

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 21 November 2016 Meeting

Present: Jean Andrey, Sandra Banks, Annie Bélanger, Katherine Bergman, Jessica Brake, Robert Bruce, Carmen Bruni, Lutz-Alexander Busch, Jeff Casello, Brian Cepuran, Jennifer Clapp, Andrew Clubine, Tara Collington, Mario Coniglio, Simon Courtenay, Douglas Cowan, Eric Croiset, Ray Darling, David DeVidi, Michael Drescher, Bernard Duncker, Fraser Easton, Samir Elhedhli, Marlene Epp, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Sacha Forstner, John Garcia, Mark Giesbrecht, Robert Gorbet, Sally Gunz, Feridun Hamdullahpur, Dennis Huber, Mike Hudson, Marios Ioannidis, Craig Janes, Beth Jewkes, Karim S. Karim, Scott Kline, Robert Lemieux, Shoufa Lin, Christos Lolos, Mungo Marsden, Robin Mazumder, Barb Moffatt, Michele Mosca, Paul Murphy, Richard Myers, Mohammad Nasif, Daniel O'Connor, Ian Orchard, Jim Pankratz, Diana Parry, Douglas Peers, Angela Pereira, David Perrin, Bruce Richter, James Rush, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, Mark Seasons, Samantha Shortall, James Skidmore, Gordon Stuble, Pearl Sullivan, Hamid Tizhoosh, Tomson Tran, Johanna Wandel, Stephen Watt, Dan Wolczuk, Alexander Wray

Guests: Bruce Campbell, Donna Ellis, Mike Grivicic, Peggy Jarvie, Jennifer Kieffer, Derek Madge, Walter Mittelstaedt, Catherine Newell Kelly, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Allan Starr, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Pamela Smyth

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

Absent: Hannah Beckett*, Catherine Booth*, Jeffrey Bunn*, George Dixon*, David Edwards, Mavis Fenn*, Murray Gamble*, Shikha Gandhi*, Pallavi Hukerikar*, Tom Jenkins*, Spiro Karigiannis*, Alysia Kolentis*, Greta Kroeker*, David Porreca*, Tristan Potter, Christopher Pugh*, Neil Randall*, Richard Staines*, Michael Stork*, Neil Thomson*, William Watson*, Ross Willard*

*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 interests they may have in relation to the items on the agenda in open session. No conflicts were declared.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The chair advised that, at the request of the Senate Graduate & Research Council, material requiring a decision had been circulated to Senate following establishment of the meeting agenda by Senate Executive Committee and following distribution of other meeting materials. He inquired as to whether Senate wished to amend the agenda to add the late item.

Senate heard a motion to amend the agenda by adding "Supplemental Report from Senate Graduate & Research Council" as new item 11(b), motion 7.

Casello and Watt. Carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Bergman and Bruce.

In response to a question arising from the two-year progress report on the BSc in Physics and Astronomy related to teaching loads in the department, Lemieux advised Senate that he had received no complaints about teaching loads and teaching assignments, and no complaints about teaching relief. There is no continuing concern in this regard.

3. MINUTES OF THE 17 OCTOBER 2016 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Executive Committee

Senate received the report for information.

Graduate & Research Council

Senate received the report for information.

Undergraduate Council

Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

6. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

7. REPORT FROM THE COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE

Senate received the reports for information.

8. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Senate approved the following appointments:

- **Amit and Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Committee, all terms to 31 December 2016:**
 - Rohan Jayasundera, faculty representative
 - Tommy Mayberry and Cathy Wang, graduate representatives
 - Christina Glass, Anita Helmers and Megan Salvucci, undergraduate representatives
- **Distinguished Teacher Award Committee:**
 - Tiffany Bradley (BA '00), alumni representative, term to 31 December 2016
 - Monica Leoni and Wei-Chau Xie, faculty representatives, term to 31 December 2017
 - Tommy Mayberry and Laura Williams, graduate representatives, terms to 31 December 2016
 - Maggie Bradlery, Anita Helmers, and Rameesha Qazi, undergraduate representatives, terms to 31 December 2016

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Regular Agenda

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

PhD Gender Information. Casello referred to the breakdown between male and female registrants in both the PhD and Masters registrations. The slide referring to PhD data may be seen here:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/sites/ca.secretariat-general-counsel/files/uploads/files/phdgender.pdf>.

10. GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

ROSANNE ABDULLA, PhD CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES

Rosanne Abdulla was introduced by Peers. Abdulla informed senators about her research in the representation of depression and melancholia in “extreme contemporary” French literature.

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

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Joint Report from Graduate & Research Council and Undergraduate Council

Senate heard motions to the following effects:

Gender Neutral Degree Option. To approve the option for undergraduate students to provide the gender neutral designation of “Baccalaureate” on the bachelor’s degree diploma, and for graduate students to provide the gender neutral designation of “Magisteriate” on the master’s degree diploma, effective 1 January 2017.

Darling and Casello. Carried.

Calendar of Dates. To approve the 2017-18 calendar dates as presented in the attachment.

Darling and Coniglio.

Darling acknowledged a request to insert in the Guidelines some special allowance for internships in the School of Optometry and Vision Science. He also advised that a report on the impact of the fall term break will be brought to Senate in the winter term.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Graduate & Research Council

Senate heard motions to the following effects:

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, School of Public Health and Health Systems. To approve new accelerated master’s plans in the School of Public Health and Health Systems.

Casello and Rush. Carried.

Faculty of Environment, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability. To approve a change in the plan name from Master of Environmental Studies in Environment and Resource Studies to Master of Environmental Studies in Social and Ecological Sustainability, and approve the accompanying plan changes.

Casello and Andrey. Carried.

Faculty of Environment, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability. To approve a change in the plan name from Master of Environmental Studies in Environment and Resource Studies – Water to Master of Environmental Studies in Social and Ecological Sustainability – Water, and to approve the accompanying plan changes.

Casello and Andrey. Carried.

Faculty of Mathematics, Computational Mathematics. To approve a change in the master’s plan in computational mathematics to add a co-op option and a course work option.

Casello and Watt. Carried.

Graduate Studies Office, Doctoral Thesis Regulations. To approve changes to the doctoral thesis regulations as described in the attachment.

Casello and Bruce. Carried.

Faculty of Environment, Geography and Environmental Management. To approve the inactivation of the Master of Environmental Studies in Geography – Tourism plan.

Casello and Andrey. Carried.

Faculty of Mathematics, David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science. Senate noted that this is the matter added to the agenda through amendment.

To approve a specialization plan in data science within the Master of Mathematics in Computer Science plan (coursework option).

Casello and Watt. Carried.

Undergraduate Council

Senate heard motions to the following effects:

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, Kinesiology, and Faculty of Science, Biology. To approve a new minor in medical physiology.

Coniglio and Rush. Carried.

Faculty of Arts, Articulation Agreement. To approve the articulation agreement with Niagara College as provided in the attachment.

Coniglio and Peers.

In response to a question, Coniglio advised that, over the initial two years of this agreement, it had not been well advised, such that only two students from the College have applied to the university to take part. Greater promotion is hoped to increase interest.

The question was called and the motion carried.

Faculty of Environment, Geography and Environmental Management. To approve a joint plan in geomatics as described.

Coniglio and Andrey. Carried.

Office of the Dean of Environment. To approve the new urban studies minor.

Coniglio and Andrey. Carried.

Office of the Registrar, Changes to Official Grades. To approve the new regulation on changes to official grades.

Darling and Coniglio. Carried.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, School of Public Health and Health Systems. To approve a change to the plan name and requirements of the pre-clinical specialization plan.

Coniglio and Rush. Carried.

Office of the Registrar, Non-Numeric Grades Policies. To approve revisions to the calendar and amendments to INC and FTC non-numeric grade policies and to revoke existing Faculty-specific policies in the calendar.

Darling and Coniglio. Carried.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, Kinesiology. To approve the inactivation of the pre-health professions option.

Coniglio and Rush. Carried.

12. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Hamdullahpur briefly spoke to the impact of the recent U.S. elections on the sector in the United States; Orchard, Marilyn Thompson and Peers attended a celebration in Vancouver on behalf of the university to receive the award as one of the top 100 employers in Canada for 2016; the development of the “Waterloo-Toronto Corridor” concept and the implications for this university; updates on the provincial funding formula and the tuition framework, with the prospect of some firm information before the next provincial budget; sexual violence response policy (Policy 42) was approved by the Board of Governors, but the process document was sent back for further work, to be considered at a special meeting of the Board of Governors on 2 December and posted on the Equity web site in advance; developments in federal ministries and the possible impact on tri-council funding.

12. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT

In response to questions, Hamdullahpur offered comment on the risk of internationalization, and whether we should be concerned about quality as a result of the urge to admit greater numbers of international students. We recognize the significance of the international student cohort to our revenues, and to our operations in relation to student success and satisfaction. Orchard advised that we take this question very seriously, and that we are intent on maintaining our high academic standards in the recruitment of international students. Retention rates and graduation rates are also monitored closely to ensure standards are maintained. Orchard provided Senate with information on the impact of international students on university revenues.

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

- a. **Composition of Nominating Committee for the Dean of Engineering.** Orchard advised that a decision must be made with respect to an exception to the composition of the Nominating Committee for Dean of Engineering. Engineering Faculty Council asked for the exception to be made, but it was defeated at Faculty Relations Committee. There was a mixed opinion at Faculty Relations Committee. Concern at Faculty Relations Committee pointed to dilution of the influence of students and staff on the nominating committee.

Senate heard the following motion: To increase the membership of the 2016 Nominating Committee for Dean of Engineering by one to include eight regular faculty members. This will allow for one elected faculty-at-large representative plus one faculty representative elected from each academic unit: School of Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Management Sciences, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, Systems Design Engineering.

Stublely and DeVidi.

Stubleby advised that consideration had been given at Engineering Faculty Council to using the “at large” seat on the Committee to address the issue, but decided against so as not to devalue the at large seat. The policy was written at a time when the School of Architecture was not in the Faculty of Engineering, and when the School of Pharmacy was not in the Faculty of Science. The ratio balance is not disturbed outside the bounds of what is acceptable, and the exception has been allowed twice in past years.

It was observed that the numbers for these committees expressed in the policy should be clarified, and the ratios should be clear. The concerns expressed by Faculty Relations Committee existed before when the exceptions were granted, but there is no evidence that those concerns were raised.

A senator advised that both 2008 and 2010 there was agreement at Faculty Relations Committee that changes to the policy be made, but for other reasons the changes did not go forward. We should accept the exception and work toward revision of the policy.

Some senators commented that this is not a good use of Senate time, and we should work to revise the policy.

A general concern was expressed about the idea of the policy as a set of core principles, rather than just a guideline. Exceptions should occur only when the operational impact of strict application of the policy contradicts principles captured in the policy. The exception would change the core principles on which the policy is based, and therefore should be defeated. And, we should work on changing Policy 1 to allow for exceptions.

The exception was defeated at Faculty Relations Committee and so therefore ought to have stopped there. Because of the implications for the ratios on the committee, the issue ought to have gone to the student relations committees for information at least.

Several senators observed that the request to make exceptions each time this issue comes up should be precluded by an amended policy, and we ought to consider how we might act more quickly when faculties outgrow the policy.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

- b. Campus Space Update.** Chris Read provided information to Senate on the development of student study space and the progress being made on this issue under the strategic plan. Of note is the progress on available study space as a percentage of the provincial target in this respect, published by the Council of Ontario Universities. Read updated Senate on a number of projects underway, and the impact this will have when the next reports are prepared. The expectation is that the university will get to about 75% of the target when the next reports are prepared.
- c. Campus Wellness Update.** Following an introduction by Read, Walter Mittelstaedt informed Senators about developments in the office of Campus Wellness.

Mittelstaedt was asked what faculty can do in addition to trying to spot problems and forward students on to support. This is something that must be fully understood, whether through teaching practices that are helpful and less stress-producing, or through trying to develop the resiliency of our students.

A senator suggested that there is a severe problem with wellness philosophy, treating students as units to move through the system rather than understanding them as individuals. Some practices currently in play are inconsistent with the principles articulated in the presentation. In response,

Mittelstaedt suggested that the direct message about impacts on student mental health is well understood across campus, and will be better understood as we move forward.

Senator Gunz spoke to the value of the “Caring Quilts” project with a request for support from Senators.

Mittelstaedt was asked to comment about the pressures faced by graduate students, and whether there are data about stress-related mental illness for graduate students. He advised that, at the moment, no, but work will continue to be done to understand this more fully.

The work being done by Campus Wellness and the development of wellness supports is very strong, and we cannot risk compartmentalizing these initiatives by failing to engage other units across campus. The goal is to define and understand a culture of wellness, and try to integrate it into whatever we do. We must define what we want to become, and find ways to properly understand the implications of change in this respect.

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

14. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

There was no report.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

22 November 2016

Logan Atkinson
University Secretary & General Counsel
Secretary to Senate