

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE**  
**Minutes of the Monday 27 March 2017 Meeting**

**Present:** Jean Andrey, Sandra Banks, Hannah Beckett, Katherine Bergman, Jessica Brake, Carmen Bruni, Lutz-Alexander Busch, Jeff Casello, Jennifer Clapp, Andrew Clubine, Tara Collington, Mario Coniglio, Simon Courtenay, Douglas Cowan, Eric Croiset, Rick Culham, George Dixon, Bernard Duncker, Fraser Easton, Marlene Epp, Wendy Fletcher, Mark Giesbrecht, Robert Gorbet, Sally Gunz, Feridun Hamdullahpur, Dennis Huber, Mike Hudson, Pallavi Hukerikar, Craig Janes, Beth Jewkes, Maureen Jones, Spiro Karigiannis, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Greta Kroeker<sup>^</sup>, Robert Lemieux, Christos Lolos, Barb Moffatt, Michele Mosca, Richard Myers, Daniel O'Connor, Ian Orchard, Jim Pankratz, Diana Parry, Douglas Peers, David Porreca, Tristan Potter, James Rush, Mark Seasons, Samantha Shortall, Joanne Shoveller, James Skidmore, Richard Staines, Gordon Stublely, Hamid Tizhoosh, Tomson Tran, Johanna Wandel, Stephen Watt, Ross Willard, Dan Wolczuk

<sup>^</sup>telephone

**Guests:** Monica Barra, Clare Bermingham, Bruce Campbell, Carleen Carroll, Donna Ellis, Alex Huynh, Peggy Jarvie, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Melissa Knox, Derek Madge, David McKinnon, Hourman Mehrabian, Walter Mittelstaedt, Mohammed Nassar, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Justine Salam, Charlene Schumm, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Lay Ling Tan

**Secretariat:** Karen Jack, Alice Raynard, Emily Schroeder

**Absent:** Annie Bélanger\*, Catherine Booth\*, Robert Bruce\*, Jeffrey Bunn, Brian Cepuran\*, David DeVidi\*, Michael Drescher\*, David Edwards\*, Samir Elhedhli, Mavis Fenn\*, Paul Fieguth\*, Sacha Forstner\*, Murray Gamble\*, Shikha Gandhi\*, John Garcia\*, Marios Ioannidis, Tom Jenkins\*, Karim S. Karim\*, Shoufa Lin\*, Mungo Marsden, Robin Mazumder, Paul Murphy, Mohammad Nasif\*, Angela Pereira\*, David Perrin\*, Christopher Pugh\*, Neil Randall\*, Bruce Richter\*, Michael Stork\*, Neil Thomson\*, William Watson\*, Alexander Wray\*

\*regrets

**OPEN SESSION**

The chair recognized those teaching award winners named in the reports provided under item 6. of the agenda present at today's meeting: Amit and Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student: Alex Huynh, Psychology; Hourman Mehrabian, English Language and Literature; Mohammed Nassar, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Lay Ling Tan, Chemistry; and Distinguished Teacher Awards: Monica Barra, Chemistry; David McKinnon, Pure Mathematics; he noted that Sanjeev Bedi, Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering and Dan Davison, Electrical & Computer Engineering were not able to attend. Senators gave the winners a round of applause.

**Consent Agenda**

Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, items 1-6 below.

Porreca and Wolczuk.

- 1. MINUTES OF THE 16 JANUARY 2017 MEETING**  
Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.
- 2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**  
**Graduate & Research Council**  
Senate received the report for information.

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**Undergraduate Council**

Senate approved an amendment to the guideline for determining the start of Winter term classes and received the remainder of the report for information.

**3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Recognition and Commendation.** Senate received the report for information.

**4. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES**

Senate received the reports for information.

**5. REPORT OF THE COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

Senate received the report for information.

**6. REPORTS FROM THE TEACHING AWARD COMMITTEES**

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

Senate received the report for information.

**Distinguished Teacher Award Committee**

Senators received the report for information.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

**Regular Agenda**

**7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Fall Break 2016 Report.** Coniglio introduced Pam Charbonneau, Director, Student Success Office. Charbonneau walked members through her presentation, noting feedback was sought from students regarding its value, how they used their time, and suggestions to help promote success; she reviewed some comments and next steps.

