

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

Present: Jean Andrey, Sandra Banks, Katherine Bergman, Lutz-Alexander Busch, John Burbidge, Jennifer Clapp, Tara Collington, Mario Coniglio, Eric Croiset, Maya D'Alessio**, Ray Darling, David DeVidi, George Dixon, Michael Drescher, Bernard Duncker, David Edwards, Samir Elhedhli, Wendy Fletcher, Allyson Francis, Jim Frank, Shikha Gandhi, Feridun Hamdullahpur, Anwar Hasan, 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, Susan Leat, Robert Lemieux, Christos Lolas, Paul Marriott, Rachel Mitchell, Barb Moffatt, Michele Mosca, Daniel O'Connor, 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 Stubley, Pearl Sullivan, Neil Thomson, Hamid Tizhoosh, Bryan Tolson, Stephen Watt, Olaf Weber, Alexander Wray

Guests: Bruce Campbell, Pam Charbonneau, Bill Chesney, Donna Ellis, Colleen Even, Rocco Fondacaro, Stéphane Hamade, Derek Madge, Kelly McManus, Chris Read, Ellen Réthoré, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Marilyn Thompson, Jane Tingley, Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer, Glen Wepler

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

Absent: Trevor Bechtel, Alanna Benson*, Graham Brown*, Anna Brousseau, Susan Cadell, Dong Eui Chang, Fraser Easton*, John Garcia*, Robert Gorbet*, Sally Gunz, Marios Ioannidis*, Craig Janes*, Tom Jenkins, Shoufa Lin*, Paul Murphy, Mohammad Nasif, Jay Shah, Richard Staines*, Barbara Veale*, Johanna Wandel*, William Watson

*regrets

** telephone

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.

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

Before introducing the consent agenda, Hamdullahpur advised Senate of the following changes to the agenda:

- (i) The addition of item 7, Committee Appointments, in the consent agenda.
- (ii) The addition of item 13(b), Report of the Vice-President, Academic & Provost: Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.
- (iii) A modification to the motion proposed under item 13(c) related to the proposed Fall Break Pilot, reflecting a start date for the pilot of fall 2016.

Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 2-7 below.

Wray and Bergman.

2. MINUTES OF THE 21 SEPTEMBER 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.

Motion: To approve amendments to the rules for students enrolled in Faculty of Science courses as described in Attachment 1.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Senate received the report for information.

6. REPORT FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

7. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: To appoint Aaron Thompson (geography & environmental management) as environment graduate student representative, Senate Graduate & Research Council, term to 30 April 2016.

Motion: To appoint Ian Evans (geography & environmental management) as environment graduate student representative, University Committee on Student Appeals, term to 30 April 2016.

The motion carried.

Regular Agenda

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Waterloo Innovation Summit: Attendance Report

Sandra Banks updated Senate on faculty attendance at the Waterloo Innovation Summit over the three years of its existence. In 2013, of 175 attendees, seven were faculty. In 2014, 17 faculty attended among 160 attendees. Eight faculty attended in 2015 out of 220 attendees.

9. TEACHING PRESENTATION

**JANE TINGLEY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
STRATFORD/FINE ARTS**

Jane Tingley is an assistant professor in hybrid media in the Department of Fine Arts. Her work combines traditional studio practice with new media tools – and spans responsive/interactive installation, performative robotics, and the creation of a gestural game. She is a founding member of the Modern Nomads and has participated in exhibitions and festivals in Canada, Asia, and Europe. She received the Kenneth Finkelstein Prize in Sculpture.

The title of her presentation was “GBDA [Global Business and Digital Arts] – Where Art, Technology and Business Meet.” As a case study, Professor Tingley discussed her studio course, GBDA 101, in the

Global Business and Digital Arts program at Stratford. She discussed her approach to the class and gave an overview of one assignment. She also touched on how her teaching relates to the Global and Business side of the degree.

10. REPORT FROM COUNCIL

a. Undergraduate Council

Senate heard a motion to the following effects:

Faculty of Arts, Economics

To approve new plans, plan amendments and plan inactivations in economics as presented in Attachment 1.

Faculty of Arts, Fine Arts

To approve new plans, plan amendments, and plan inactivations in fine arts as presented in Attachment 2.

Faculty of Arts, Germanic and Slavic Studies

To approve plan amendments and plan inactivations in German as presented in Attachment 3.

