2015 A.G.L. McNaughton Gold Medal; and Manoj Sachdev, for receiving the Fellowship of the Engineering Institute of Canada. Senate congratulated the recipients with a round of applause.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.