

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 21 September 2015 Meeting

Present: Sandra Banks, Katherine Bergman, Lutz-Alexander Busch, Jennifer Clapp, Tara Collington, Mario Coniglio, Eric Croiset, Maya D'Alessio, Ray Darling, David DeVidi, George Dixon, Samir Elhedhli, Wendy Fletcher, Allyson Francis, Jim Frank, Robert Gorbet, Sally Gunz, Feridun Hamdullahpur, Mark Haslett, Robert Henderson, Dennis Huber, Mike Hudson, Pallavi Hukerikar, Shelley Hulan, Beth Jewkes, Karim S. Karim, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, James Koo, Greta Kroeker, Robert Lemieux, Christos Lolas, Paul Marriott, Rachel Mitchell, Barb Moffatt, Michele Mosca, Paul Murphy, Ian Orchard, Diana Parry, Douglas Peers, Angela Pereira, David Perrin, David Porreca, Tristan Potter, Chanakya Ramdev, Bruce Richter, David Rose, James Rush, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, Susan Schultz Huxman, Mark Seasons, Samantha Shortall, James Skidmore, Gordon Stuble, Pearl Sullivan, Neil Thomson, Hamid Tizhoosh, Johanna Wandel, Stephen Watt, Olaf Weber

Guests: Steven Amirikah, Matthew Bondy, Bruce Campbell, Mike Dixon, Donna Ellis, Stéphane Hamade, Sarah Hildebrandt, Jennifer Kieffer, Diane Johnston, Derek Madge, Nick Manning, Colin MacLeod, Amanda McKenzie, Kelly McManus, Chris Read, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Ben Thompson, Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer

Secretariat & Office of General Counsel: Logan Atkinson, Karen Jack, Emily Schroeder

Absent: Jean Andrey*, Trevor Bechtel, Alanna Benson, Anna Brousseau, Graham Brown*, John Burbidge*, Susan Cadell, Dong Eui Chang*, Michael Drescher*, Bernard Duncker, Fraser Easton*, David Edwards, Mavis Fenn*, Shikha Gandhi*, John Garcia*, Anwar Hasan*, Marios Ioannidis*, Craig Janes, Tom Jenkins, Susan Leat*, Shoufa Lin, Mohammad Nasif, Daniel O'Connor, Jay Shah, Richard Staines*, Bryan Tolson*, Barbara Veale*, William Watson, Alexander Wray

*regrets

Organization of Meeting: Feridun Hamdullahpur 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. Hamdullahpur welcomed everyone to the meeting, and extended special welcomes to Jennifer Clapp as a faculty at large representative, and Angela Pereira, a representative from Alumni. Hamdullahpur also welcomed Stephen Watt, dean of mathematics, Robert Lemieux, dean of science, and Sally Gunz, president of the Faculty Association of the University of Waterloo, attending their first meetings of Senate in those capacities.

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.

Hamdullahpur and Bergman.

It was agreed that the two-year progress report of the Department of Psychology would be removed from the Consent Agenda and addressed under the report of Undergraduate Council, item 9(b) in the regular agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE 15 JUNE 2015 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

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

Undergraduate Council. Senate received the report for information.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORT FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Senate approved the motion to acclaim the membership of Emily Ha (biology) as science undergraduate student representative, University Committee on Student Appeals, term to April 2016.

The motion carried.

Regular Agenda

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

**8. PRESENTATION ON RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF AMBLYOPIA
DR. BEN THOMPSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY & VISION SCIENCE**

Dr. Thompson's research is concerned with human visual cortex development and plasticity, particularly in promoting plasticity to improve outcomes for patients with brain-based visual disorders. This has led to an interest in a visual disorder called amblyopia (also known as "lazy eye"), and to the development of two new and highly promising approaches to treatment.