Faculty of Arts, Classical Studies

To approve plan amendments in medieval studies as presented in Attachment 4.

Faculty of Arts, Psychology

To approve new plans and plan amendments in psychology as presented in Attachment 5.

Faculty of Arts, Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies

To approve new plans, plan amendments, and plan inactivations in sexuality, marriage, and family studies as presented in Attachment 6.

Faculty of Arts, Social Development Studies

To approve plan amendments in social development studies as presented in Attachment 7.

Coniglio and Peers.

Part of the process of plan standardization is to allow for students to transition between the old and new plans. Students must be registered in a course in September 2016 in order to access the new plan. That portion of the motion related to Economics is retroactive because it is the most extensive adjustment in the various plans changed pursuant to this consolidated motion. This is an exceptional circumstance and is not to be taken as a precedent. There is a transition plan in place for students with blocks of economics courses outside the department proper.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Faculty of Science, Psychology

Senate heard a motion to approve changes to the honours psychology plan and the recommended course sequence as presented in Attachment 8.

Coniglio and Lemieux.

Coniglio agreed to check punctuation in the third line of Attachment 8 and to correct as necessary. In response to a question about the number of science credits in the program in relation to the electives,

Senate was advised that flexibility in course selection is thought to be appropriate and has received significant vetting on its way to Senate.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

11. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Hamdullahpur presented a wide ranging report. He distributed a progress report on the university's strategic plan implementation, and asked senators to bring observations back to the November meeting of Senate. Hamdullahpur reported on the sad death of a graduate student in Engineering. He referred to convocation ceremonies to be conducted this week and encouraged all to attend. He advised that Research Infosource has selected the university as the research institution of the year for the fourth year in a row, and applauded faculty for their efforts in this regard. Hamdullahpur finished his presentation by summarizing results from several key performance indicators among the 45 that are regularly monitored by administration. Many of these suggest good performance, while others suggest that additional work is required.

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

12. Q&A WITH THE PRESIDENT

It was pointed out that the student-to-faculty ratio performance indicator suggests that we are improving quite dramatically, although much of this change can be explained in a different method of counting both faculty numbers and student numbers. This relates to a count of total full-time faculty, and not simply tenure and tenure-track.

In response to a question about the composition of the search committee for an Associate Provost, Graduate Studies, the provost advised that membership on the committee had been expanded relative to the most recent search, such that the committee is more representative this time round than it was last time. Further, a broad consultation process has been undertaken to canvass constituencies to ensure that the search committee is properly informed of the community's position on the matter. It was noted as well that responsibility for postdoctoral affairs at the university was added to the title of the position to alert the community of the change in role, and the position description will be adjusted as necessary. The provost agreed to take feedback on the composition of the committee into consideration for future reference, remembering to allow for adequate constituency representation.

Hamdullahpur advised that no time line has been established for a search for Vice-President, Advancement.

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

a. Call for University Professor Nominations. Orchard referred to a memorandum asking for nominations for University Professor Nominations, and encouraged senators to consider putting names forward.

b. Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.

Senate heard a motion to approve the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as recommended by the Faculty Councils and the associate provost, graduate studies, and to authorize the chair (on behalf of Senate and report at its subsequent meeting) based on the recommendation of the Registrar or (in the case of graduate students) the associate provost, graduate studies, to add to or change the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as approved at the meeting on 19 October 2015.

Darling and Watt. Carried.

c. Fall Break Pilot.

Mario Coniglio presented background information on the proposal to establish a fall break pilot. Slides used in his presentation may be seen here: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/senate_fall_break_presentation_20151019.pptx.

Senate heard a motion to approve modifications to calendar guidelines for a three-year period starting in 2016 to include a two-day Fall Break following Thanksgiving Monday by starting classes earlier by two days (Thursday of Orientation Week), and to evaluate this initiative after three years.

Coniglio and Lolas.

Coniglio confirmed that the matter will come back to Senate after three years for further deliberation.

