

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the 17 October 2023 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Katherine Acheson, Janice Aurini, Logan Baston, Victoria Chu, Cecilia Cotton, Vivian Dayeh, Laura Deakin, David DeVidi (chair), Leeann Ferries, Jason Grove, Fatma Gzara, Alysia Kolentsis, Carol Ann MacGregor, Kristiina Montero, Rory Norris, Chris Vigna, Johanna Wandel, Tim Weber-Kraljevski (secretary), Richard Wikkerink.

Resources/Guests: Angela Christelis, Jennifer Coghlin, Michael Collins (4a), Mario Coniglio (4e), Brenda Denomme, Blare Cressman, Heather Henderson (4d), Maysah Eid, Carrie MacKinnon, Kyle Scholz, James Skidmore (4c), Mark Vuorinen (4b).

Absent: Viv Hoang, Grace Marshall, Catherine Newell Kelly*, Isaac Ocampo, Charvi Patel, Theodore Thompson, Ryan Trelford.
*regrets

Organization of Meeting: David DeVidi took the chair, and Tim Weber-Kraljevski acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. MINUTES OF THE 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING

The minutes were approved without formal motions.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

4. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

a. Final Assessment Report: Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, and Mechatronics

Micheal Collins provided a brief overview of the report. Members discussed: the challenges of diversity and gender equity; mandatory coop requirements for the program; interdisciplinarity and cross-departmental capstone projects; and the need for all programs to examine requirements to allow for more flexible pathways. Collins left the meeting.

b. Final Assessment Report: Music, Intensive Music Specialization, and Church Music and Worship

Mark Vuorinen provided a brief overview of the report. Members discussed: the impact on the closing of the KW Symphony; and the collaborations the program is pursuing. Vuorinen left the meeting.

c. Final Assessment Report: German, Russian and East European Studies, and Cultural Identities

James Skidmore provided a brief overview of the report. Members discussed: the faculty reorganization being considered in the Faculty of Arts. Skidmore left the meeting.

d. Progress Report: Human Resources Management

Heather Henderson provided a brief overview of the report. Members discussed: possibility of expanding the program; and the advantages and limitations of using sessional lecturers who are professional within the field. Henderson left the meeting.

e. Progress Report: Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences

Mario Coniglio provided a brief overview of the report. There was no discussion from members. Coniglio left the meeting.

Members discussed: language studies at Waterloo; and recommending the Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences update the details on recommendation 4 to reflect the online courses that were actual offered. A motion was heard to approve the following reports on behalf of Senate: Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, and Mechatronics; Music, Intensive Music Specialization, and Church Music and Worship; German, Russian and East European Studies, and Cultural Identities; Human Resources Management; and Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences. Wandel and Deakon. Carried.

5. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

New Undergraduate Scholarships, Awards, And Bursaries: This item was received for information. Members discussed: mixed language across awards for gender identity; the rationale for the Ted Rogers Undergraduate Indigenous Student Award not having a note that the award description will not be added to database; and the need for Management Sciences to be updated to Management Science and Engineering within the database.

Academic Calendar Dates 2024/25: Jennifer Coghlin provided an overview of the material provided. A motion was heard to recommend Senate approve the 2024-2025 academic calendar dates and calendar guidelines for establishing academic dates, as presented. Grove and Deaken. Carried.

6. TEACHING INCUBATOR PROJECTS PROGRESS UPDATE

Kyle Scholz presented on the Teaching Innovation Incubator (TII), providing an overview TII and an update on five TII Beta Projects, focusing on Accessible Education and Adapting Student-Led Individually Created Courses (SLICCS) to Encourage Self-Directed Learning. Members discussed: the organization of the TII, resources available through TII, and the process being developed for getting projects into TII.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Subcommittee: The chair provided the following updates on the Curriculum Subcommittee: the proposal went to Senate Executive Council (SEC) and is now going to Senate for endorsement; SEC suggested that the student representative on the subcommittee should be the executive member appointed by WUSA on Council, who is currently Rorry Norris, as they would have a large breath of knowledge and represent students in their entirety instead of a particular faculty; and the AFIWs have selected Alysia Kolentsis to serve as the AFIW representation on the subcommittee for the pilot.

Members discussed: Final Assessment Reports for programs that are co-managed by a university faculty and an AFIW, and for Quality Assurance to create a template for the faculty and AFIW to have a conversation at the beginning of the program review process to set expectations for involvement in the review process and for addressing the recommendations.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Tuesday, 21 November 2023, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in NH 3318.