

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the 13 June 2022 Meeting
[in agenda order]
Microsoft Teams Meeting Videoconference

Present: Jeff Casello, Amelia Clarke, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, Maureen Drysdale, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Bertrand Guenin, Alison Hitchens, Aiden Huffman, Julie Joza, Bessma Momani, Liz Nilsen, Jennifer Reid, Marianne Simm, Kankar Bhattacharya (on behalf of Siva Sivoththaman), Richard Staines, Julian Surdi, Mike Szarka, John Thompson, Kathy Winter (secretary).

Resources: Angela Christelis, Trevor Clews, Carrie MacKinnon-Molson, Amanda McKenzie.

Guests: Sara Anderson, Michael Drescher, Vijay Ganesh, Harold Godwin, Mark Knight, Christiane Lemieux, Jimmy Lin.

Regrets: David Clausi, Brian Laird, Anita Layton, Bruce Muirhead, Ian Milligan*, Martin Ross*, Siva Sivoththaman*

Organization of Meeting: Jeff Casello and Charmaine Dean, co-chairs 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.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Ferrer and Momani. Carried.

1. MINUTES OF 9 MAY 2022

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2. RESEARCH ETHICS

Council approved one new member and one member renewal (as well as one member change, for information) to the Human Research Ethics Board, as presented. Council received, for information, an update on Canadian Council on Animal Care Assessment, as presented.

3. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council approved items (a) through (c), as presented.

4. RENEWAL EXTENSION

On behalf of Senate, Council approved a 20-month extension of the mandate for the Centre for Bioengineering and Biotechnology. The revised centre renewal date is 31 December 2023, as presented.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

6. CO-CHAIRS' REMARKS

Casello updated council regarding: (a) nearly completed Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Program proposal which will bring in as many as 15 individuals; and (b) commitment by Associate Deans Research (ADR) and Associate Deans Graduate (ADG) to convene earlier and collectively in reviewing and delivering feedback to applicants and supervisors regarding Banting proposals. Dean reminded council of the [Waterloo at 100](#) initiative, where President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Vivek Goel, has extended the invitation to campus to examine and discuss what the

institution aspires to become by its 100th anniversary in 2057. Members can respond directly through the website, or provide comments directly to SGRC co-chairs or secretary.

7. RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

a. Dissolution: Centre for Advanced Trenchless Technologies (CATT). Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate the dissolution of CATT, as presented. Over the past 28 years, the Canadian underground infrastructure has changed. To adapt to this change and to better represent the Canadian industry, the Canadian Underground Infrastructure Innovation Centre (CUIIC) at the University of Alberta has been established and CATT's mandate will be transferred there so that it can continue and evolve. So, there is only one voice in Canada and to fully support CUIIC, CATT is winding down at the University of Waterloo on 30 April 2022 as approved by CATT's Board of Directors and its membership. Momani and Thompson. Carried.

b. Dissolution: Institute for Computer Research (ICR). Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate the dissolution of ICR, as presented. When ICR was formed in 1982, computing was revolutionizing many fields. ICR was created as a federation of research groups and individuals involved in computer-related research at the University of Waterloo, providing shared expertise and resources that enabled collaboration and innovation. Now computing is ubiquitous and part of all research that is conducted, and as a result the initial motivation for this institute no longer exists. ICR is no longer active with the retirement of its Executive Director in 2018 and its manager in 2019; there is no staff or space associated to it, and there are no funds remaining. Huffman and Guenin. Carried.

c. Renewal: Heritage Resource Centre (HRC). On behalf of Senate, council approved the renewal, for a 5-year term, of the Heritage Resource Centre (HRC), as presented. Drescher spoke to: (1) HRC's commitment to attracting graduate students from across faculties, EDII, and diversification; (2) HRC grass roots focus at the local and provincial level. Momani and Clarke. Carried.

d. Renewal: Waterloo Artificial Intelligence Institute (Waterloo.AI). On behalf of Senate, council approved the renewal, for a 5-year term, of the Waterloo Artificial Intelligence Institute (Waterloo.AI), as presented. Ganesh, Lin, and Godwin were invited by Casello to connect with GSPA in the acceleration of this collaborative program. Momani and Ferrer. Carried.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING SGRC

Dean and Casello summarized council's discussion regarding structure and functioning of SGRC from [9 May 2022](#) and invited further commentary—in particular seeking council's views on [Senate Bylaw 2 \(section 4\)](#), as well as the intersection amongst SGRC membership roles (e.g., are there synergies among the roles of SGRC members that warrant continued, regular interactions? Or, are the roles independent such that joint meetings are not likely productive?). While council voiced support for the development and implementation of revised SGRC processes for agenda-setting and more productive strategic discussions, members also voiced being unable to add further to the conversation at present due to: (a) agenda time constraints, (b) uncertainty as to the type of feedback being sought (e.g., SGRC separation or reformation), and (c) the need to first clarify the mandates of other bodies (e.g., Research Leaders Council, Research Operations Council). In light of above, substantive time at 12 September 2022 SGRC will be allocated for continued discussion. In the interim, council was invited to send any comments thereon to committee secretary, Winter.

9. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Faculty of Engineering. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve item 1) as presented. Nilsen and Momani. Carried. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve item 2) as presented. Guenin and Ferrer. Carried.

Faculty of Arts. Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve the deletion of the graduate research fields from the Master of Arts (MA) in History program, effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Esselment and Hitchens. Carried. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve items a) and c) as presented. Esselment and Hitchens. Carried. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve items b) and d) as presented. Esselment and Ferrer. Carried.

10. INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Hitchens spoke to the presentation as distributed. In discussion: concern regarding amount of additional work being required of researchers, including graduate students, in fulfillment of any new security requirements and data management plans; the need for centralized university support and streamlined processes, including clarity regarding shared responsibilities for RDM thereby ensuring supervisors' obligations are not shifted to graduate students. Council was reminded of the institutional RDM implementation deadline of 2023 and was invited to reach out to Hitchens and Milligan for any suggestions regarding this initiative, including the prioritization of EDII (e.g., Indigenous data and data sovereignty).

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Under other business, Casello raised the topic of how council would address any SGRC business requiring attention prior to the commencement of the fall SGRC meeting cycle, 12 September 2022. Council agreed to proceed by e-vote with provisions:

- Committee Secretary to circulate the motion and associated materials to members (via email) for consideration.
- Designate a window (e.g., 5 business days) for seeking clarification, posing questions, providing feedback—during which time either a meeting will be scheduled or communications made by email in order to provide responses thereon.
- Open e-voting window (e.g., 5 business days) where members respond as either “nay”, “yay” or “abstain”—following which time outcome will be communicated to members by email.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 12 September 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon; Location TBD.

28 June 2022

Kathy Winter, PhD, CPsych,
Assistant University Secretary