

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the 16 September 2019 Meeting

Present: Sheila Ager, Jean Andrey, Upkar Arora**, Michael Balogh, Sandra Banks, Chris Bauch, Michael Beauchemin, Ashreena Bhangu, Carmen Bruni, Jeff Casello, Joan Coutu, Eric Croiset, Alexandria De Sousa, Shannon Dea, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Lynette Eulette, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, George Freeman, Mark Giesbrecht, Robert Gorbet, Feridun Hamdullahpur (chair), John Haddock, Craig Hardiman, Dennis Huber, Karen Jack (secretary), Natalie Hutchings, Martin Karsten, Sabrina Khandakar, Veronica Kitchen**, Scott Kline, Alex Lee, Robert Lemieux, Lili Liu, Kesen Ma, Ellen MacEachen, Katie Misener, Zoran Miskovic, Barb Moffatt, Rick Myers, Cathy Newell Kelly, Erin O'Connell, Troy Osborne, William Power, William Pristanski, James Rush, Max Salman, Naima Samuel, Mark Seasons, Marcus Shantz, Joanne Shoveller, Siva Sivoththaman, Jason Small, Richard Staines, Pearl Sullivan, Susan Tighe, Hamid Tizhoosh, Bryan Tolson, Bruno Tremblay, Vivek Unnithan, Maya Venters, Johanna Wandel, Stephen Watt, En-Hui Yang

Guests: Bruce Campbell, Lindsay Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Matthew Grant, Ross Johnston, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Nick Manning, Norah McRae, Diana Parry, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Emily Schroeder, Mat Thijssen, Marilyn Thompson, Rebecca Wickens

Absent: Dominic Barton*, Lisa Bauer-Leahy, Kankar Bhattacharya*, Anne Bordeleau*, Kofi Campbell*, Claudio Canizares*, Fred Chereski, David Clausi*, Tara Collington*, Mathieu Doucet*, Fraser Easton*, Cindy Forbes*, Shikha Gandhi, Julia Goyal, Kelly Grindrod*, David Ha*, Teferi Mergo, Ian Milligan*, Linda Ogechi Ihome, Neil Randall*, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya*, Nancy Worth*, June Xu

*regrets

**joined by telephone

OPEN SESSION

The chair welcomed members to the first Senate meeting of the academic year, and acknowledged new members and those returning in different roles: Lili Liu, dean of applied health sciences; Sheila Ager, dean of arts; David DeVidi, associate vice-president, academic; Scott Kline, interim president, St. Jerome's University. He advised that the regular teaching presentation has been moved to the October meeting in order to provide time at today's meeting for discussion of the draft strategic plan.

Consent Agenda

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

Dea and Power.

1. MINUTES OF THE 17 JUNE 2019 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 Science, Honours Chemical Physics

Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the Honours Chemical Physics Regular and Co-op plans, effective 1 September 2020.

Faculty of Arts, Breadth Requirements

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed addition to the Bachelor of Arts breadth requirements as outlined, effective 1 September 2020.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

Tenure and Promotion. Senate received the report for information.

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

Call for Nominations for University Professor. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Senate approved the following appointment:

Undergraduate Council: Alysia Kolentsis as faculty representative from a federated university college (St. Jerome's), replacing Veronica Austen, 1 September 2019 to 31 December 2019.

The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Graduate & Research Council

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences

Senate heard a motion to approve the creation of six fields in the PhD program in the School of Public Health and Health Systems, effective 1 January 2020, as presented at Attachment 1.

Casello and Liu. Carried unanimously.

Faculty of Engineering

Senate heard a motion to approve the addition of three specializations to the Master of Engineering (MEng) within the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) effective 1 January 2020, as presented at Attachment 2. These specializations include: (a) biomedical engineering, (b) nanoelectronic devices and materials, and (c) software.

Casello and Sullivan.

In response to a question re: potential likenesses between the proposed software specialization and the programs offered by the Faculty of Mathematics, Casello advised that such considerations appropriately are considered by the Graduate & Research Council.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Undergraduate Council

DeVidi explained the delay on several of the items, and Senate heard the following motions:

To approve the motions involving inactivations as an omnibus motion:

Faculty of Arts, Culture and Language Studies

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed inactivation of the existing certificates and creation of new diplomas in Arabic Language I and II, Chinese Language I and II, Korean Language I and II, and Japanese Language I and II as described, effective 1 September 2020.

Faculty of Arts, Social Development Studies

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed inactivation of the Cultural Diversity Specialization and creation of the Diversity and Equity Specialization as described, effective 1 September 2020.

Faculty of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics

Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the plans listed in the first column and the creation of the plans listed in the third column of the table, effective 1 September 2019.

Faculty of Mathematics, Computer Science

Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the plans listed in the first column and the creation of the plans listed in the third column of the table, effective 1 September 2019.

Faculty of Mathematics, Mathematical Studies

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed inactivation of the Mathematical Studies – Business Specialization plan and creation of the Business Specialization described, effective 1 September 2019.

DeVidi and Andrey. Carried unanimously.

To approve the motions involving new specializations as an omnibus motion:

Faculty of Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed specialization in Communication and Signal Processing as described, effective 1 September 2019.

Faculty of Environment

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed diploma in Sustainability as described, effective 1 September 2019.

Faculty of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed Engineering Specialization: Heat and Mass Transfer as described, effective 1 September 2019.

DeVidi and Ager. Carried unanimously.

To approve the motions involving changes to academic plans as an omnibus motion:

Faculty of Arts, Studies in Islam Minor

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Studies in Islam Minor as described, effective 1 September 2020.

Faculty of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Scientific Computation/Applied Mathematics plan as described, effective 1 September 2019.

DeVidi and Watt. Carried unanimously.

Academic Regulation Changes

Senate heard a motion to approve the harmonization and centralization of the regulations in the undergraduate calendar regarding the number of terms a student may be absent (not enrolled in courses) before that student will be required to submit an Application for Readmission.

Newell Kelly and Salman. Carried unanimously.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Updates. Hamdullahpur spoke to a variety of matters, including: new senior administrative appointments; an admissions update; new faculty hires; recent achievements and awards received by Waterloo faculty; government relations activities; Dominic Barton's recent appointment as Canada's ambassador to China; an SLC/PAC construction update; tomorrow's grand opening of the Field House.

Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The President spoke to the culmination of activities in finalizing the plan and noted the coming approval path for it to proceed to Senate Long Range Planning, Senate and the Board in October. Speaking to his slides, Hamdullahpur noted: the involvement of the planning committee, Senate, and the Board already in the development of the draft plan; principles; considerations for senators' input; core elements; themes for action; signature commitments.

In discussion: an observation that commentary re: "curiosity-based research" seems not to be included in the commitments; whether the University is positioned to deliver on the commitments which will require change at Waterloo, and in response, commentary re: implementation plans which will follow; suggestions to embed "impact," and activities relating to climate action and change in all themes, and a suggestion to use the word "crisis" with respect to climate matters; a suggestion that a sixth bullet be considered for the "advancing research for global impact" areas of focus which would speak to the interdisciplinary research that occurs at Waterloo outside of the technical and science fields, and from Dean, how all Faculties are represented at a high level in this plan and in a more detailed way in the companion research strategic plan; how the values will be recognized and realized, and a suggestion that the University explore diversity in a meaningful way; a suggestion to ensure that the themes are properly connected to how and why Waterloo is unique in these areas; expressions of thanks for the University's engagement with the entire community in developing the plan; appreciation for the active language in the plan; further support for the addition of clearer statements regarding the University's strengths in human and social sciences research; a statement that the University ought to champion the position that "for humanity" is the answer to "why"; in recognizing the value of community, it will be important to ensure that all campuses are included in this vision and feel part of the Waterloo community; a suggestion to further embrace the "Warrior" name and identity for all members of Waterloo; a description of the vision re: lifelong learning; a suggestion that further clarity be added early in the document re: context and what's driving the plan; how donors have been engaged and their excitement for the plan; more re: the coming implementation strategy; a request that additional language be added re: the focus on mental health awareness and initiatives. Members were asked to send any further feedback by the morning of 28 September.

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

Course Evaluation Project. DeVidi provided members with an update on the second phase of this project, including: the timeline of the project to today; continuing and recent work; a preview of highlights from the pilot test; variables that influence scores; findings re: gender.

In discussion: data sources which might be helpful in informing the committee's work; concerns re: the use of these assessments in a summative manner; the deep dive done by the committee with respect to literature about this subject; recognition that the assessments are only one part of a faculty member's performance evaluation; that students are best placed to contribute to assessments of the teaching and learning environment; biases and considerations for how to manage them; the challenges of obtaining data with respect to some potential areas of bias; the need for faculty to raise any concerns re: matters like the timing of their classes, etc. in documents they submit for their performance evaluations; response rates, and advice that they did not meaningfully decline when the University moved to online evaluations; the need to consider any potential biases.

Members heard that the presentation re: the Student Experience Review is deferred until the October meeting.

11. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Following a review by Dean of some notable aspects of the report, Senate received it for information.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

25 September 2019

Karen Jack
University Secretary