One basic difference between children and adults is that children's brains have a much greater propensity for change, i.e., children's brains are more "plastic" than adult brains. Reduced plasticity in the adult brain has direct implications for the learning of new skills and recovery from damage to the brain through trauma, disease or abnormal development. Dr. Thompson's research uses the human visual system as a model to investigate the mechanisms that regulate plasticity in the adult brain and interventions that can enhance plasticity. Dr. Thompson described recent work involving amblyopia. This visual disorder is common, and involves abnormal processing of visual information within the brain. Adults with amblyopia are currently left untreated, as the prevailing view is that the adult brain lacks sufficient plasticity to relearn use of an amblyopic eye. His research has led to the development of new treatment approaches for adult amblyopia. These include specially modified videogames and the use of non-invasive brain stimulation techniques to boost visual cortex plasticity. The videogame treatment is currently undergoing international clinical trials and a startup company has licensed the IP.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen here: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/thompson_senate_final_20150921.pptx

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS

a. Graduate & Research Council

Senate heard a consolidated motion to the following effects:

Faculty of Arts, English Language and Literature: To approve the implementation of a coursework option in the experimental digital media plan as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Psychology: To approve changes to the degree requirements for graduate plans in psychology as presented in the report.

Faculty of Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering: To approve changes to comprehensive examination milestones as presented in the report, provided that students in the program at the effective date of this change can opt to continue under the regulations in place when they were admitted to the program, or to submit to the new regulations.

Frank and Hulan. Carried.

Faculty of Science, School of Pharmacy: Senate heard a motion to approve changes to provide a non-degree admissions option for the School of Pharmacy as presented in the report.

Frank and DeVidi.

It was observed that the costs associated with taking non-degree courses for international visiting graduate students can be prohibitive, and that both current students and visiting students would benefit from greater interaction in courses. No accommodation seems available to facilitate this, even where there is an extensive agreement between the university and the visiting graduate student's home institution.

The motion carried.

Aegrotat Degrees: Senate heard a motion to approve an amendment to the aegrotat designation in the grades and grading section of the calendar as presented in the report.

Frank and Darling. Carried.

b. Undergraduate Council

Senate considered the two-year progress report of the Department of Psychology, brought forward to the regular agenda from the consent agenda.

Senate heard a motion to approve the two-year progress report of the Department of Psychology, as presented.

Coniglio and Peers.

Senate discussed two matters related to this report, and to program reviews in general. First, this report took an unusually long period of time to be completed, fully four years rather than two years. Colin MacLeod, former chair of Psychology, reported to Senate that the report was ready more or less when it ought to be, but because of changes it was delayed. It does accurately describe the state of the program at present, and further changes are being made. Secondly, what is the relationship between departmental responses and the reviewers' recommendations? Is there any oversight of these sorts of issues, and how does the committee deal with these things as the reports and responses are generated? Senate was advised that the process is quite rigorous at

Senate Undergraduate Council, reports are reviewed and discussed, issues are identified by the Council when responses are deficient and sent back to department for comment. Coniglio agreed to make a short presentation to Senate to describe the process.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Senate heard a consolidated motion to address the following matters:

Faculty of Arts, French Studies: To approve new plans, plan amendments and plan inactivations in French studies as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Political Science: To approve new plans, plan amendments and plan inactivations in political science as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Russian and East European Studies: To approve plan amendments and plan inactivations in Russian and East European studies as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Drama and Speech Communication: To approve plan amendments in drama and speech communication as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, English Language and Literature: To approve new plans, plan amendments, plan inactivations and changes to calendar text in English language and literature as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, History: To approve plan amendments in history as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Music: To approve new plans and plan amendments in music as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Peace and Conflict Studies: To approve plan amendments in peace and conflict studies as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Religious Studies: To approve plan amendments and plan inactivations in religious studies as presented in the report.

Faculty of Arts, Spanish and Latin American Studies: To approve new plans and plan amendments and plan inactivations in Spanish and Latin American studies as presented in the report.

Coniglio and Peers. Carried.

Global Experience Certificate: Senate heard a motion to approve plan amendments to the global experience certificate as described in the report.

