

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the 10 April 2023 Meeting
[in agenda order]
Needles Hall 3318

Present: Ramona Bobocel, Jeff Casello, Charmaine Dean, Rob de Loe, Peter Deadman, Maureen Drysdale, Bernie Duncker, Anna Esselment, Bertrand Guenin, Alison Hitchens, Brian Laird, William McIlroy, Ian Milligan, Liz Nilsen, Jennifer Reid, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Siva Sivoththaman, Mike Szarka, Shirley Tang, Tim Weber-Krajlevski (Secretary), Richard Wikkerink

Resources: Angela Christelis, Carrie MacKinnon-Molson

Regrets: Aiden Huffman, Julie Joza*, Ryan Johnson, Manoj Sachdev, Aiman Fatima, Zerihun Kinate, Anita Layton, Julian Surdi, Shawn Wettig

Organization of Meeting: Jeff Casello, co-chair of the council, took the chair, and Tim Weber-Krajlevski 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. Guenin and Deadman. Carried.

1. MINUTES OF 6 March 2023

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council approved items a, b, and c as presented.

3. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council approved items a to f as presented.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

5. CO-CHAIRS' REMARKS

On behalf of Council, Casello thanked Huffman, Drysdale, and Reid for their service on the Council as their terms were ending, and congratulated Reid on completing her PhD. Dean spoke on the following: (a) the Creating Inclusive Excellence in Research through Inclusive Leadership event, scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023, which is part of the Office of Research moving beyond helping individual researchers with the EDI section of grant applications to working on also embedding inclusive research in labs; and (b) an upcoming brainstorming session on disseminating research and knowledge mobilization, which members were asked to provide names of researcher to participate. Casello provided a brief update on: (a) the need for consistent message on Post-Doctoral Fellows (PDFs) hiring as a transitional appointment that need to be within 5 years of completing a PhD and be no longer than 6 years; and (b) that higher funding packages are needing to be worked on collectively at the Faculty and University level for the Ukrainian students who came through the Academic Internship and are now looking to become graduate students. Discussion included: PDFs versus research associate hiring; Bill 124's effect on PDF; the Scholar's at Risk program; increased living costs for all graduate students; the need for an institutional approach going forward with a permanent emergency fund to support students in similar situations; how the

university determines when there is a need to support students involved in humanitarian crises; and the ending of Tri-agency support for the Ukrainian students.

6. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Faculty of Engineering

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate two major program revisions to Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering: (a) Addition of direct entry Co-operative program to the Meng MME program; and (b) discontinuation of the Type 2 Graduate Diploma in Design Engineering and Graduate Diploma in Design Engineering – Co-operative Program. Siva and Guenin. Carried.

Faculty of Mathematics

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate one major revision to the Master of Mathematics in Statistics and Actuarial Science: (a) discontinue the coursework study option from the MMath in Statistics program. Guenin and Siva. Carried.

7. GRAUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS VISIONING EXERCISE-CONTINUED

Casello continued his presentation, *Towards a proposed vision: Graduate studies at Waterloo*, as circulated, highlighting the following: (a) the creation of the dashboard for tracking trends in the graduate research activity data; (b) notable gaps in student experience, including a perception of resource competition between undergraduate and graduate students at Waterloo, a lack of understanding of resolution pathways when student challenges arise, a need to better understand the various roles of graduate students and to ensure the University is well-prepared to support them in these capacities, and the need of improving intercultural dynamics among the graduate student community; (c) concern that only 51% of graduate students feel their student life experience is excellent or very good; and (d) a pathway to move ahead on graduate student experience. Discussion included: the need to more visible pathways of resolutions for graduate students, as well as sideways pathways within units; having more training and resources available for those in leadership roles; and an appetite for consequences for supervisors that fail to meet expectations. Members endorsed the principles of the Vision for Graduate Studies at Waterloo.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 8 May 2023 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in NH 3318.

1 May 2023

Tim Weber-Kraljeviski
Governance Officer