In discussion: two key themes emerged (students would like a full week break, coordination re: timing of exams and assignments is desired); more feedback is being sought; faculty support the initiative, but found there was some confusion; a comment that coordination as proposed will be challenging. Senators understood more information will follow next term.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen here:

[https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/7.coniglio\\_charbonneau\\_fall\\_break\\_y1.pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/7.coniglio_charbonneau_fall_break_y1.pdf).

**8. PRESENTATION – ACADEMIC INBREEDING, A STRATEGIC RISK FOR UNIVERSITIES**

The presentation was cancelled.

**9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**

**Finance Committee.**

Speaking to his presentation, Orchard referenced the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget and the supplementary data set distributed with the agenda. He highlighted several items, including: actual enrollment numbers in November and February mean that some information is estimated; revenues are conservative; a deficit exists, but may be made up as usual as the year progresses; how student differentiation numbers are funded.

Senate heard a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2017-2018 Operating Budget.

Orchard and Andrey. Carried unanimously.

Orchard also spoke to the Budget Model information, providing a general description of the process, and details about the Faculty's base line revenues, research support, the "slip-year", and the strategic resource fund. He noted that clarity is still to come from the Province re: funding.

In discussion: federal accessibility funding generally has been sufficient to cover expenses each year; the University covers base line salary figures; the deans decide on funds for academic programs; faculty to student ratios are being worked on, but challenges exist; there is more transparency in reporting now.

#### **Graduate & Research Council**

**Faculty of Engineering, Systems Design Engineering.** Senate heard a motion to approve the update of research areas in the MASc and PhD Calendar, and to approve the accompanying plan changes effective 1 May 2017.

Casello and Brake. Carried unanimously.

#### **Undergraduate Council**

**Office of the Registrar, Final Examination Schedule.** Following a brief discussion of the rationale by Jones, Senate heard a motion to approve amendments to the Guidelines on Tests During the Formal Lecture Period.

Coniglio and Wolczuk.

In discussion: in response to a question as to why only the rule only applies to the Faculties of Mathematics and Science, that all Faculty associate deans, undergraduate considered the question and only these Faculties identified the need; some students want midterms to be held on Saturdays, but others do not.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

With regard to the item presented for information re: timing of the distribution of the final examination schedule, Porreca asked Jones if her office will reconsider the matter again in light of new information arising to which she agreed.

### **10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Hamdullahpur provided a wide-ranging report, noting: discussions with the Province re: the strategic mandate agreement is underway and an update will follow next month; highlights of the federal budget; 2017 QS subject rankings; recent alumni events; what he's hearing at the Faculty roundtables and departmental visits, with more information to follow; computational resources and potential improvements; his work as chair of the Leadership Council's Digital Research Infrastructure group. In response to a question, he advised that the University did not renew its agreements with the Confucius Institutes, and Fletcher noted that Renison has non-degree work on this front following approval from its Board.

Slides used in the presentation may be seen here:

[https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/10.president\\_senate.pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/10.president_senate.pdf).

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Hamdullahpur spoke to Senators about student suicides and the pain these losses cause to the entire community. He advised that the most recent death has spurred heartfelt conversations across the University and that work is being done to consider how the University can help provide a supportive environment. He noted that while suicide is a youth issue that extends to all communities, any suicide is one too many.

In discussion: contact with the family must be done by the University only after local and provincial authorities allow it per legislation; a description of the protocol for informing the community; some families' preference for the University not to communicate information broadly; Waterloo's students have demonstrated incredible leadership; information from Campus Wellness Director Walter Mittelstaedt regarding wait times; a request from a student Senator that the conversation continue between students and Wellness about the availability of help; questions from a faculty member about what faculty and instructors can do to help and ways they can avoid worsening things; a suggestion that suicide is sometimes not a mental health issue; more information will follow for the community; remarks from a student Senator on behalf of students, the entirety of which is attached to these minutes.

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

**Graduate Studies Office – Department Name Change.** Casello spoke to the memo distributed with the agenda following which Senate heard a motion to approve the name change.