Coniglio and Porreca. Carried.

Faculty of Science, Bioinformatics Option: Senate heard a motion to approve the new plan in bioinformatics as presented the report.

Coniglio and Lemieux. Carried.

Faculty of Arts, Definition of Academic Standing: Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the definition of academic standing in the calendar as described and effective 1 September 2016.

Coniglio and Peers.

It was noted that "... a Psychology student enrolled in ..." must be replaced by "... **a student taking a minor in Psychology** enrolled in" This change is found on page 4 of the Senate Undergraduate Council regular report, second sub-bullet to the bullet addressing "Minor Average: Average of the grades in all courses taken within the student's minor."

The motion carried.

Faculty of Arts, Degree Requirements: Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the degree requirements in the calendar as described and effective 1 September 2016.

Coniglio and Peers. Carried.

Office of the Registrar, Amendments to 2015-16 Calendar of Dates: Senate heard a motion to revise the spring 2016 convocation dates from 7-14 June 2016 to 14-18 June 2016.

Rationale: This change will be congruous with the new guidelines approved by Senate at the November 2014 meeting for setting convocation dates. For this particular convocation, shifting the dates to a week later is feasible. The change will provide the campus community with more time to prepare for convocation. The Registrar's Office will undertake extensive communication with the campus community as the 2016 convocation dates of June 7-14 were published to the web for a short period last spring. The website has more recently read "TBD" for the spring 2016 convocation dates, since June of this year. Council wishes to inform Senate that the motion carried at Senate Undergraduate Council with 9 for, 5 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Darling and Ramdev.

Communication will be thorough if the motion passes. It was noted that there could be challenges with flight bookings and also with students having accepted jobs. The dates as originally passed are very early and difficult to meet through overtime and like arrangements in the Registrar's Office. Senate Undergraduate Council was divided, primarily because it originally came up because of a conflict with the Board of Governors June meeting. This wasn't the issue, but it did tend to dominate the discussion at SUC. The matter did not go to Senate Graduate & Research Council because it has always been the practice to take this through SUC to establish the dates. Because the original dates did not go to both councils, the proposed change did not go to SGRC either. Darling agreed to investigate taking the establishment of convocation dates to both councils in the future and to take to the regular agenda in Senate as opposed to the consent agenda.

The motion carried.

Office of the Registrar, Aegrotat Degrees: Senate heard a motion to amend in the calendar and to establish a university-wide regulation on aegrotat standing to allow for extenuating circumstances.

Darling and Henderson. Carried.

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Hamdullahpur presented a wide ranging report, including some detail on the recently held community breakfast at which the university hosted about 160 university people and community leaders. This event provided an excellent opportunity to outline links between the university and the community. The president reported on a very successful Waterloo Innovation Summit, held for the third year. It was intended to help us move the university forward to being recognized as among the most innovative universities in the world. About 270 delegates attended from around the world. Hamdullahpur provided an update on initiatives relating to gender equity, including the recently announced scholarships related to the HeforShe initiative. In government relations, it was announced in August that funding up to \$24 million may be available for phase 2 of the Science complex from the federal government. A further approvals process will be undertaken after the election in October. The university will receive \$600,000 for renovation of Columbia Ice Fields. The president reported on the funding formula review under discussion with the province, with the expectation that a report will soon be generated. Representation has been made that the needs of research intensive universities with large graduate student cohorts are different from the needs of other sorts of institutions. Hamdullahpur reported on a recent visit to campus of a group of federal deputy ministers and associate deputy ministers to learn more about our university and the regional dynamic. Thousands of new students at all levels have been welcomed to the campus. A brief update on undergraduate numbers provided, with graduate numbers to follow in November. Undergraduate numbers are about 1% below target. The president provided an update on faculty hires – 99 in total, with 36 as replacement positions and 63 new positions. The university is one of the few to replace positions or create positions at the full professor or associate levels. Gender distribution is healthy and improving.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen here: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/sept_21_2015_-_senate_presentation_fh_final_3.pptx

11. Q&A WITH THE PRESIDENT

It was pointed out that opportunities for men in the HeforShe campaign will emerge as faculty specific programs are launched in the weeks ahead. Online videos will soon be available for the Waterloo Innovation Summit. The fee for the Summit, and the invitation list, were adjusted this time round because of the use of a different model. It was not intended to be exclusionary, but the decision was made to raise fees to ensure a world class event. It was observed that we are still learning and will try to make adjustments next year. Senate asked for a breakdown of faculty attendance over the three year life of the event.

