University of Waterloo  
SENATE  
Minutes of the 20 January 2020 Meeting

Present: Sheila Ager, Jean Andrey, Sandra Banks, Chris Bauch, Michael Beauchemin, Kankan Bhattacharya, Anne Bordeleau**, Carmen Bruni, Claudio Canizares, Jeff Casello, Joan Coutu, Eric Croiset, Richard Culham, Alexandrina De Sousa, Shannon Dea, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, David De Vidi, Mathieu Doucet, Fraser Easton, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes**, Mark Giesbrecht, David Ha, John Haddock, Craig Hardiman, Kevin Hare (for Stephen Watt), Dennis Huber, Natalie Hutchings, Martin Karsten, Veronica Kitchen, Scott Kline, Karen Jack (secretary), Alex Lee**, Kesen Ma, Ellen MacEachen, Teferi Mergo, Ian Milligan, Zoran Miskovic, Barb Moffatt, Cathy Newell Kelly, Erin O’Connell, Troy Osborne, David Perrin, Bill Power, James Rush (chair), Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Mark Seasons, Marcus Shantz, Joanne Shoveller, Siva Sivoththaman, Jason Small, Marlee Spafford (for Robert Lemieux), Richard Staines (for Lili Liu), Susan Tighe, Bryan Tolson, Cristina Vanin, Maya Venters, Johanna Wandel, Nancy Worth

Guests: Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Nick Manning, Harman Minhas, Norah McRae, Diana Parry, Alice Raynard, Chris Read, Emily Schroeder, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Brandon Sweet, Megan Town


*regrets  
**joined by telephone

OPEN SESSION

Opening Remarks
Rush advised members that in the president’s absence, he will serve as chair. He welcomed interim deans Richard Culham and Kevin Hare to the meeting, and made remarks acknowledging the University’s, and indeed, Canada’s loss of so many individuals on the recent tragic plane crash in Iran. Notably, Marzieh Foroutan, a PhD student in geography, and Mansour Esnaashary Esfahani, a PhD student in civil engineering died in the crash. Rush spoke to recent services in Waterloo and beyond, and ways the University celebrates and will consider future actions to mark their input and contributions at Waterloo. Senate took a moment to observe and honour these individuals.

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

Coutu and Dea.

Senate heard that the report of the Dean of Environment must regrettably be revised to remove Marzieh Foroutan’s appointment as a part-time lecturer.

1. MINUTES OF THE 18 NOVEMBER 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 Arts, Communication Arts
Senate heard a motion to approve the following name changes (as outlined in the report), effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Arts, History
Senate heard a motion to approve the name change, Applied History Specialization to Digital and Public History Specialization, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Science, Three-Year General Science – Online
Senate heard a motion to approve the closure of applications to the online only completion of the Three-Year General Science program, until such a time as the Faculty develops a more robust set of Science courses to allow the degree to be completed entirely online at Waterloo.

Faculty of Science, Honours Co-operative Biotechnology/Economics
Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the Honours Co-operative Biotechnology/Economics, effective 1 September 2021.

The remaining items were received 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 APPOINTMENTS
   Senate approved the following committee appointments:

   Amit and Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Committee:
   • Maggie Nguyen and Zurie Campbell as undergraduate student representatives, terms to 31 December 2021.

   Distinguished Teacher Awards Committee:
   • Sara Seabrook as undergraduate student representative, and Tiffany Bradley as alumni representative, terms to 31 December 2021.

   The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
   There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. PRESENTATION – MARIOS IOANNIDIS, PROFESSOR, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
   The chair introduced and then invited Professor Ioannidis to present to Senate. Senate heard from Dr. Ioannidis about ways his department is engaging students as “agents of continuous program improvement”. In discussion: the department’s work in articulating its purpose, and ways it is providing students with agency in this process; the “learn-tell-do loop” and specific ways the department has engaged students; lessons learned, including key actions the department can take to reduce student stress; the necessity of following up once engagement has occurred. In response to questions, Senate heard: this activity has been taking place for approximately three years and there is
more to learn and do; the contagious effect of the positive feelings and perspectives, and a growing sense of collegiality; benefits of faculty working together re: “due dates”, etc., to effect better experiences for students, and the desire by faculty to work together toward this end; simple tools that the department is using and is happy to share; acknowledgement that cohort and non-cohort systems will have differences; a desire to find ways to monitor whether there are measurable reductions in stressors for students.

8. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**
   **Joint Report – Graduate & Research Council and Undergraduate Council**
   Senate heard a motion to approve two amendments to the 2020-2021 calendar dates as presented in Attachment #1.

   Newell Kelly and Casello. Carried unanimously.

   **Graduate & Research Council**
   **Faculty of Engineering**
   Senate heard a motion to approve two new specializations within the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical Engineering, effective 1 May 2020, as presented in Attachment #1.

   Casello and Culham. Carried unanimously.

   **Undergraduate Council**
   **Faculty of Arts, Religious Studies**
   Senate heard a motion to approve the following changes to the three-year general religious studies plan, four-year general religious studies plan, and honours religious studies plan, effective 1 September 2021.

   DeVidi and Ager. Carried unanimously.

   **Faculty of Arts, New Regulation – Declaring a Major, Minor, or Specialization**
   Senate heard a motion to approve the following new regulation regarding declaring a major, minor or specialization in the Faculty of Arts, effective 1 September 2021.

   DeVidi and Ager. Carried unanimously.

   **Registrar’s Office, Dean’s Honours List/ Awards of Excellence**
   Senate heard a motion to approve the harmonization of rules and practices related to recognition of excellence as set forth in the report, effective 1 September 2020.

   DeVidi and Ager. Carried unanimously.

9. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**
   There was no report.

10. **Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT**
    There was no Q&A period.

11. **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST**
    Rush provided members with a brief update on the third Strategic Mandate Agreement. Members heard about: timelines, performance metrics, metric weighting considerations, some examples, areas in which Waterloo may be considered “best in class.” He advised of future meetings with the Ministry and of his intention to keep Senate apprised of this activity.
12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL
   Following a brief overview by Dean, Senate received the report for information.

13. OTHER BUSINESS
   Rush offered kudos to the Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs office re: the recent “GRADflix” event and its great expression of community and support for graduate activity at Waterloo. There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

11 February 2020                                       Karen Jack
                                                    University Secretary