

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the 14 May 2018 Meeting**  
**[in agenda order]**

**Present:** Jeremy Bergen, Jeff Casello, Tara Collington, David Clausi, Amelia Clarke, Rhona Hanning, Bruce Hellinga, Lynn Judge, Christiane Lemieux, Daniel Martel, Kirsten Müller, Daniela O’Neill, Naima Samuel, Kathy Szigeti, Takin Tadayon, Sverrir Thorgeirsson, Kathy Winter (secretary)

**Resources:** Trevor Clews, Jennifer Kieffer, Amanda McKenzie

**Guests:** Eric Croiset (5b), Joanna Eidse (8b), Ashley Hannon (8a), Walter Mittelstaedt (4), Chris Read (4), Heather Root (8b), Tom Ruttan (4), Dan Scott (5a), Alyssa Voigt

**Regrets:** Raouf Boutaba\*, Emily Cyr, Charmaine Dean\*, Bernard Duncker\*, Ana Ferer, Julie Joza\*, Raymond Legge\*, Bruce Muirhead\*, Max Salman, Simron Singh\*, Richard Staines, Mike Szarka, John Thompson, Linda Warley\*

**Organization of Meeting:** Jeff Casello, co-chair of the council, took the chair, and Kathy Winter acted as secretary. The secretary advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **2. MINUTES OF 9 APRIL 2018 AND BUSINESS ARISING**

The minutes were approved as distributed. Hellinga and Judge. Carried.

#### **3. CO-CHAIRS’ REMARKS**

Casello provided relevant highlights from the recent Executive Retreat: exploration of intersection (through Wellness) between graduate studies’ portfolios and Waterloo’s Strategic Plan (vibrant graduate student experience, internationalization, experiential learning and others). Casello underscored dedication to this endeavour through: creating a working group on graduate student supervision (terms of reference complete), gaining increased clarity/direction as to “what it means to be a good supervisor?”, and increasing awareness of cultural diversity and norms. Casello will seek input from, but not limited to, other portfolios engaged in the strategic planning process including empowering people (led by Marilyn Thompson) and internationalization (led by Ian Rowlands).

#### **4. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH**

Council received a PowerPoint presentation on Graduate Student Mental Health, as information, from Walter Mittelstaedt (Director, Campus Wellness)—with similar being provided in the past to Senate and Board of Governors. Council engaged in discussion on topics that included: timing of student mental health surveys (such as American College Health Association, National College Health Assessment – conducted at Waterloo every 3 years), impact of things such as finances and PhD comprehensives on graduate students’ perceived stress, use of findings to better educate and inform the supervisor-supervisee relationship, graduate students as mental health ambassadors, essential focus on and resources for faculty/supervisor mental health, campus mental health training initiatives. Further questions can be directed to Walter Mittelstaedt (Director, Campus Wellness), Chris Read (associate Provost, Students), Tom Ruttan (Director, Counselling Services), or John Hirdes (Implementation Team Lead - President’s Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health). Slides used in the presentation may be seen here:

#### **5. RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES**

**a. Interdisciplinary Centre of Climate Change (IC<sup>3</sup>).** Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate, as presented, the approval for the Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate Change (IC<sup>3</sup>) to transition from a Research Centre (as established 1 June 2008) to a University Research Centre, as presented. Dan Scott (Executive Director, IC<sup>3</sup>) provided a short PowerPoint presentation and answered council questions: proposal received unanimous

support from the Research Leadership Council (11 May 2018), Provost's support increased to \$350 thousand annually from \$280 thousand annually commensurate with other University Research Centres/Institutes, faculty support is pro-rated based on size and membership. Clarke and Müller. Carried.

**b. Waterloo Centre for Electrochemical Energy.** Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate, as presented, the establishment of the Waterloo Centre for Electrochemical Energy (WCEE). Eric Croiset (Proposed WCEE Founding Member; Professor and Department Head, Chemical Engineering) provided a short PowerPoint presentation highlighting how the establishment of WCEE will contribute both nationally and internationally in electrochemical energy R&D—boosting it to a higher level in terms of quality and quantity; increasing visibility of research carried out at the University of Waterloo in this domain and attracting high caliber graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to its programs. Hellinga and Müller. Carried with 1 abstention.

## 6. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

**a. Arts.** Council heard an omnibus motion to approve items 1a, 2a, 2c as presented. Collington and Bergen. Carried. Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate the approval of 4 changes to the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Studio Art, effective fall 2018: Lower the minimum admission average from 80% to 75%; lower the number of references required for admission from 3 to 2 and change the type of references required from “academic” to “academic and/or professional”; update the current “Fields” (areas of research); input name change from Keith and Win Shantz Summer Internship to Keith and Win Shantz International Scholarship, as presented. The changes came following review of 20 Master of Fine Arts programs from Across Canada, where the program discovered that UW Fine Arts is not in-line with some of the requirements of its competitors. Collington and Bergen. Carried.

**b. Mathematics.** Council heard a motion to approve, as presented item 1 (Lemieux and Müller. Carried), item 2 (Lemieux and Judge. Carried—noting one friendly amendment to change effective date to fall 2018 from spring 2018) and item 3 (Lemieux and Szigeti. Carried). Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate, as presented, the approval of a new Computer Science PhD program with a required internship and create the corresponding milestone for the internship. It was highlighted that by transferring into this new PhD program with a required internship, international students will be able to obtain a work permit to do an internship in any term, subject to stated conditions. It was clarified that: this is not considered co-op, internships can be arranged independently or through one's supervisor, flexible timing of enrolment of this supervisor-approved transfer into the program, discussions with Finance are in progress to resolve final tuition amounts. Lemieux and Judge. Carried.

## 7. CHANGES TO GRADUATE STUDIES REGULATIONS AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate, as presented, the approval of 5 changes to Academic Calendar and Graduate Studies Regulations: drop/add deadline date, fee arrangement deadlines, graduate student class enrolment (Judge and Müller. Carried); apply for graduation (Judge and Hellinga. Carried); inactive status (Judge and Clarke. Carried); Master's thesis regulations (Judge and Hellinga. Carried); PhD comprehensive examinations (Judge and Hellinga. Carried). With regard to Master's thesis regulations, council raised no objection over wording, though discussed notion of tenure or tenure track and continuing lecturers. With regard to PhD comprehensive examinations, Casello stated that a concise document (“core of what a student needs to know”) will be distributed by GSPA in Fall 2018.

## 8. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Due to time constraints, Casello announced that information items (a) through (c) would be moved to the 11 June 2018 Senate Graduate and Research Council agenda.

## 9. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council heard a motion to approve items (a) through (c). Judge and Lemieux. Carried. Council received items (d) through (f) for information.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Monday 11 June 2018 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in NH 3318.

29 May 2018

Kathy Winter, PhD, CPsych  
Associate University Secretary