

University of Waterloo
SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting held 20 September 2023
[in agenda order]

Present: Jeff Casello, Charmaine Dean, Paul Fieguth, Bruce Frayne, Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Kevin Hare, Chris Houser, Narveen Jandu, Lili Liu, Shana McDonald, Kristiina Montero, Jacinda Reitsma, James Rush (chair), Siva Sivoththaman, Diana Vangelisti, Mary Wells

Resources/Guests: Jean Becker, Melissa Benjamin, Jenny Flagler-George, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour, Emily Goodwin, Christine McWebb, Fayaz Noormohamed, Allan Starr, Daniela Seskar-Hencic

Absent: Sheila Ager*, Judy Castaneda, Trevor Charles, Rob Gorbet*, Annie Yang*

*regrets

Organization of Meeting: James Rush took the chair and Mike Grivicic 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.

2. MINUTES OF THE 6 MARCH 2023 MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Liu and Frayne. Carried. The chair observed that one item of business for the November 2023 meeting will be to review and discuss draft revisions to the committee terms of reference.

3. OVERVIEW OF PORTFOLIO: ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, FACULTY, PLANNING, AND POLICY

McWebb provided a presentation: the portfolio of the AVP FPP focuses on three main areas - faculty relations, faculty life cycle, and policy review/development; role carries delegated authority from the provost as it relates to certain parts of the FAUW memorandum of agreement; serves as a connection and supports decision making between central administration and deans' offices; significant role in coordinating action after the Hagey Hall attacks in June 2023. Members clarified that for matters of discipline and handling complaints about employees, faculty matters are directed to the AVP FPP whereas staff matters would go to the Conflict Management & Human Rights Office. For the November 2023 meeting, Fieguth will provide a similar overview of his office and portfolio.

4. FACULTY-LED NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS, NETWORKS, AND INITIATIVES

a. Antagonism and Intimidation in Academia. McWebb provided a presentation: speaker series to run from October 2023 to March 2024 and leading up to international conference in June 2024, all to highlight scholarship that draws responses going beyond disagreement, and to develop principles, actions and accountabilities toward freedom of expression (akin to Scarborough Charter); planned themes for speaker series include discussion of how targeted individuals are chosen, types of threats/attacks among targeted groups, and actions that can be taken to foster safety among those feeling targeted; other key outcomes are to promote networking, issuing a special journal issue on *Targeting in Academia in Studies in Social Justice* (pending approval). Members noted that a large network of employers could be engaged in these activities.

b. Trust in Research Undertaken in Science and Technology. Wells provided a presentation: mission of Trust in Research Undertaken in Science and Technology is to understand why people do or do not trust scientific/technical information; the goal of TRuST is furthering understanding in trust and lack of trust in science and technology and to support ethically earning and sustaining trust in those domains; launch event was held in September 2023, with three events planned per year for a speakers series; overview of TRuST survey findings/trends noting overall trend of decreased trust, effects seen in pandemic and post-pandemic periods, and trends related to demographics; trust is a wicked problem

with considerable complexity, and this body is working toward a transdisciplinary framework to study trust; upcoming work includes case studies (under development) and fostering citizen science. Members observed: important to engage with experts in political science as well as faculties of education; need to highlight how scientists can disagree as part of the scientific method; Office of Research can assist in securing speakers.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT 2022-23 AND INSTITUTIONAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Goel observed that the report includes details on key initiatives, funding etc., and provided a presentation: building capacity toward integrated planning with less emphasis on five year plans; considerable analysis can be done from survey data and other data sources, and Waterloo can partner with other institutions in pursuing these avenues; special focus on student mental health and wellbeing, as well as sense of belonging; focus on and key performance indicators in education, research, service/innovation, operations, and financial strength; Waterloo is a leader in a number of areas but lags in others. Members discussed: specific data points and trends from among several theme areas; decline in industry funding is due to security-related concerns with specific partners, and extra effort will be taken towards backfilling those research funds; some companies contribute to research directly and/or indirectly. This item will be brought forward to Senate and the Board of Governors in October.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is Wednesday 29 November 2023 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., NH 3318

16 October 2023

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary