

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the January 28, 2025 Meeting

Present: Katherine Acheson, Faisal Al-Faisal, Kareem Alfarra, Veronica Austen, Benoit Charbonneau, Victoria Chu, Ashley Day (secretary), Laura Deakin, David DeVidi (chair), Chloe Ding, Leanne Ferries, Jason Grove, Carol Ann MacGregor, Kristiina Montero, Cathy Newell Kelly, Cynthia Richard, Robert Stark, Victoria Swanson, Chris Vigna, Johanna Wandel, Richard Wikkerink

Resources/Guests: Angela Christelis, Natalie Clifford, Jennifer Coghlin, Mike Grivicic, Danielle Jeanneault, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Mary Power, Andrea Prier, Mirko Vucicevich

Absent: Avery Akkerman, Namrah Hasan, Nicholas Pfeifle, Helena Shilomboleni, William Wong

Organization of Meeting David DeVidi took the chair, and Ashley Day 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Charbonneau and Deakin. Carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council received for information item 3.1 and approved items 3.2 – 3.10 on behalf of Senate.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed Kareem Alfarra who is the new Mathematics Society student member of SUC.

6. CO-OPERATIVE AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION APPROACH

Prier and Clifford presented an overview of professional development (PD) at the University, including a reimagining of courses for the future. The reimagining would align with the Future Ready Talent Framework and institutional direction. The proposed course, PD14, is a pilot which may inform program modifications in the future. The proposed course will be fully online and include collaborative content creation, alignment with strategic frameworks, and shift to authentic skill applications. The course pilot has been endorsed by Norah McRae, Associate Provost, Co-op and Experiential Education, David DeVidi, Associate Vice-president, Academic, and the Co-op and Experiential Education Council. Prier and Clifford intend to return to SUC in Spring 2025 with an update on the course's development and seek feedback on recommendations for program direction.

Council discussed when assessments would be developed, as this information is required during the development and approval of undergraduate courses. It was clarified that once an instructor is assigned and builds out the course, assessments would be added to the course outline. Additionally, reflective work reports are not included in the description, however those will be added to the list of assessments. Council also discussed (1) the timeline to develop the full course outline, (2) ensuring the consultation process includes broad representation across all Faculties and AFIW, (3) adjusting

marketing to align with the new approach and, (4) fostering student understanding of PD programming at Waterloo.

A member inquired how students would be consulted for feedback as the Science Society student member was unaware of the proposal. Prier and Clifford clarified that next steps include engaging a full group of students regarding the planned PD program enhancements.

Members of Council raised concern over the proposal not including learning outcomes. Prier and Clifford clarified that an educational developer would build out a full course outline which would be reviewed by an advisory board.

By consensus Council agreed that this should move forward subject to learning outcomes being provided for review at the April SUC meeting. Should SUC's concerns persist regarding the course, Prier, Clifford and Wikkerink agreed it would not be offered in Fall 2025 until Council gives full approval.

A motion was heard to approve the new course PD 14 Technological Futures: Responsible Digital Innovation on behalf of Senate, effective September 1, 2025, subject to satisfactory follow-up action pertaining to learning outcomes be brought forward to the April 2025 meeting. Wandel and Wikkerink. Carried.

7. SENATE COURSE OUTLINE REQUIREMENTS

Deakin and Power, with Vucicevich, spoke to the report and recommendations from the Course Outline Working Group. The working group was tasked with generating recommendations to improve the current course outline tool. The three recommendations proposed will allow for the inclusion of learning material costs in the course outline template, while updating the required list of basic elements in course outlines and also updating the standard text required in course outlines for accessibility and mental health supports.

Council discussed each recommendation fully, including whether use of the tool should be mandatory across all Faculties and which elements on the outline must be populated.

Council indicated that under recommendation two the language ought to be changed from 'should' to 'must', and that the list provided be revisited to match the template. Under recommendation three, it was discussed that supports should include information beyond mental health counseling and in the future could reference crisis intervention including a number or website for immediate support. Deakin will confirm on appropriate language with Counseling Services.

Council agreed that the report and recommendations be revised based on the feedback provided and that an e-vote be conducted to approve the recommendation for submission to the March Senate meeting. Members may submit any further feedback to Deakin directly. The Secretariat will issue the e-vote to members once the revised recommendations are prepared.

8. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

8.2 Faculty of Engineering

Grove presented the three motions from the Faculty of Engineering. A minor amendment was made to the first motion to clarify that the diploma in Society, Technology and Values is a new proposal.

The following motions were heard:

To recommend that Senate approve the proposed new diploma in Society, Technology and Values, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

To recommend that Senate approve the two new specializations and major plan modifications within Environmental Engineering, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

To recommend that Senate approve the following regulation changes for Averages and Academic Standings, and Courses and Classes for the Faculty of Engineering, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

Grove and Acheson. Carried.

8.3 Faculty of Arts

Acheson spoke to each motion related to the Faculty of Arts and presented a rationale for each proposal.

The following motions were heard:

To recommend to SUC, that Senate approve the following major modifications for Conrad Grebel University College, including retiring two specializations and creating three new specializations, as part of a larger program revision, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

To recommend to SUC, that Senate approve the following major modifications for the Department of Fine Arts: Three-Year General Visual Culture, Honours Visual Culture, and Visual Culture in a Global Context Minor, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

To recommend to SUC, that Senate approve the deletion of the Digital & Public History Specialization, and major plan modifications for the International Studies Minor, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

To recommend to SUC, that Senate approve the major plan modifications to the Financial Leadership Specialization, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

To recommend to SUC, that Senate approve the following regulation changes for the Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements, Assessments: Scheduling Parameters, and Arts: Courses and Classes, effective September 1, 2025, as presented.

Acheson and McGregor. Carried.

8.4 Faculty of Mathematics

Charbonneau presented the major modifications from the Faculty of Mathematics. An error was noted on page 2907 of the meeting package under the subheading Required Courses. Council acknowledged the Kuali version of the submission as correct and a revised version would be included with the recommendation to Senate.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications to the Applied Mathematics with Scientific Computing and Scientific Machine Learning (Bachelor of Mathematics - Honours) and creation of a new CS-Game Design Specialization, effective September 1, 2025, as presented. Charbonneau and Al-Faisal. Carried.

8.5 Faculty of Environment

Wandel presented an overview of the proposed new diploma and specialization from the Faculty of Environment.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the proposed new Knowledge Integration Diploma and Sustainable Finance Specialization, effective September 1, 2025, as presented. Wandel and Grove. Carried.

8.6 Faculty of Science

Deakin provided an overview of the proposed new option for the Bachelor of Science.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the proposed new Ecology and Environmental Biology Option for the Bachelor of Science (Science), effective September 1, 2025, as presented. Deakin and Acheson. Carried.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Ding brought forward a question regarding the alignment of professors to specific courses in the Faculty of Science. Deakin will liaise with Ding separately on the question.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 8, 2025, from 1-3pm in NH 3318.

January 31, 2025

Ashley Day
Governance Officer