

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the 4 April 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, James Rush, Johanna Wandel

Regrets: Oudy Noweir, Luke Potwarka

Guests: Jenny Flagler-George, Diana Gonçalves, Andrea Kelman, Tim Weber-Kraljevski

1. MINUTES OF THE 7 MARCH 2022 MEETING

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

Freeman and Lemieux. Carried unanimously.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

3. DRAFT 18 APRIL 2022 SENATE AGENDA

The chair spoke briefly to the draft agenda and suggested that this committee consider the Senate committee and council nomination and vacancy filling process in its governance review. The committee heard a motion to approve the agenda as distributed.

Murphy and Easton. Carried unanimously.

4. SENATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Update on Consultations

The chair advised that Christine Tausig Ford has completed her interviews and attended the open session of Senate as an observer in March and will do so again in April. He noted that her work is on track for production of a report of her findings for this committee's May meeting which she will attend.

Senate Orientation

The chair spoke to the briefing note distributed in advance of the meeting and advised that some lessons learned regarding orientation from the recent Board Governance Review will be helpful in devising an orientation program for Senators. He invited members to comment on the suggestions in the note, and weigh in with their own ideas. In discussion: the benefits of having incoming Senators observe meetings before they start, and the opportunity to subsequently raise questions in an orientation session; general support for the suggestions in the note; an observation that student Senators may appreciate a dedicated session which could include encouragement for them to be actively engaged and to exercise their agency at meetings, and, a suggestion that collaboration with the student associations on this activity would be worthwhile; a suggestion that faculty might appreciate a dedicated session too which would help to inform them about Senate's role and mandate; a suggestion that a way to effect the previous suggestions would be to have a session for everyone and then subsequent break-out sessions for the constituencies; the merits of a joint event for Senate and the Board; the benefits of a work plan so Senators will have expectations about what is coming to Senate throughout the governance year; ways to provide information asynchronously, possibly with subject-specific checklists so that information is provided as needed.

Senate Communications

The chair introduced the subject and observed that there is a need for better communications out of Senate about what is occurring at its meetings and a need to find ways for the community to bring its views to Senate. In discussion: resources are necessary to support the work; ways to communicate more immediately about

decisions taken at meetings; connections with the university colleges and the need for clarity regarding their representatives' roles on Senate; the benefits of a portal and offering ways for the community to raise questions, and discussion of some operational aspects of such a system; the merits of considering what type of information might be reported by the Faculty Councils to Senate; the utility of orientation and communication materials for the broader community, including student media.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8 April 2022

Karen Jack
University Secretary