

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the 7 March 2022 Meeting

Present: Michael Beauchemin, Jeff Casello, Joan Coutu, Lori Curtis, Benjamin Easton, George Freeman, Vivek Goel (chair), Karen Jack (secretary), Glaucia Melo, Christiane Lemieux, Kristina Llewellyn, Graham Murphy, Luke Potwarka, James Rush, Johanna Wandel

Regrets: Oudy Noweir

Guests: Diana Gonçalves, Andrea Kelman

1. MINUTES OF THE 7 FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING

Members heard a motion to approve the minutes of the 7 February 2022 meeting.

Freeman and Easton. Carried unanimously.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

3. DRAFT 28 MARCH 2022 SENATE AGENDA

The chair offered a brief overview of the agenda and spoke to the plan for an in-depth update at the meeting on the “Strengthening Sustainable and Diverse Communities” theme of the Strategic Plan. The committee heard a motion to approve the agenda.

Casello and Llewellyn. Carried unanimously.

4. SENATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Update on Consultations

The chair informed members of the excellent response rate to the survey (~50%) and that Christine Tausig Ford, President, Higher Thinking Strategies, and former Vice-President, Universities Canada has been engaged to analyse the results of the survey and complete the 1:1 interviews. Members understood that she will produce a report on findings for this committee’s May meeting.

Review of Senate Agenda Materials

The chair invited the secretary to speak to the briefing note regarding Senate agenda materials, which she did. In the discussion that followed: a suggestion that a database of the information contained in the reports from the Deans of the Faculties might be useful for a variety of purposes including Senate reporting; expressions of support for maintaining the confidential session at the conclusion of regular business at Senate meetings; broad agreement with the proposal to establish report cover page templates so that reports contain information about the due diligence already undertaken and make more explicit what is being asked of Senate; an observation that Senators might appreciate advice about how to share information from Senate meetings with colleagues; a suggestion that further context be provided when new academic programs are introduced, and, from the chair, agreement with that idea, and hence why, at recent meetings the deans have been invited to speak to some of the new academic programs that have come forward, and, in addition, that future Strategic Plan updates at Senate will provide opportunities for Senators to learn about and weigh in on burgeoning initiatives; a suggestion that this committee be tasked though its terms of reference to identify topics or themes for presentation and discussion at Senate; a suggestion that the reports from the councils would benefit from motions being grouped at the front of reports with supporting materials attached; a suggestion that the councils’ reports include more detail about which matters generated concerns or discussion so that Senate can discuss these matters more fully.

Review of Senate Committees and Councils

The chair reviewed the briefing note distributed before the meeting, including the U6+ sector scan, the mandates of current committees and councils, and a submission from the associate deans of research regarding the Graduate and Research Council. He invited members to weigh in on where key matters should be discussed, and whether any current committees or councils require reconsideration. In discussion: agreement that the Senate Graduate and Research Council should discuss the memo from the associate deans and that Casello will report back to this committee on the conversation; a suggestion that the Long Range Planning Committee's mandate might benefit from the addition of consideration of space and sustainability; ways to enable communication between Senate and the Board to ensure they are more aware of each other's business, and that consideration be given to potential joint meetings when there are subjects of mutual interest; agreement with the suggestion to find ways for Senate to have lines of sight into and predictable reporting about activities that do not naturally arise via committee and council reports (e.g., activities at the Centre for Teaching Excellence, the Student Success Office, the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Relations, and Operations Committees, and other offices which are addressing institutional commitments about wellness, equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism); the potential benefits of two-way communications between Senate and the community; a suggestion that consideration be given to opening Senate committee and council chair roles to Senators outside of administration; the need to find opportunities for discussions at Senate (or its committees and councils) about ways to ensure students are exposed to important subjects like sustainability and Indigenization; a suggestion that the councils review their delegated authorities and bring forward any suggestions for potential changes.

The chair thanked members for the rich discussion and advised that a summary of the committee's discussions and an early draft of the eventual report to Senate with key recommendations will be shared at the next meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

14 March 2022

Karen Jack
University Secretary