

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 16 October 2017 Meeting

Present: Bilal Akhtar, Michael Balogh, Sandra Banks, Katherine Bergman, Antonio Brieva, Robert Bruce, Carmen Bruni, Kofi Campbell, Claudio Canizares, Jeff Casello, Jennifer Clapp, Tara Collington, Mario Coniglio, Simon Courtenay, Eric Croiset, Shannon Dea, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, George Dixon, Bernard Duncker, David Edwards, Marlene Epp, Mavis Fenn, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes, George Freeman, Shikha Gandhi**, Matthew Gerrits, Mark Giesbrecht, Julia Goyal, Craig Hardiman, Feridun Hamdullahpur (chair), Dennis Huber, Karen Jack (secretary), Craig Janes, Spiro Karigiannis, Karim Karim, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Robert Lemieux, Mungo Marsden, Katie Misener, Grant Mitchell, Richard Myers, Cathy Newell Kelly, Daniel O'Connor, Diana Parry, Douglas Peers, Angela Pereira**, David Perrin, William Pristanski**, Bruce Richter, James Rush, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Mark Seasons, Marcus Shantz, Samantha Shortall, Joanne Shoveller, James Skidmore, Richard Staines, Gordon Stubley, Pearl Sullivan, Hamid Tizhoosh, Bryan Tolson, Tomson Tran, Johanna Wandel, Stephen Watt, Dan Wolczuk, Alexander Wray, En-Hui Yang

Guests: Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Amanda Cook, Donna Ellis, Mike Grivicic, Peggy Jarvie, Ross Johnston, Jennifer Kieffer, Derek Madge, Chris Read, Emily Schroeder, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Jay Shah**, Allan Starr, Mathew Thijssen, Glen Wepler

Absent: Jean Andrey*, Chris Bauch*, Hannah Beckett*, Anne Bordeleau*, Jeffrey Bunn, Brian Cepuran, Andrew Clubine, Tia Driver, Fraser Easton*, Robert Gorbet*, Thorsten Heins, Marios Ioannidis, Tom Jenkins*, Beth Jewkes*, Greta Kroeker*, Barb Moffatt*, Mohammad Nasif*, David Porreca*, Christopher Pugh*, Neil Randall*, Ross Willard*

*regrets

**joined by telephone

The chair welcomed Marcus Shantz, president of Conrad Grebel University College, and Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, university librarian, to their first meetings of Senate and noted that the biographies of the honorands at this month's convocation ceremonies and a strategic plan update were at members' places.

OPEN SESSION

Consent Agenda

Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, being items 1-5 below.

Dea and DeVidi.

1. MINUTES OF THE 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

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

Undergraduate Council

Faculty of Arts, English Language Proficiency. Senate approved the inactivation of the Faculty of Arts' existing English Language Proficiency Requirement and the removal of the calendar text as described in the report, effective 1 September 2018.

Arts Degree Requirements. Senate approved the new Communication Skills Requirement for the Faculty of Arts as described in the report and effective 1 September 2018.

Faculty of Science, English Language Proficiency. Senate approved the inactivation of the Faculty of Science's existing English Language Proficiency Requirement and the removal of the calendar text as described in the report, effective 1 September 2018. Senate also approved the new Communication Requirement for the Faculty of Science as described in the report and effective 1 September 2018.

Senate 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. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Senate approved the appointment of Marcus Shantz as the faculty member of Senate from the affiliated and federated institutions of Waterloo on the Senate Nominating Committee for Honorary Degrees, term to 30 April 2018.

The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Course Evaluation Project Follow-Up. Dixon advised members that the membership of the committee tasked with phase II responsibilities is being worked on, as is allocating sufficient resources. Members heard that this new committee will meet with the first committee to inform its work. The chair invited Dea to speak to the motion she raised at the last meeting, which she did. Dea suggested that a range of options that are complementary to the student course perception survey tool is needed. Members heard a motion to strike a working group to research and develop methods of assessing teaching and learning complementary to student course perception surveys. Dea and Wray.

In discussion: several members expressed support for the initiative, and a few members indicated that they were not in favour. The vote was called and the motion carried. Members understood that Coniglio and Dixon will consult with the Faculty Relations Committee before initiating the working group.