Casello and Porreca. Carried unanimously.

**Writing Centre – Department Name Change.** Coniglio spoke to the memo distributed with the agenda following which Senate heard a motion to approve the name change.

Coniglio and Willard. Carried unanimously.

**13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

During Dixon's review he advised that his office is watching for an announcement from the federal government regarding new research chairs and for the federal review of intellectual property strategy.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

2 April 2017

Karen Jack  
Secretary to Senate

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**Addendum**

Remarks made by a student Senator during the meeting.

*First, I would like to thank the President for his comments today and thank the university for providing two statements to the student body. I believe these were essential in acknowledging the issues at hand and reassured students that the administration is aware of concerns.*

*Myself and my fellow senators would like to offer our support and assistance in working towards an improved solution on mental health. We believe it is our position, along with the university, to take the lead in fostering an open dialogue surrounding mental health with the hope that the student body will follow. As a community, we need to shape a better understanding of mental health and the broader focus that comes with it.*

*We would like to express our support for a proactive, long term wellness strategy. The student reality at the University of Waterloo is a highly competitive environment, with personal value determined by class ranking, course grades or secured employment opportunities. While we are all quick to recognize that a challenging education comes with attending an excellent university, we must frame all elements of our student experience through the lens of wellness. In the light of recent events, it has become abundantly clear that the student body is mobilizing and unifying in support of addressing challenges surrounding mental health, on both the undergraduate and graduate level. I would like to offer some considerations to take into account as we move forward in addressing mental health on campus.*

*UW Mates is a student service run in conjunction between Feds and UW Counselling Services. For those who may be less familiar, MATES is a counselling-based, one-to-one peer support program, providing services to students who are experiencing social difficulties, mental health challenges and transitional challenges adapting to university life or different cultures. During the Fall 2016 term, 45 students were involved in running the service, providing 840 hours of availability and completing 168 sessions with students. This is a significant increase from 62 sessions in the term prior to the partnership with Feds. Over 60 students applied to simply volunteer with the service, with the posting closed early due to the overwhelming response, for only 18 positions. MATES volunteers go through an intensive selection process and receive extensive training in mentorship by Clinical Psychologists from Counselling Services. The program is also under professional supervision by Counselling Services to ensure safety and confidentiality. MATES offers hours through drop in and appointment, with 43 drop in visits and 125 appointments last term. Currently, MATES partners with the Faculty of Engineering to faculty specific programming, with MATES volunteers available within Engineering buildings supervised by Engineering counselling staff. To continue expanding the reach of MATES, all other faculties on campus need to offer the same level of buy-in by providing space for this service to operate and to work with counselling services for the appropriate supervision and training. We feel strongly that we need to continue to amplify services already existing on campus with the university's support to connect students to these services.*

*Other opportunities on campus to assist students is through the implementation of a training module on Learn or Portal, connecting students to resources both on campus and in the broader community. We would like to see this module give a broad explanation of mental health and help to foster the open dialogue I mentioned earlier. This would ideally remain permanently on the platform throughout a student's educational career at the university, to ensure no one ever feels isolated and removed from access to services. We believe this could be the basis for a "self serve" model for students to manage challenges that arise and connect with resources as needed.*

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*Another opportunity would be to offer drop-in counselling services within residences once a week, particularly as first year students are coping with the transition to university. Fostering an open dialogue starts with added communications and increased efforts through marketing. This also includes professors and teaching assistants being made aware of resources and ensuring their students are informed.*

*We would like for the student voice to play a significant role in the development of a mental health focus in the future at UW. A student driven initiative is key for understanding pain points that we can mitigate and be proactive in our approach to preventing future challenges. This can be done through student driven task forces, as well as town halls to make efforts more visible on an institution-wide level.*

*I hope that each of these opportunities are taken seriously into consideration as we make progress on this issue, as they are simply a starting point for what will be an extensive and important endeavour. I ask that each individual present takes the concerns and ideas expressed today by myself and by my colleagues back to their respective faculties and departments and start a trickle down process for change as we work towards a long term wellness strategy as an institution.*