

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the January 27, 2025 Meeting

Present: Steven Bednarski, Sue Ann Campbell, Ashley Day (secretary), Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean (chair), Mrityika Dreesha, Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Alison Hitchens, Abhishesh Homagain, Brian Ingalls, Julie Joza, Brian Laird, Joseph Meleshko, Ian Milligan, Marina Mourtzakis, Nicholas Pellegrino, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Siva Sivoththaman, Shirley Tang, Clarence Woudsma, Alfred Yu

Resources/Guests: Christine Barbeau, Laura Deakin, Maysah Eid, Adrian Gerlich, Mike Grivicic, Amir Khajepour, Justin Wan, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Mary Power, Mirko Vucicevich

Absent: David Clausi, Robert de Loe, Neela Hassan, Carlee Ann Montgomery

Organization of Meeting: Charmaine Dean took the chair and Ashley Day acted as secretary. The secretary advised that 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. Milligan and Bednarski. Carried

2. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. GRADUATE AWARDS

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

4. CLINICAL RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

Council approved the new member for CREB.

5. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council approved items 5.1-5.5 on behalf of Senate.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed Alfred Yu, Assistant Vice-President, Research and International, and Director Research Partnerships as a new member of SGRC.

Dean provided an update on the restructuring of SGRC. As previously mentioned, the Secretariat, with Dean, Duncker and Woudsma have formed a working group to conduct further research and more in-depth environmental scans into comparators of the Senate Graduate and Research Council across the U15, including direct conversations with U15 members. The working group has also been refining a proposal and draft terms of reference based on the environmental scan and best governance practices in the sector. An engagement session is currently being planned for SGRC members to provide feedback and input into the proposal. The March 17th SGRC will be extended into the lunch hour to accommodate the discussion. Any recommendations from this council will need to be heard and approved by Senate. At this time, September 1, 2025 is the likely effective date for any implementation.

Dean spoke to a number of tri-agency updates. There is discussion to create a capstone organization to bring together the three granting agencies, with plans to move forward after the fall economic statement. Progress has been delayed due to the ongoing talks of a federal election and will resume once a new government is in place. The three agencies are committed to improving collaboration across their areas,

and a document outlining this will be shared with the community. A new tri-agency grant management system is being developed, which will impact the common CV format, transitioning to a more narrative-based style. The joint committee framework for adjudicating student scholarships across all three agencies is near completion.

Woudsma spoke to the recent information on caps for enrolment and the implications for Waterloo. Colleges can now apply to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) for applied master's programs. Conestoga is putting two programs forward, including a Master of Applied Computer Science. Waterloo has provided a letter to the MCU regarding the colleges' applications.

8. WATERLOO CENTRE FOR AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH (WatCAR) RENEWAL

Khajepour, on behalf of WatCAR, gave a brief presentation and overview of the centre. The centre aims to position itself for changes in the industry and align with future funding opportunities. The council discussed the presentation and the renewal of the centre in camera.

A motion was heard to approve the report to renew the Waterloo Centre for Automotive Research on behalf of Senate, as presented. Campbell and Tang. Carried.

9. CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS JOINING (CAMJ) RENEWAL

Gerlich, on behalf of CAMJ, presented a summary of the centre and its state of the art facilities. The overview included a highlight of the research collaborators, the strategy for the future of the centre, and the objectives related to facilities and student recruitment were discussed. The council then discussed the presentation and the renewal of the centre in camera.

A motion was heard to approve the report to renew the Centre for Advanced Materials Joining on behalf of Senate, as presented. Sivoththaman and Ferrer. Carried.

The Chair remarked that a document to guide SGRC on renewals will be brought forward for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

10. SENATE COURSE OUTLINE REPORT

Deakin and Power, with Barbeau and 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, update the required list of basic elements in course outlines, and update the boilerplate text required in course outlines for accessibility and mental health supports. Deakin and Power clarified that boiler plate language related to policy can be pulled into the outline by instructors. The council noted appreciation of the choice of language related to generative AI while maintaining consistency across Faculties and its relevance to capstone considerations. Chair Dean asked that any additional questions or feedback can be shared with Mike Grivicic in the Secretariat.

Overall, the committee was in agreement with the recommendations and the Chair remarked that the item will be presented at Senate Undergraduate Council on January 28th, 2025 for recommendation to Senate.

11. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

11.1 Faculty of Engineering

Sivoththaman spoke to the three proposed programs, Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical Engineering - Health Technologies, Master of Engineering (MEng) in Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering - Health Technologies, and Master of Management Science (MMSc) - Health Technologies. The new programs would be based on the home department of each degree. Engineering currently has four researched based collaborative programs at the graduate level. The proposed programs will align well with the CREATE grant proposal process and there is strong alignment between research expertise and learning.

Wan commented that terminology and descriptions will need to be adjusted for the graduate academic calendar to include the list of courses.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the proposed new academic programs of MEng in Chemical Engineering - Health Technologies; MEng in Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering - Health

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Technologies; MSc - Health Technologies as presented; and, that the effective date be either May 1, 2025 or September 1, 2025. Sivoththaman and Hitchens. Carried

11.2 Faculty of Environment

Deadman introduced the major modifications for the Faculty of Environment. The School of Planning is joining the Collaborative Water Program (CWP) and is proposing a new Water program for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Planning. The dissolution of the Joint Geography program previously offered with Wilfrid Laurier University has resulted in a number of changes to the MA, MES, MSc, and PhD in Geography. The Faculty is also proposing to add a course work study option in MES in Sustainability Management program.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the following major modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Planning – Water, MA in Geography, MES in Geography, MSc in Geography, PhD in Geography, MES in Sustainability Management effective 1 May 2025, as presented. Deadman and Ferrer. Carried.

11.3 Faculty of Health

Laird presented the rationale for removing the Aging and Health field from the PhD in Public Health Sciences. Laird then spoke to the proposed program changes for Master of Health Informatics (MHI). The program name is being updated to "Master of Health Informatics and Analytics" to reflect evolving industry demands and allowing for two new specializations, Health Informatics and Advanced Analytics, to addresses the need for expertise in these areas.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the following major modifications to the PhD in Public Health Sciences and Master of Health Informatics (MHI), effective 1 May 2025, as presented. Laird and Deadman. Carried

11.4 Faculty of Science

Ross presented the proposed revisions to the PhD and MSc in Biology Graduate Research Fields. The Graduate Research Fields do not reflect the current department following numerous retirements over the past 15 years and the changing names of disciplines.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the following major modifications to the PhD and MSc in Biology Graduate research fields, effective 1 May 2025, as presented. Ross and Dunker. Carried

12. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in NH 3318.

January 31, 2024

Ashley Day
Governance Officer
Secretariat