

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the September 16, 2024 Meeting

Present: Steven Bednarski, Phil Bigelow, Sue Ann Campbell, David Clausi, Nancy Collins, Ashley Day (secretary), Robert de Loe, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean (co-chair), Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Abhishesh Homagain, Brian Ingalls, Julie Joza, Joseph Meleshko, Ian Milligan, Carlee Ann Montgomery, Marina Mourtzakis, Nicholas Pellegrino, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Siva Sivoththaman, Mike Szarka, Clarence Woudsma (co-chair)

Resources/Guests: Catherine Burns, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Will Percival, Melanie Will, Susan Willsie

Absent: Neela Hassan, Shirley Tang, Mrittika Dreesha

Organization of Meeting: Clarence Woudsma 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. Bigelow and Ferrer. Carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2024 MEETING

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. RESEARCH ETHICS

Council approved the membership update for the Clinical Research Ethics Board (CREB) & Human Research Ethics Board (HREB), as distributed.

4. GRADUATE AWARDS'

Council approved item (a)-(d) and received items (e)-(g) for information.

5. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council approved item (a) on behalf of Senate.

6. RCR Integrity Administrative Guidelines

Council received item (a) for information.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Council received the results of the June 25-28, 2024 E-Vote for information.

8. CO-CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dean spoke to the following: the committee structure review of SGRC is ongoing; the goal is to have a recommendation to Senate Executive Committee by the end of the year. Next steps are that Duncker will meet with the ADRs outside of SGRC, and in parallel the Secretariat team will be conducting further research on comparator institutions.

A task force has been developed to review institutional partnerships and how the University conducts work in this space. The taskforce will be led by Christiane Lemieux and Ian Milligan and the first meeting will take place on October 1st.

Woudsma spoke to the following: ongoing work around Graduate WIL space; applied research for Graduate WIL will tie in with work underway with D. DeVidi and the recently presented "Alternative Credentials Framework report (to Senate earlier this year); co-op fees approval will be moving forward to the Board.

Woudsma invited Mike Grivicic to speak to the implementation of the Board Effect Portal, and he observed that implementation will include a "shadow period" where SharePoint and Board Effect will run simultaneously, where eventually BoardEffect will be the main portal for information and documentation related to all governance work. If members have any questions, please reach out to the Secretariat.

Mike Grivicic introduced Ashley Day, a new member of the Secretariat team who will be supporting this council and other governance bodies within the Senate Portfolio.

9. New Program: MASc and PhD in Biomedical Engineering

Siva Sivoththaman presented on behalf of SYDE, ECE and MME who are seeking to establish a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and research-based Master of Applied Science (MASc) degrees in Biomedical Engineering (BME). He noted: the proposal is a natural evolution of the undergraduate BME which launched 10 years ago; a number of faculty have been hired in this area to support the undergraduate program and will now support graduate research through these new programs; expected admission of 100 students for first cohort; feedback in the approval process to date have been very supportive, including the full support of the Dean.

A motion was heard to recommend the proposal to Senate as part of the regular agenda, as presented. Sivoththaman and Ross. Carried.

10. Research Centres and Institutes: Waterloo Centre for Astrophysics (WCA) Renewal

Will Percival presented in support of the renewal of the WCA and spoke to the following: the research centre has doubled its publication rate since 2018; increased uptake in courses in the same period; WCA currently has 16 postdoctoral students and carries a stature where WCA is competing with Harvard and the Hubble Fellows program; there has been an increased effort for outreach via Outreach Coordinator Roan Haggart; including Ontario Postsecondary Access and Inclusion Program, events at the Kitchener Public Library; future directions for the WCA are to continue to do world class astronomy research, expand outreach and to secure funding to maintain the momentum that the WCA has gained. A motion was heard to approve report on behalf of Senate, as presented. Ferrer and Sivoththaman. Carried.

11. 2025 THE Digital Health Summit

Catherine Burns provided a presentation on the upcoming Times Higher Education Digital Health Summit which will take place April 11 & 12, 2025. She highlighted the opportunity for Waterloo to promote the institution's thought leadership, demonstrate our impact on our community, set the stage for collaboration and showcase a wide range of topics including Health Policy, Health Technologies, Interventions, Data and public health. There is a planning team in place if members want to be engaged or have questions (Co-Chairs: Kelly McManus and Michael Dorr). Members discussed: how to create awareness in the Faculties; how to participate and to promote engagement of students; please share any recommendations for speakers to either Burns or McManus.

12. Waterloo Values

Melanie Will and Susan Willsie presented an update on the Institutional Values project: values project speaks to UW culture, values and actions, and why they are important; what do we value and how does it shape our culture; aim of the project is for the message go wider, to provide common language, and to connect with the campus community about the work. Next steps include a taskforce being established, values champions being identified, integration into onboarding and performance development, behaviour statements are in progress. Members discussed how changes to existing processes would be made through the taskforce; ensuring people are empowered to make change and the importance of having the right decision makers in the room; using the values as guidelines to daily work and decision making.

As an additional resource, Imperial College offers case studies on their website that offers context as a follow-up to the conversation: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/values/embedding-the-values/casestudies/> The Waterloo Values can be found on the Values webpage: <https://uwaterloo.ca/values/>

13. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business in the open session, Council moved into confidential session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024, 10:30 a.m. to noon in NH 3318.