

University of Waterloo
SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting held June 3, 2024
[in agenda order]

Present: Sheila Ager, Nasser Abukhdeir, Paul Fieguth, Bruce Frayne, Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel, Rob Gorbet, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Ondrej Lhotak, Lili Liu, Kristiina Montero, Kirsten Muller, Everett Patterson, James Rush (chair), Siva Sivoththaman, Katie Traynor, Diana Vangelisti, Mary Wells

Absent: Jeff Casello*, Charmaine Dean*, Catherine Dong, Chris Houser*, Shana MacDonald, Jacinda Reitsma*
*regrets

Resources/Guests: Jenny Flagler-George, Michelle Hollis, Fayaz Noormohamed, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Anita Taylor, Melanie Will

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. The chair welcomed members to the meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024 MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Gorbet and Vangelisti. Carried.

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Rush observed that a discussion of the committee self-evaluation survey that will come in the confidential portion of the meeting and suggested that the committee could utilize that discussion as an entry point for planning future agenda items (further augmented by priorities identified at the recent Executive Council retreat). Goel added that this committee's involvement will be particularly important for the campus master plan.

4. ANNUAL 2023-24 INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES FOR 2024-25

Goel provided a PowerPoint presentation: report is organized around the Waterloo at 100 goals; comparators vary but are generally the U6 and U15 institutions, where relevant; enrollment trends, including for domestic/international students and graduates/undergraduates; 5% increase in faculty complement since 2018, with nearly 10% increase in female faculty, along with a 10% increase in academic support staff since 2018; improvements in survey responses on student experience since 2020, where Waterloo compares well amongst peer institutions and experiential learning continues to be very important; top U15 institution for innovation and 21st globally, per most recent Pitchbook rankings; progress on environmental sustainability indicators at 8.8% compared to 2015 base year vs. 10% target; financial indicators are based on financial statements and not the operating budget, and going forward the University will turn its focus to operational sustainability; for employee engagement, working to address the lower scoring dimensions; priorities for 2024-25 are institutional values, holistic campus wellness, global futures networks, integrated planning and budgeting, and effectiveness, efficiency, and revenue generation initiatives.

Members discussed: interweaving considerations for ongoing work-from-home arrangements, employee engagement, and space utilization/capital planning; important to connect metrics with strategic activity to show progress to the community; potential for alumni community to support incremental improvement in experiential learning; systemic issues in differentiating students with very high entrance averages, and other ways to assess applicants holistically will be important; student engagement issues translate to alumni engagement issues, and the University is able to influence the on-campus culture.

Deans were encouraged to connect with IAP to obtain data for their respective Faculties, and members may send further comments through the secretary.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the committee moved into confidential session.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday September 11, 2024 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

August 12, 2024

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary