

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the 14 September 2020 Meeting**  
**[in agenda order]**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting Videoconference**

**Present:** David Billedeau, Jeff Casello, Amelia Clarke, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Nathan Funk, Julie Joza, Adam Kolkiewicz, Brian Laird, Anita, Layton, Dmitri Marin, Daniel Martel, Bruce Muirhead, Liz Nilsen., Max Salman, Jerika Sanderson, Sophia Sanniti, Siva Sivoththaman, Richard Staines, Mike Szarka, Shirley Tang, Kathy Winter (secretary)

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

**Guests:** Anindya Sen

**Regrets:** David Clausi\*, Alison Hitchens\*, Kareem Tarek Mostafa, Shawn Wettig\*

**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**

Dan Martel identified a “conflict of interest” under agenda item 5.5 due to being a proposed new member of Human Research Ethics Board. While he was not technically under a conflict of interest per Senate [Bylaw 1](#) (section 8.02), he nonetheless did not vote.

### **2. MINUTES OF 11 MAY 2020 AND BUSINESS ARISING**

By consensus, the minutes were approved as distributed.

### **3. CO-CHAIRS’ REMARKS**

Casello reported: (a) Scholarships: AMTD fellows have been chosen with public announcement forthcoming; next AMTD application cycle commences in early 2021, (b) Awards: GSEF and GSA extend thesis completion awards - IDSA, IMSA, IMAE research awards extended, as well as Tri-agency awards; ongoing work to secure funds for students engaged in contract research, (c) Milestones: Automatic extensions on research proposal deadlines and comps timelines; d) Communication: enhanced communication with graduate students continues to be prioritized – [Graduate Relations website](#) is one such mechanism.

Dean reported: (a) Research and Lab updates: Phased return to labs complete; research with human participants opening in stages – research with vulnerable populations, including elderly to occur in later stages, (b) Responding to COVID in the lab: draft guidelines and protocols complete and aligned to broader campus guidance; (c) COVID Resurgence Planning: Drafts in place and being disseminated to Associate Deans and Chairs.

### **4. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEWS**

**a-b.** Items were received as information.

**c. Two-Year Progress Report: Pharmacy (MSc, PhD).** Council heard a motion to accept the two-year progress report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Ferrer (reviewer) remarked that the program review was comprehensive and well done. Ferrer and Tang. Carried.

**d. Final Assessment Report: Chemical Engineering (MEng, MAsC, PhD).** Council heard a motion to accept the final assessment report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Recommendations made by Samuel and Singh (reviewers) were completed to satisfaction. Samuel remains hopeful that co-op opportunities will be made available at the graduate level. Sivoththaman and Ferrer. Carried.

**e. Final Assessment Report: Psychology (BA, BSc, MA, MAsC, PhD, Minor).** Council heard a motion to accept the final assessment report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Staines (reviewer) identified a favourable review with all recommendations having been addressed. Staines and Esselment. Carried.

**f. Final Assessment Report: Theological Studies (MTS).** Council heard a motion to accept the Final Assessment Report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Duncker and Kolkiewicz (reviewers) commented positively on flexible and accommodating programming. In discussion: external courses, as well as striking the right balance between core and elective courses. Duncker and Funk. Carried.

## 5. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

**a. Arts.** On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve new courses, course revisions, and minor program revisions for the Faculty of Arts as presented:

- I & II Classical Studies – Esselment and Ferrer. Carried.
- III Psychology – Esselment and Staines. Carried.
- IV & V English – Esselment and Laird. Carried.
- VI Economics – Esselment and Martel. Carried.

## 5.5 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH – [Research Ethics Committees](#) – membership changes

On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve the following:

- Clinical Research Ethics Committee – member renewal (2), new member (1), and a role change (1).
- Human Research Ethics Committee – member renewal (1), new member (6), and a role change (1).

Joza and Ferrer. Carried.

## 6. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council heard a motion to approve items (a) to (g) on behalf of Senate, as presented. Council received items (h) to (l) for information, as presented. Item (j) was noted to be separate from Doctoral Thesis Completion Awards.

## 7. NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve the Faculty of Arts' Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Computational Data Analytics for the Social Sciences and Humanities, effective 1 January 2021, as presented. Anindya Sen (program's proposed first director) introduced the new program and spoke to: program rationale, impetus, goals/objectives, need for such training and skills within corporate and government sectors. Members expressed enthusiasm in terms of training in relation to big data within the social sciences, focus on AI ethics, interdisciplinarity. In discussion: course sequencing, flexible and accessible course delivery (online, podcasts), emphasis on teams and group-based learning projects, as well as available resources and supports through [Council for Responsible Innovation and Technology](#) (Neil Randall) and Office of Research Ethics. Esselment and Layton. Carried.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

## 9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 5 October 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon; Microsoft Teams.

28 September 2020

Kathy Winter, PhD, CPsych,  
Assistant University Secretary