

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 28 March 2016 Meeting

Present: Jean Andrey, Sandra Banks, Katherine Bergman, John Burbidge, Susan Cadell, Dong Eui Chang, Jennifer Clapp, Tara Collington, Mario Coniglio, Eric Croiset, Maya D'Alessio, Ray Darling, David DeVidi, George Dixon, Michael Drescher, Bernard Duncker, Fraser Easton, Marlene Epp, Mavis Fenn, Wendy Fletcher, Robert Gorbet, Sally Gunz, Feridun Hamdullahpur, Anwar Hasan, Mark Haslett, Robert Henderson (telephone), Dennis Huber, Mike Hudson, Pallavi Hukerikar, Shelley Hulan, Craig Janes, Beth Jewkes, Karim S. Karim, Scott Kline, James Koo, Greta Kroeker, Robert Lemieux, Shoufa Lin, Christos Lolas, Paul Marriott, Rachel Mitchell, Barb Moffatt, Michele Mosca, Mohammad Nasif, Daniel O'Connor, Ian Orchard, Wayne Parker, Diana Parry, Douglas Peers, Angela Pereira, David Perrin, David Porreca, Tristan Potter, Chanakya Ramdev, James Rush, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, Susan Schultz Huxman, Samantha Shortall, James Skidmore, Richard Staines, Gordon Stubley, Neil Thomson, Stephen Watt, Olaf Weber, Alexander Wray

Guests: David Bean, Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Donna Ellis, Rocco Fondacaro, Stéphane Hamade, Sarah Hildebrandt, Jennifer Kieffer, Derek Madge, Nick Manning, Chris Read, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Marilyn Thompson

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

Absent: Alanna Benson, Graham Brown*, Lutz-Alexander Busch*, David Edwards*, Samir Elhedhli, Allyson Francis, Jim Frank*, Shikha Gandhi*, John Garcia, Marios Ioannidis, Tom Jenkins, Alysia Kolentsis, Susan Leat*, Paul Murphy, Bruce Richter*, David Rose*, Mark Seasons*, Jay Shah, Hamid Tizhoosh*, Bryan Tolson*, Barbara Veale*, Johanna Wandel, William Watson*

*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.

At the chair's invitation, Mario Coniglio introduced winners of the Amit and Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student, being Tiffany Bayley (Engineering/Management Sciences), John Doucette (Mathematics/Computer Science), Had Hosseini (Mathematics/Computer Science) and Laura Sauder (Science/Biology). Senators gave the recipients a round of applause. Hamdullahpur referred Senators to the complete report appearing as item 8(a) in the agenda.

OPEN SESSION

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Senators were asked to declare any interests they may have in relation to the items on the agenda in open session. No conflicts were declared.

Consent Agenda

Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda.

Ramdev and Kroeker.

2. MINUTES OF THE 22 FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Graduate & Research Council.

- **Academic Program Review Report (Fine Arts).** Senate approved the final assessment report for fine arts.
- **Academic Program Review Report (Management Sciences).** Senate approved the final assessment report for management sciences.

Senate received the remaining item in the report for information.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Regular Agenda

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

7. PRESENTATION

MAYA D’ALESSIO, PRESIDENT, GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA)

RACHEL MITCHELL, VICE-PRESIDENT, GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

D’Alessio and Mitchell informed Senators about the activities and services of the Graduate Student Association generally, and in particular activities over the past twelve month period. D’Alessio made special reference to the need for improved graduate student space for both work and social uses. She also referred to: work currently underway to update Policy 30 on employment of graduate students; GSO/GSA town halls; the course evaluation project (with a suggestion to include the evaluation of teaching assistants); development of departmental culture for graduate students (essential to enhancement of the student experience). She expressed thanks to graduate student senators for their service.

D’Alessio was asked about the priorities of the Ontario Graduate Student Association (OGSA). She advised that the OGSA has been focused on post-residency fees and a number of other issues of relevance to graduate students.

Reference was made to the Graduate Studies Endowment Fund, not administered by the GSA but intended to assist with conference travel and related needs.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/gsasenatepresentation_0.pdf.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Amit and Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Committee

Senate received the report for information.

Distinguished Teacher Award Committee

Coniglio introduced winners of the Distinguished Teacher Awards, being Jee-Hae Lim (Accounting and Finance), Robert McKillop (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Katie Plaisance (Knowledge Integration), and Mark Pritzker (Chemical Engineering). Senators gave the recipients a round of applause. Hamdullahpur referred Senators to the complete report circulated with Senate materials.

Executive Committee.

Senate Bylaw 3, A bylaw to establish Committees and Councils of Senate of the University of Waterloo (1st reading). On the recommendation of Executive Committee, a proposed amendment to Bylaw 2 was read for the first time.

The proposed bylaw amendment is intended to provide clarity on the circumstances under which the powers of Senate may be exercised by Senate Executive Committee.

Finance Committee.

Speaking to his presentation, Orchard referenced the proposed 2016-2017 operating budget and the supplementary data set distributed with the agenda. He highlighted several items, including increases in tuition and provincial government policy in that respect; increases in operating expenses, including salaries and benefits; a projected deficit of approximately \$2.1 million, \$1.2 million of which is projected to be left over from the current budget; proposals on faculty hiring for the coming year; increases in student support.

Senate heard a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2016-2017 Operating Budget as presented.

Orchard and Andrey.

In discussion, Orchard explained the concept of “tuition set aside,” an amount required by the province to be set aside from tuition to be returned to students in certain circumstances of need.

