

University of Waterloo
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Minutes of the Tuesday 6 February 2024 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Nasser Abukhdeir, Michael Ashmore, Marc Aucoin, Aubrey Basdeo, Linda Blair, Jack deGooyer, Catherine Dong, Michael Eubanks, Teresa Fortney, Murray Gamble (chair), Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour (secretary), Vivek Goel, Rob Gorbet, Neela Hassan, Nancy Heide, Russell Hiscock, Andre Hladio, Bilal Khan, Ellen MacEachen, Dorothy McCabe, Kristiina Montero, Terry Mundell, Rory Norris, David Porreca, John Saabas, Asher Scaini, Jagdeep Singh Bachher, Berry Vrbanovic, Dan Weber, Stanley Woo

Guests: Sheila Ager, Cristiana Alkiviades, Jean Becker, Alison Boyd, Aldo Caputo, Jeff Casello, MaryAnne Chan, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Nenone Donaldson, Bernard Duncker, Stepanka Elias, Paul Fieguth, Melanie Figueiredo, Jenny Flagler-George, Bruce Frayne, Anne Galang, Diana Goncalves, Yessenia Guerrero, Sarah Hadley, Angela Herman, Michelle Hollis, Chris Houser, Salman Jivani, Diane Johnston, Ross Johnston, Karim Karim, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Norah McRae, Christine McWebb, Lili Liu, Jon Mason, Ian Milligan, Beth Namachchivaya, Catherine Newell-Kelly, Fayaz Noormohamed, Mike Pereira, Chris Read, Jacinda Reitsma, Ian Rowlands, James Rush, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Greg Smith, Karl Shuett, Allan Starr, Sean Thomas, Nickola Voegelin, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Mary Wells, Glen Weppler, Meghan Whitfield, Sarah Willey-Thomas, Katy Wong-Francq, Peter Wood

Regrets: Dominic Barton, Karen Redman, Kevin Strain, Jennisha Wilson

OPEN SESSION

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT ITEMS AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

a) Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

b) Approval of Agenda and Consent Items

Porreca and Weber.

To approve the agenda of the 6 February 2024 Board of Governors meeting, as presented; and, to approve or receive for information consent agenda items 8 a) through c). CARRIED

c) Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Murray Gamble provided opening remarks, which included:

- Recent op-ed published in the Record with respect to the challenges facing the University of Waterloo.
- Special thanks extended to Dr. Norah McRae and the team at CEE for their education session.
- Welcome to Terry Mundell, newest Board member and Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointment.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. General Update

The President delivered a verbal update, which included:

- Community updates.
- University activities with respect to free speech and respectful engagement.
- Recent communication to the University Community regarding emergency response work since the Hagey Hall attack.
- Government updates with respect to post-secondary education, technology and research and study permits.
- Update on the status of changes to Policy 76 and Policy 77.

Discussion ensued around any additional clarity or information available regarding international study permit caps for undergraduate versus graduate students.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

a. Audit & Risk Committee

Russell Hiscock presented the Audit & Risk Committee report to the Board of Governors for information.

b. Building & Properties Committee

John Saabas presented the Building & Properties report to the Board of Governors for information.

c. Finance & Investment Committee

i. Report from the Chair

Michael Ashmore presented the Finance & Investment Committee report to the Board for Information.

ii. 2023/24 Operating Budget Update and Planning for 2024/25

James Rush presented the 2023/24 Operating Budget and planning update for 2024/25 budget. The Board discussed where there are reductions to non-salary expenses; risks associated with reductions to deferred maintenance; innovative strategies to manage finances; large proportion of costs are salaries and associated benefits; need for a public awareness campaign; engagement of donors; threat of future budget years; and layers of policy impacting the financial situation of the University.

iii. 2024/25 Tuition Fees and Co-op Fees

James Rush presented the 2024/25 Tuition Fees and Co-op fees.

The Board discussed impact of changes to out-of-province tuition; advocacy opportunities for students; impact of increases to international student tuition; impact of taxpayer funding on student fees.

Ashmore and Singh Bachher.

That on the recommendation of the Finance & Investment Committee that the Board of Governors approve the proposed tuition rate increases and co-op fees for 2024-25, as presented. CARRIED with two opposed.

iv. 2024/25 Campus Housing and Student Services Fees

James Rush presented the 2024/25 Campus Housing and Student Fees. The Board discussed consultation undertaken with students; the need to offer high quality on campus housing; use of funds generated by increase in campus housing fees.

Ashmore and Dong.

That on the recommendation of the Finance & Investment Committee that the Board of Governors approve the proposed campus housing residence fee rates for 2024-25, as presented and to be in effect for the 2024 Fall semester. CARRIED

Jacinda Reitsma presented the Student Services Fees. The Board discussed the rationale for the increase in the Centre for Career Development fees and rationale for large increases in some fees this year.

Ashmore and MacEachen.

That the Finance & Investment Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the student services fees for all full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students effective 1 May 2024. CARRIED

d. Governance Committee

i. Report from the Chair

Murray Gamble presented the Governance Committee Report to the Board for information.

ii. Annual Board Evaluation

Gamble reminded the Board to participate in the Annual Board evaluation survey and outlined the timeline for response and next steps.

e. Pension & Benefits

Teresa Fortney presented the Pension & Benefits Committee Report to the Board for information.

5. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

a. Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Program Review Report

David DeVidi presented the Undergraduate and Graduate Program Review Report to the Board of Governors for information.

6. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL

a. 2023 Annual Report

Charmaine Dean presented the 2023 Annual Research Report to the Board of Governors for Information. The Board discussed equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) related targets in a Canadian context; guidance regarding intellectual property developed during hackathons; and metrics available on retention of intellectual property.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters for other business.

The Chair recognized a group of visitors in attendance and offered the floor. A member of the group voiced their grave concern about the Israel-Hamas war and ongoing conflict in Gaza, and the University's public response to the situation. A brief disruption ensued and the Chair called for order.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved, or received for information, as part of the consent agenda:

- a. Minutes of the 31 October 2023 Meeting*
- b. Report of the Vice-President, Academic & Provost*
 - i. Sabbatical and Administrative Leaves*
 - ii. Promotion to Professor*
 - iii. Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions Update*
 - iv. Co-op and Experiential Education Annual Report*
- c. Executive Committee Report*

The Board convened in confidential session.

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