Undergraduate Council Follow-Up. Coniglio directed members to the handout at their places which addressed the questions raised at the last meeting. Following confirmation that the early publishing of 2018 information was a mistake, Coniglio thanked Senate for its thoroughness.

7. TEACHING PRESENTATION – MARCEL O'GORMAN, DIRECTOR OF CRITICAL MEDIA LAB, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Professor O'Gorman was introduced by Peers. O'Gorman spoke to Senate about the subject of "digital abstinence", including how the concept is not limited to the fringes and indeed is relevant in mainstream thought. He spoke to work being done in the Experimental Digital Media laboratory within his department, and highlighted the work of his students.

In discussion: the challenges of measuring “attention”; he focusses on the distractions of handheld devices, not laptops; the tangible benefits of helping students pay attention. A round of applause followed.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Graduate & Research Council

Senate heard motions to the following effects:

Faculty of Arts, History. To approve the modification of the PhD program in History, as of January 2018, as presented the attachment.

Casello and Peers. Carried unanimously.

Faculty of Arts, Psychology. To approve the modification of the Master of Arts program in Psychology, as of January 2018, as presented in the attachment.

Casello and Peers. Carried unanimously.

Undergraduate Council

Senate heard motions to the following effects:

Faculty of Science, Materials and Nanoscience. To approve changes to the honours materials and nanosciences (joint with chemistry) plan effective 1 September 2018 and to approve changes to the honours co-operative materials and nanosciences (joint with chemistry) plan effective 1 September 2018.

Coniglio and Lemieux. Carried unanimously.

Associate Vice-President, Academic – Global Experience Certificate. To approve the removal of the requirement for completion of three online modules, and to remove the \$100 withdrawal fee, both effective immediately, and to approve a research, assessment and recommendation process for the certificate to be completed by Fall 2018 to consider revisions to the certificate plan.

Coniglio and Richter. Carried unanimously.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Hamdullahpur reported on a number of items, including: recent Maclean’s rankings; offering thanks to the deans for their inspired costumes and for raising awareness for the United Way campaign; an update on activities with government; the recently finalized strategic mandate agreement and advice that it will be posted online once it receives government approval.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy Presentation. Mathew Thijssen, sustainability coordinator, presented regarding strategy, progress, goals, and foundational actions. Following appreciation by the chair for the group’s work, in response to questions, Thijssen asked members to help raise awareness and he and Huber indicated that while there is a modest budget, it would not sustain a full research program, and any interested researchers should feel free to reach out if they would like to become involved.

Strategic Plan 2013-2018 – Fall 2017 Update. Hamdullahpur invited Dixon to present the annual strategic plan update. Dixon spoke to the materials at members’ places and indicated: his focus is on

key issues; the next step will be a summative report in 2018; the University's commitment to follow-up on the plan is commendable.

10. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT

In response to questions on the strategic plan update, the chair advised that the two-year break between the current plan and the next is to allow time to coalesce activities and initiatives between the plans. In response to other questions, the chair and Dixon confirmed that ensuring student satisfaction is a key priority; Waterloo's student retention rates are the fourth highest in Canada; retention is top of mind and improvements on several fronts have helped. Requests were made to consider bringing retention data to a future meeting, as well as data relating to co-op employer turnover rates.

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

- a. **Sexual Violence Response Coordinator Presentation.** Amanda Cook, sexual violence response coordinator, presented an update to Senate on her role and responsibilities. There were no questions.
- 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 vice-president, graduate studies and postdoctoral affairs, and to authorize the chair, on behalf of Senate, to add to or change the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as approved at this meeting, provided that such additions or changes are based on the recommendation of the registrar or (in the case of graduate students) the associate vice-president, graduate studies and postdoctoral affairs, and provided that the chair report back to Senate to advise of any such additions or changes.

Dixon and Newell Kelly. Carried unanimously.

12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Dean provided members with a brief report on activities and members received her written report for information.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session. Glen Weppler, director of housing & residences, was invited to stay for confidential session.

12 November 2017

Karen Jack
University Secretary
Secretary to Senate