Senators discussed a number of issues related to the motion, including: the need to use 22 December as the last examination date to allow for the possibility of weather disruptions; the preference for an October break as opposed to a break later in the fall so as to capitalize on the Thanksgiving long weekend, and so as to avoid a second disruption to courses with bi-weekly lab sessions; a spring term break is not currently under consideration; there is no hard evidence that a fall term break is beneficial to students, but it seems logical to suggest that for students transitioning to university some time to pause and prepare for the balance of the term makes sense; of the sixteen Ontario universities that currently have a fall term break, nine use the Thanksgiving period and have a full four day break following Thanksgiving Monday; the question put to students in the referendum allowed only for a two day break, as the decision had already been made that a longer break was not feasible; there was no consultation with faculty councils, and this is something that ought to be considered; a report will come forward to the November meeting of Senate in each year during the trial period, and there will be a number of assessments that will be reported; there was discussion of using the Friday before Thanksgiving and the Tuesday after, but the problem of affecting two weeks instead of one, and the overlap with Wilfrid Laurier University for double degree students, were important considerations; students will not have the opportunity to slot their exams in the spring term so as to ensure a proper summer break, while faculty will be afforded that opportunity; there is no agreement on the question of whether students would be better served by a break later in the term, such that this will be part of the assessment process, although we must remember the impact that the break will have on lab scheduling, for example; we must be cautious about the potential for adverse effects on vulnerable students as a result of the break (issues such as retention, mental well-being, international students without support), such that good baseline data will be valuable in measuring the impact of this idea; it is not yet clear whether the Thursday/Friday after Labour Day will function as a Tuesday/Wednesday; the idea of starting orientation week before Labour Day will be considered, given that some orientation events are already occurring on the Labour Day weekend, and given that this could allow teaching to start on the Wednesday following Labour Day so as to avoid the occasional day of Saturday classes; the discussion will continue to look for a compromise on the exam slotting question; students are very strongly in favour of the motion, and want to be involved in the annual assessments and the review at the end of the pilot period, with a particular focus on mental health issues and opportunities for student engagement outside of orientation week.

The question was called and the motion carried.

d. Course Evaluation Project Update.

Mark Seasons presented an update on the course evaluation project. Slides used in the presentation may be seen here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/ceptsenateoct19final.pptx>.

Seasons expressed his thanks to members of the course evaluation project team, and confirmed that ultimately a report will be brought to Senate for approval.

e. Faculty of Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering: Changes to Comprehensive Examination Milestones

Jim Frank presented the rationale for the following motion to rescind.

Senate hear a motion to rescind the section of the Senate Graduate & Research Council consolidated motion passed by Senate on 21 September 2015 which refers to approval of “changes to the comprehensive examination milestone” in the Department of Electrical and Computing Engineering.

Rationale: An SGRC motion to split the PhD comprehensive in Electrical and Computing Engineering into two parts (background and proposal) was approved by Senate on 20 April 2015. The motion to Senate on 21 September 2015 was to record the two sections of the comprehensive examination as separate milestones on the student record. The recording of milestones is an administrative matter that should not have come to Senate; it requires SGRC approval only (approved 8 June 2015).

The motion to be rescinded was recorded in the 21 September 2015 minutes as follows: “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.”

The motion to rescind was called, and it carried.

f. Pharmacy Faculty Council Constitution and Bylaws

David Edwards presented background on the development of the proposed constitution for the School of Pharmacy.

Senate heard a motion to approve the Pharmacy Faculty Council constitution and bylaws as provided in the report.

Edwards and Lemieux.

Edwards advised that the School of Pharmacy requires a governing document as a requirement of its accreditation body, and that the attached constitution and bylaws were previously approved by Science Faculty Council.

It was agreed by Edwards and Lemieux to amend their motion in the following respects:

- (i) To delete “the professors emeriti of the School” as members of the council.
- (ii) To amend Article VII of the proposed constitution regarding amendments, by adding the words “Subject to the approval of Senate” immediately prior to the words “The Council may amend” in the first line.
- (iii) To change the title of the constitution to “School of Pharmacy Council,” to change the title of the bylaws to “Bylaws of the School of Pharmacy Council,” and to replace the words “Faculty Council” with “School Council” wherever they appear in the proposed constitution and bylaws.
- (iv) In the description of the Graduate Studies and Research Committee, section V.v. of the proposed bylaws, to delete the text at the second last bullet, which reads: “The Committee shall select a representative from the graduate students to serve on the Committee. It is understood that occasionally sensitive matters arise that may require the Committee to meet

in camera without a student present,” and to replace that text with the following: “One graduate student representative, elected by and from the graduate students in the School through procedures to be established by those graduate students, shall serve on the Committee.”

The motion, as amended by the four amendments recorded above, was called, and the motion carried.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

19 October 2015

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel
Secretary to Senate