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

- a. **Institutional Quality Assurance Process.** Senate heard a motion that Senate approve the revised Institutional Quality Assurance Process document.

Rationale: The Institutional Quality Assurance Process document was approved with minor changes recommended at 19 May 2015 Senate. The revised IQAP document was ratified at the 26 August 2015 meeting of the Quality Council. The revised document is now submitted to Senate for final approval.

Orchard and Coniglio. Carried.

- b. **Update on New Student Transition 2015.**

Associate Provost, Students Chris Read presented a report on the program of transition for new students to the university. Slides used in the presentation can be seen here: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/ap_students_presentation_to_senate_20150921.pptx

Read was asked if more time could be found for department chairs to interact with students, and he agreed to follow up directly. Some graduate student senators suggested more faculty-specific orientation in addition to the centralized graduate student orientation. Faculty specific days are sometimes held earlier in the summer, outside of ordinary orientation, and this tends to ease the concerns of new students as they arrive on campus.

- c. **Terms of Reference for a Mid-Term Break.** Senate heard a motion to approve the terms of reference for a mid-term break as described.

Rationale: The university has no specific guidelines to define the purpose of the mid-term break or any general approach to the treatment of studies during such a break. The terms of reference provided have been reviewed and were endorsed by Senate Undergraduate Council in February 2015 and by Senate Graduate & Research Council in June 2015, with the latter council voting 14 in support with five abstentions.

Coniglio and Henderson.

If passed, these terms of reference will be published in the calendar. A wide ranging discussion on this motion was held, including: graduate students would not hold office hours during any official mid-term break; the terms of reference are intended to ensure that the student experience be properly protected; the distinction between “terms of reference” and “policy” and the advisability of treating this document as one or the other; whether senators needed more time to consider the implications of the document; the ramifications of graduate students being prevented from grading during a mid-term break; the length of the teaching assistant contract (14 weeks), and whether this document would have implication for how duties are assigned.

Senate heard a motion to lay the principal motion on the table.

Porreca and Richter.

The motion laid on the table was defeated.

It was observed that we would not be the first university to say that teaching assistants get a break during reading week.

The question was called on the principal motion, and it carried.

13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Dixon reported to Senate that the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists (affiliated with the Royal Society) had admitted Karen Collins, David Hammond, and Zhou Wang. He advised Senate that the university would be making a submission to the CFREF competition in round two.

Dixon provided some comment on uncertainty in terms of interpretation of tri-council guidelines on compliance reviews of expenditures. There are possibly some inconsistencies between tri-council interpretations and interpretations in the Office of Research; there are possibly variations between compliance issues as interpreted here and at other universities; there is uncertainty on the avenues for clarification for faculty who disagree with the interpretation they are given. A small working group will be established in the Office of Research to consider these questions, but in the meantime faculty is encouraged to go to Diane Johnston for help on immediate challenges.

In response to a question, Dixon advised that there is no central fund available to support undergraduate research, but in some of the faculties at the undergraduate level there are limited funds available. Also URFs from NSERC are available for undergraduates to cover living expenses while researching.

14. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

- a. Community Impact Report Presentation.** Kelly McManus, senior director, community relations & events, addressed Senate on the recently released Community Impact Report.

The slide used in the presentation may be seen here: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/20150921_single_slide_community_impact_report.pptx

15. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

21 September 2015

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel
Secretary to Senate