A question was raised with respect to increases in the numbers of faculty, administrative staff attached to academic units, and other administrative staff. It appears that the percentage of change in the non-academic support staff outside the Faculties is growing at a much larger rate than academic support staff and faculty. Orchard replied by saying that this will be scrutinized much more carefully as the new budget model is rolled out. In general, however, greater accountability frameworks and regulatory requirements means additional staff have been required to meet these demands. Further, non-academic support units have been chronically understaffed over the years, and as the University has grown those units have fallen further behind. Huber advised that we do track these issues, and for the most part we are about average in Canada for non-academic support staff and the rate of hiring in that respect.

Dixon addressed the issue of return on investment that the University generates through research commercialization projects in which the University has an interest. Recovery of the University’s investment does occur, but not necessarily in evidence on a year over year basis.

Orchard was asked how it is that we record an accumulated surplus of about \$29 million, according to our audited financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2015. Huber advised that some of this is attributable to the fact that the statements are consolidated, including all funds under the University’s direction, as opposed to simply a calculation of operating revenues and expenses.

With respect to the library acquisitions budget, it is noted that the budget is constant over the current budget and the proposed budget, while other expenses are growing, and this is exacerbated by the current value of the Canadian dollar. The provost has an agreement with the Library to cover the currency differential with one-time money, rather than increasing the base.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

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

Graduate & Research Council.

Faculty of Engineering, Management Sciences. Senate heard a motion to approve a new Type II graduate diploma in data analytics.

Dixon and DeVidi. Carried.

Faculty of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering. Senate heard a motion to amend the masters of engineering plan in mechanical engineering.

Dixon and Parker. Carried

Faculty of Environment, Geography and Environmental Management. Senate heard a motion to add a part time option to the master of climate change plan.

Dixon and Andrey. Carried.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Hamdullahpur presented a short report on recent activities at the University, including: a visit from Mayor Tory of the City of Toronto in connection with the Waterloo/Toronto corridor concept; John Cherry, a distinguished professor emeritus in the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Science, has been awarded the 2016 Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize, a top international water prize worth more than \$280,000 CDN; attendance at the co-op students of the year ceremony; results in the QS discipline specific rankings; the recent provincial government budget, especially the concept of "free tuition;" establishment of the advanced manufacturing consortium with the University of Waterloo, Western and McMaster; the recent federal budget contained good news on the funding of the Tri-Council and infrastructure funding for the sector; allocation of funds for innovation networks and clusters, and a specific reference to the University of Waterloo in this announcement; speeches to various audiences about the value of a university education; trips to Singapore and China, and interactions with three different groups of University of Waterloo faculty at Chinese universities and the collaborations underway.

At the chair's invitation, Diana Parry provided Senators with an update on the HeForShe campaign.

Slides used in Prof. Parry's presentation may be seen at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/heforshe.pdf>.

10. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT

In connection with the HeForShe campaign, Parry was asked about opportunity to have a positive impact at Velocity, which is not connected to a specific faculty. Parry advised that she has approached Mike Kirkup for a conversation on how Velocity might be better integrated into the program.

It was observed that students feel that they have been excluded from the program. Parry advised that there have been attempts to engage students, but more effort is needed to ensure that students are properly engaged. She was asked whether the gender equity targets are sufficiently high for an internationally respected University. The targets are intended to be achievable over a short five year period, they constitute a start and not a finish, and will be adjusted in future years.

A question was asked about the project in IST to move away from the ordinary UW email address for students, and it was indicated that there is significant discomfort among students on the question. Bruce Campbell, interim CIO, addressed the question, saying that IST would keep students engaged on the matter before any final decision is made. IST recognizes the value of the current domain name, and the mechanics for migrating are easily explained. Students will be engaged to work

through to a suitable solution. There are different considerations for the employee groups who will continue to use the current exchange environment, and needed improvements will be made as we go forward.

Slides for the president's presentations on the value of a university education are available on the president's office web site.

The president was asked about the integration of the proposed LRT station on campus with other modes of transportation. Huber advised that there have been discussions about this with Grand River Transit and with student representatives, and the conclusion is that the current plan will improve safety and integrate systems optimally, with a view first to the safety of users and others on campus. In response, there was further comment on the nature and extent of consultation, and whether student consultation is sufficiently meaningful on issues of importance to students.

Huber provided some further explanation of the positioning of pedestrian controls on the east and west sides of Ring Road.

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

University Professor Designations. The provost provided background to the designation and announced that Linda Nazar, chemistry has been awarded the honour this year.

Undergraduate Admissions Update. Darling presented a report on undergraduate admissions and graduate student applications for the coming cycle, advising on the numbers of offers that have been made to students in comparison to last year.

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

In response to a question, Darling advised that we are doing very well with retention rates at the undergraduate level, about 5th in Canada with respect to retention from first to second year. We do slip a bit in terms of graduation rates, and this needs more investigation to determine the causes.

12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Senate received the report for information.

Under the "large and mid-size projects" portion of Dixon's report, it was noted that funding of \$1.02 million USD had been received by a University of Waterloo researcher from the United States Air Force. Dixon was asked whether such research partnerships are advisable. Dixon advised that if issues such as this are identified, ordinarily there will be a discussion during the course of settling the arrangement, but academic freedom must be respected as well.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Orchard was asked if he would bring forward a report on the timetabling/scheduling project and the relationship with academic excellence and the student experience, and he agreed to do so.