

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the March 24, 2025 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Judy Castaneda, Laura Deakin, Mark Ferro, Vivek Goel (chair), Mike Grivicic (secretary), Christiane Lemieux, Carol Ann MacGregor, David Porreca, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Rida Sayed, Mark Seasons, James Skidmore, Sharon Tucker, Clarence Woudsma

Guests: Ashley Day; David DeVidi; Jenny Flagler-George, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour; Diana Goncalves, Andrea Kelman

Regrets: Avery Akkerman

1. Approval of the Minutes

1.1 Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Meeting. A motion was heard to approve the minutes as presented. Seasons and Porreca. Carried.

1.2 Business Arising. There was no business arising.

2. Delegation of Authority for the Roster of Graduands

2.1 Delegation of Authority for the Roster of Graduands

Goel spoke to the report, noting that this process to delegate authority for the roster of graduands has been in place since 2023 and has been working well. The delegation of authority supports the operational needs of convocation which can include last-minute approvals to facilitate a student walking across the stage.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the delegation of its authority for the approval of the roster of graduands jointly to the chair and vice-chair of Senate, for convocation ceremonies scheduled in June 2025 and October 2025;

And to recommend that Senate direct that a report on the complete roster of graduands be presented for information to the Senate meeting following the relevant convocation.

Porreca and Deakin. Carried.

3. Senate Agenda Preparation

3.1 Draft Senate Meeting Book for April 7, 2025

The committee reviewed the draft meeting book and highlighted major items of business, including anticipated report of the Senate Finance Committee recommending the 2025-26 operating budget. A comprehensive budget package will be available for the joint Board and Senate preview session on March 28th. The elections report contains the names of faculty Senators who have been nominated to date. There will be an opportunity on the Senate floor to self-nominate with the vote taking place from April 9th to 16th. The Secretariat will update the report with the department and Faculty of each nominee.

Under the consent agenda is a report from the Provost regarding the University Professor designations. Goel proposed to move this item to the regular agenda so the names may be ready into the record. Members agreed with this change.

For item 3.2 on the Senate agenda, members identified areas where proposed edits reduced the clarity of the policy language, and suggested that the policy be renamed '**Department Chair or School Director**'. Rush and Porreca spoke on behalf of the Faculty Relations Committee regarding the prospective edits and the committee agreed that the item shall be removed from the April agenda so that further edits may be considered and a final version be brought forward for an upcoming Senate cycle. Rush and Porreca will sign off on further prospective amendments to the policy and bring said amendments forward at the next Faculty Relations Committee meeting in two weeks. Further feedback from Council members should be sent to Gauthier-Chalifour to be compiled for Rush and Porreca.

A motion was heard to approve the April 7, 2025 Senate agenda, as amended. Porreca and Deakin. Carried.

3.2 Submission for Senate Bylaw Amendment

Goel spoke to the submission from a Senator which requests to add *ex officio* staff representation to Senate, specifically to add the president of the University of Waterloo Staff Association (UWSA). He observed that the *University of Waterloo Act* allows Senate to add ex-officio members to its membership with the requirement of maintaining the faculty member majority on Senate.

Members acknowledged the merits of the proposal and affirmed the rationale of fostering staff representation on Senate. Members discussed how best to move this item forward, observing that UWSA does not represent all non-academic staff and that the proposed bylaw amendment may not fully rectify the concerns about staff having a voice at Senate. It was suggested that consultations with UWSA and staff unions take place to understand their perspectives and to ascertain how they might wish to be represented on Senate. Members agreed that more information would enable informed consideration of a prospective bylaw change, and that an environmental scan of comparator institutions would be helpful. Evidence of engagement and consultation with the staff associations/unions on campus also would strengthen the proposal.

By consensus members directed that the Secretariat prepare a report under the committee's signature to bring forward as part of the April Senate agenda, with the report enunciating the observations made by this committee for consideration by Senate and a recommendation that a revised draft report reflective of those observations be prepared for an upcoming meeting of the committee.

4. Other Business

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday April 21, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 25, 2025
/ad

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary