

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the 10 September 2018 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Stella Arthur (as Naima Sanuel), Raouf Boutaba, Kankar Bhattacharya (as Bruce Hellinga), Jeff Casello, Amelia Clarke, Charmaine Dean, Bernard Duncker, Marlene Epp (as Jeremy Bergen), Ana Ferrer, Rhona Hanning, Julie Joza, Christiane Lemieux, Daniel Martel, Kirsten Müller, Liz Nilson, Daniela O’Neill, Max Salman, Simron Singh, Jackie Stapleton, Mike Szarka, Takin Tadayon, Sverrir Thorgeirsson, John Thompson, Linda Warley, Kathy Winter (secretary)

Resources: Trevor Clews, Jennifer Kieffer, Amanda McKenzie

Regrets: David Clausi*, Emily Cyr, Alexander Mercado*, Bruce Muirhead*, Richard Staines*

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 11 June 2018 AND BUSINESS ARISING

The minutes were approved as distributed; noting Amelia Clarke had been in attendance. Müller and Hanning. Carried.

3. CO-CHAIRS’ REMARKS

Dean updated council: (1) 7 year collaboration (with potential for renewal) between NRC and Waterloo for a Centre for cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and privacy; later in fall 2019 centre will issue call for proposal for seed funding, (2) launch of Waterloo Innovation Ecosystem Council involving numerous campus and community-based partners (e.g., GSPA; St. Paul’s Greenhouse, Indigenous Centre, Mitacs, Velocity) with primary goal to create a new innovation “2.0” model for campus, (3) new committee within Office of Research; Ethics, technology, and social impact—draft Terms of Reference to be circulated to council.

Casello commented: (1) Bridge to 2020 Strategic Plan consultations – naming dates; encouraging attendance and engagement in the process <https://uwaterloo.ca/strategic-plan/>; (2) An initiative whereby academic credentials, including Type 2 diplomas, specializations, and research fields will be defined. This effort is motivated in part by those programs seeking to offer credentials for which Vector funding may be available; (3) Graduate Student Supervision Task force; work to start in about 2 weeks, Casello to work with GSA to secure student representation on committee.

4. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

a. Arts. Council heard a motion to approve item a, as presented. Nilson and Hanning. Carried. Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate renaming the MA in Sociology and MA in Sociology (Co-op) to MA in Social and Legal Studies and MA in Social and Legal Studies (Co-op), effective Winter 2019, item b as presented. To assist with Ministry and Quality Council reporting, Nilson and Clews will verify the date when the initial course-based option had become available. Nilson and Ferrer. Carried.

b. Science. Council was reminded that item 1(i) had been removed from the agenda given approval of this item at 11 June 2018 SGRC. Council heard a motion to approve item 1(ii), as presented. Müller and Duncker. Carried— noting a friendly amendment to remove reference to the year 2014 found on page 55 of the agenda package. Council heard an omnibus motion to approve item 2 - new courses, course revisions, and course inactivations. Müller and Duncker. Carried.

5. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

a. UW/SSHRC Grant Changes. Council heard a motion to approve revisions to the UW/SSHRC grant names and descriptions (as presented); changes are required by and commensurate with SSHRC's revised grant names and changes made to types of activities that can be funded. Dean will bring two inquiries back to the committee: whether postdoctoral fellows can be considered for UW/SSHRC Exchange Grant; whether Exchange grants can be approved pending acceptance of abstracts. Clarke and Thompson. Carried

b. Human Research Ethics Committee - Membership changes. Council heard a motion to approve the following items: (1) re-classified member (to role of chair; 3-year term), and (2) two new members; one as 4-month sabbatical replacement; one for a 3-year term. Joza and Thompson. Carried.

6. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW REPORTS

a. Academic Program Review Process – Casello spoke briefly to the cyclical review process, audited in summer 2018, with no significant changes anticipated. Council was encouraged to promote ongoing meaningful engagement in the process.

b. Final Assessment Report – Applied Mathematics. Submission reviewed by Muirhead, Warley, Müller, and Duncker. Müller, and Duncker spoke offering favourable review; with strengths, weaknesses, and a credible implementation plan having been identified. Reviewers' comments were integrated; such as continuation of internal seminar series. Council sought clarification of the number of TA's, from which general discussion ensued on TA limits in relation to RA's. Müller, and Duncker. Carried.

c. Final Assessment Report – Statistics & Actuarial Science and Quantitative Finance. Submission reviewed by Szarka and Singh who spoke highly—with little criticism and few suggestions (e.g., exit interviews, additional mentoring, further checks on language skills). Szarka and Singh. Carried.

7. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council heard a motion to approve items (a) through (j). Judge and Warley. Carried. Casello clarified that these awards will also be available in fall 2019. Council received items (k) through (m) for information. Müller and Nilson. Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Council received for information Dean's update on Strategic Mandate Agreement metrics; more specific, limited/defined and outcomes-related. Council received for information Casello's mention of new branding for Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, "Grad Impact"; whereby impact of graduate students will be featured.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 1 October 2018 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in NH 3318.