

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the 6 March 2023 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Michael Beauchemin, Jeff Casello, Joan Coutu, Vivek Goel (chair), Mike Grivicic (secretary), Christiane Lemieux, Carol Ann MacGregor, Graham Murphy, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Julian Surdi, Stephanie Ye-Mowe

Regrets: Catherine Dong, Mary Hardy, Luke Potwarka, Clarence Woudsma

Guests: Jenny Flagler-George, Diana Gonçalves, Andrea Kelman

1. MINUTES OF THE 6 FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as presented. Beauchemin and Coutu. Carried.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Goel observed that following the recommendation from the previous cycle, Senate has appointed this committee as the nominating committee to search for the next chancellor. A work plan will be developed and brought forward to an upcoming meeting.
- b. Item 4 on today's agenda aligns with the February discussion on representation within the governance structure of the University

3. PROPOSAL TO AMEND SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE, AND THE TIMING OF SENATE MEETINGS

Goel provided an overview of the report and proposal: aim to formally remove the December meeting and to condense the six meetings from January to June down to five; would continue to hold meetings on Mondays; need to ensure that key items for approval can be approved in a timely fashion, including for the budget and academic plans; bylaw changes are approved in two readings over two Senate meetings; proposed change to the timing of Senate meeting to occur between 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m., with an initial aim for meetings to be held 2-4p.m.

Members discussed:

- Students expressed concern that moving the meeting time to an earlier timeslot would adversely impact student senators' academic lives, and would result in reduced availability for senators from other constituencies e.g. alumni; faculty and staff likely have greater resources to adapt to scheduling complications in comparison to students
- Starting Senate at 2:30 p.m. could be more congruent with class scheduling, as this is a common start/end time for classes
- Whatever the timing for the meetings, the schedule should be communicated well in advance to facilitate senators being able to reserve their availability

Goel indicated that this is a topic where Senate would be able to provide input, possibly via the upcoming Senate effectiveness survey. Casello suggested that the matter could be discussed further at the student relations committees (both graduate and undergraduate).

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate gives first reading to the amendments to the Senate By-Law 1 as presented in this report, with said amendments to effect:

- a. Reducing the normal number of general Senate meetings from 10 to 8 annually
- b. Adding provision for holding meetings electronically as well as in hybrid format (e.g. with simultaneous in-person and electronic participation)

And to recommend that Senate endorse the following general guidelines for the annual schedule of meetings of Senate, for consideration by the chair of Senate in setting their approval of the annual schedule, subject to passage of the recommended bylaw amendments as presented in this report:

- a. Meetings approximately evenly spaced as follows: five (5) regular meetings of Senate between 1 January and 30 June and three (3) regular meetings of Senate between 1 September and 30 November

And to further recommend that Senate approve the recommended amendments to the annual work plan (attached to this report) which is congruent with the reduced number of general Senate meetings to be held annually, subject to passage of the recommended bylaw amendments as presented in this report.

Murphy and Beauchemin. Carried with two abstentions.

4. PROPOSAL TO AMEND EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE FOR CONSIDERATIONS OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN SENATE MEMBERSHIP

Goel spoke to the report and proposal: aim to have Senate's membership to be more reflective of the community it serves; those appointed under this proposal would be full senators and would be expected to take an interest in all of Senate's business; proposal maintains the faculty majority representation required under the *University of Waterloo Act*; suggestion of a friendly amendment to the recommendation to change "Executive Council" to "university administration".

Members discussed:

- Relative merits of appointing positions by title via by-law, versus providing five positions for the president to appoint
- More flexible language in such an appointment would be helpful, as the president may exercise judgment on how best to appoint senators in that category
- It may be helpful to include text with the by-law to indicate the objective of these appointed positions

By consensus members agreed that some guidance for appointments under this category shall be provided along with the formal recommendation to Senate.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate gives first reading to the amendments to Senate Bylaw 4 as presented in this report, with said amendments to effect:

- a. Removal of five (5) named *ex-officio* members, items (a)-(e) in the bylaw
- b. Addition of five *ex-officio* members drawn from university administration, designated by the president

Beauchemin and Coutu. Carried.

5. DRAFT 27 MARCH 2023 SENATE AGENDA

Members noted amendments to the agenda:

- Deferral of item 6(b), user panel discussion, to the April meeting
- Removal of leadership updates under item 7 for this meeting, with any urgent matters to come forward under item 6, Report of the President (~10 minutes to be allocated)
- Item 8(d) to be moved to confidential session
- Condense the items reported by the Senate Long Range Planning Committee in item 14(c) into the report under 8(a)
- Rearrange item 8 such that the Waterloo at 100 and the budget items will follow the SGRC report
- Item 16(a) may be deferred to the April cycle

A motion was heard to approve the 27 March 2023 Senate agenda as amended. Casello and Ye-Mowe. Carried.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Goel observed that the Senate Governance Review recommended the implementation of an annual assessment by Senators of Senate performance, and toward that end the University has engaged WATSON Inc. to develop and deliver the inaugural survey. The draft survey questions will be brought to SEC in April for comment/input.

b. Members heard that a Senate orientation module is under development with support from the Centre for Extended Learning.

c. Goel indicated that options are being examined to recognize/certify student service on governance bodies, possibly through a module on LEARN or another form of microcredential.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

11 March 2023

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary

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