

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the 9 March 2020 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Jeff Casello, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, Bernard Duncker, Ana Ferrer, Nathan Funk, Rhona Hanning, Alison Hitchens, Lauren Meliss Holt, Julie Joza, Adam Kolkiewicz, Daniel Martel, Bruce Muirhead, Liz Nilsen, Jack Rehder, Max Salman, Siva Sivoththaman, Mike Szarka, Shawn Wettig, Kathy Winter (secretary)

Resources: Trevor Clews, Jennifer Kieffer, Carrie MacKinnon, Alyssa Voigt.

Regrets: David Billedeau, Amelia Clarke, David Clausi*, Anita Layton, Dmitry Marin*, Kirsten Müller (for Daniela O'Neill), Kareem Tarek Mostafa*, Naima Samuel*, Richard Staines*, Shirley Tang.

Guests: Chaitanya Swamy, Lutz-Alexander Busch

Organization of Meeting: Charmaine Dean, 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 10 FEBRUARY 2020 AND BUSINESS ARISING

The minutes were approved as distributed. Ferrer and Duncker. Carried.

3. CO-CHAIRS' REMARKS

Casello and Dean jointly provided updates on campus COVID-19 control group and scenario planning group. Council members were reminded of both public health preventative measures and communication pathways and on this second item it was emphasized that Deans and EC staff are to vet all correspondence to ensure standardized messaging. On a different note, Casello provided an update on AMTD post-doctoral program which now has 80 expressions of interest (of which 2-5 will be accepted). While Waterloo's own PhD students do not meet eligibility criteria, current post-doctoral students whom are advancing a new research direction can apply.

4. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEWS

a-b. Items were received as information.

c. Two-Year Progress Report - Combinatorics and Optimization (MMath/PhD). Council heard a motion to accept the two-year progress report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Council suggested expanded articulation of actionable items related to recommendations: 1) seeking regular feedback from faculty on challenges and opportunities to improve their experiences and address faculty retention concerns the reviewers raised; 2) monitoring the progress and providing targeted support for (female) graduate students to improve retention and address gender gap; and 3) proactively recruiting in early stages to improve gender balance at all levels (Undergraduate, Graduate, Faculty). Joza and Kolkiewicz. Carried with one vote against.

d. Two-Year Progress Report – Economics (BA/MA) and Applied Economics (PhD). Council heard a motion to accept the two-year progress report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Layton's written review, as presented, indicated support as revisions had been adequately addressed through actions taken. In discussion: program administrator role/position; curricular committee; international student recruitment. Nilsen and Ferrer. Carried.

5. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

a. Applied Health Science. Council heard a motion to accept a minor program change (a title change) in the PhD degree requirements/courses section of the GSAC for Recreation and Leisure Studies as presented. Hanning and Salman. Carried.

b. Engineering. Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate the approval of 1 new specialization within the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical Engineering, effective 1 May 2020, as presented. Sivoththaman and Kolkiewicz. Carried

c. Mathematics. Council heard a motion to approve items 1a (Kolkiewicz and Wettig, Carried), 2a (Kolkiewicz and Salman. Carried), 2d (Kolkiewicz and Duncker, Carried), and an omnibus motion to approve items 3a and 3b (Kolkiewicz and Wettig. Carried), as presented. Council heard an omnibus motion to recommend items 2b and 2c to Senate: to approve the addition of both a PhD and a MMath in Pure Mathematics – Quantum Information, effective 1 May 2020, as presented.

6. GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR CHANGES

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate the approval of Graduate Studies’ Academic Calendar changes (under Policies and Guidelines) pertaining to University responsibilities regarding supervisory relationships, effective 1 May 2020, as presented. This guideline does not contemplate a student who is academically successful. In discussion: “good standing” defined in-part as having a supervisor; “required to withdraw” and “voluntary withdrawal”; University’s commitment to dispute resolution, implementation of strategies, and student support of transition to new supervisor; communication of and training in relation to this item through Graduate Operations and Deans’ Council. Casello to ensure University’s commitment to resolution strategies reflected within guidelines and will bring forward Authorship Guidelines to Graduate Operations. Wettig and Muirhead. Carried.

7. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council heard a motion to approve items (a) and (b), as presented. Rehder and Nilsen. Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 13 April 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in NH 3318.

1 April 2020

Kathy Winter, PhD, CPsych,
Assistant University Secretary