

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the 16 October 2023 Meeting**  
**[in agenda order]**

**Present:** Steven Bednarski, Ramona Bobocel, Sue Ann Campbell, Jeff Casello (co-chair), David Clausi, Robert de Loe, Charmaine Dean (co-chair), Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Neela Hassan, Alison Hitchens, Brian Laird, Joseph Meleshko, Ian Milligan, Marina Mourtzakis, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Mike Szarka, Shirley Tang, Tim Weber-Kraljevski (secretary).

**Resources/Guests:** Angela Christelis, Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, Carrie MacKinnon-Molson, Justin Wan, Kevin White, Richard Wikkerink.

**Absent:** Peter Deadman, Aiman Fatima, Bertrand Guenin\*, Ryan Johnson, Julia Jonza, Zerihun Kinate, Siva Sivoththaman\*, Clarence Woudsma\*.

\*regrets

**Organization of Meeting:** Charmaine Dean, co-chair of the Council, took the chair, and Tim Weber-Kraljevski 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.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Milligan and Esselman. Carried with one abstention. Casello briefly spoke to the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar changes and thanked those involved in making the updates.

### **2. MINUTES OF 8 MAY 2023**

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

### **3. RESEARCH ETHICS**

Council approved the membership updates for the Human Research Ethics Board and the Clinical Research Ethic Boards, as distributed.

### **4. GRADUATE AWARDS**

Council approved items a.-d. as presented and received items e.-l. for information.

### **5. WATERLOO/NOSM UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE AWARD [GSEA]**

Council received for information.

### **6. OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR – ACADEMIC CALENDAR DATES 2024/25**

Council recommended to Senate to approve the academic calendar dates for 2024/25, as distributed.

### **7. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS**

Council approved items a.-c. as distributed, except for the major program revisions for PhD and MSc in Vision Science Graduate Research Fields under item b., which Council recommended to Senate to approve, as distributed.

### **8. GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR (GSAC) CHANGES**

Council recommended to Senate to approve the items a.-e., as distributed, and received items f.-h. for information.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising.

**10. CO-CHAIRS' REMARKS**

Casello updated Council on the launch of three postdoctoral competitions: the AMTD Waterloo Global Talent Postdoctoral Fellowship Program; the Provost's Program for Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Scholars; and the Provost's Program for Black and Indigenous Postdoctoral Scholars. Members were asked to help generate interest and also with adjudication.

Dean informed members that the provincial government is looking to identify all major research agreement and that the government will be meeting with senior university leadership across the province to get feedback and provide more information.

**11. GRADUATE STUDENT MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP WITH IIT MADRAS**

Casello presented on IIT Madras material, highlighting: IIT Madras as a world-class university; the President's visit in March 2023; an overview of the program and its implementations; advantages of the program; and the desire to develop more programs like this. Members were supportive of the program and discussed: the importance of building pathways for students; and the need for a higher-level discussion about an institutional approach for using central funds for developing strategic international partnerships.

**12. INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS**

Christelis presented on the new Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) from the Quality Council (QC) and the procedural changes for program reviews impacting self-study deadlines, site visits, progress reports, and minors and smaller offerings. Christelis also presented on future goals for Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) including: website updates; new templates; alignment of accreditation with program reviews; Indigenization and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) guidance in self-studies; program differentiators; and more surveying support for programs. Members discussed: the new approach for program reviews and leveraging the data that comes out of the process.

**13. SENATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Dean provided an overview the Senate Governance Review, the material provided, and progress made by Council with the review. Dean also presented an overview of the proposal for a new structure for the Council, highlighting the feedback that is accommodated within the new proposed structure and the feedback that was not accommodated. Members discussed the strong feelings from the Associate Deans Research that the current structure of Council is not working, that the proposal does not go far enough and the desire to separate Council into two distinct Research and Graduate Studies Councils. Member also discussed concerns with siloing and the importance of the proposed two separate Council having some intersectionality to come together on some joint issues. Dean and Casello will take the proposal of separating Council to Dean's Council (DC), and President and Vice-Presidents (PVP), and will then will bring this item back to Council for further discussion.

**14. CREATES**

Due to time, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

**15. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held Monday, 20 November 2023 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in NH 3318.

1 November 2023

Tim Weber-Kraljevski  
Governance Officer