

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the May 26, 2025 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Laura Deakin, Mark Ferro, Vivek Goel (chair), Mike Grivicic (secretary), 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, Judy Castaneda, Christiane Lemieux

1. Approval of the Minutes

1.1 Minutes of the April 21, 2025 Meeting

Porreca had relayed a few minor typographical amendments to the secretary. A motion was heard to approve the minutes as amended. Porreca and Robinson. Carried.

1.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

Two items were noted: the University Secretary will embark on consultations with staff groups in the coming months regarding potential Senate representation, and the prospective second reading of amendments to Senate Bylaw 2 (with the first reading having occurred at the May 2025 meeting of Senate).

2. Report to Senate Executive Committee

2.1 Senate Executive Committee: Elections to Senate Committees and Councils

The chair noted that the slate was developed with input from senators gleaned through a survey of their committee preferences, and some spaces which are currently showing as vacancies are expected to be filled in the time ahead of the Senate meeting. As per custom, the recommendation to Senate also includes a recommendation that Senate delegate its authority to this committee to fill any remaining vacancies.

The committee noted amendments to the recommended slate: add M. Ferro to the Senate Executive Committee membership as the faculty member from Health; switch N. Abukhdeir from FAUW member to Engineering member on the Senate Planning and Finance Committee. The chair indicated that for the Honorary Degrees Committee, it is preferable that faculty representatives be engaged in those processes in their respective Faculties.

A motion was heard that Senate Executive Committee accept and recommend that Senate approve the membership of Senate committees and councils for 2025-26, as presented on the list of nominees, as amended, and that Senate Executive Committee recommend that Senate delegate approval for any remaining or subsequent vacancies to the Senate Executive Committee. Porreca and MacGregor. Carried.

3. Senate Agenda Preparation

3.1 Draft Senate Meeting Book for June 9, 2025

The committee reviewed the draft Senate agenda and meeting book. The report from Senate Undergraduate Council will be reduced in volume, with hyperlinking to the supporting documentation. The item currently listed as item 10 on the agenda will be changed to item 8.3, to be a report from this committee. Members noted the Advancement report and affirmed this proactive disclosure. A motion was heard to approve the June 9, 2025 Senate agenda, as amended. Robinson and Porreca. Carried.

4. Report of the University Secretary

4.1 Senate Governance Review - Remaining activity through 2026

Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, University Secretary, noted certain projects and deliverables envisioned to be brought forward in the coming year including: roles and responsibilities document, developed by and for senators; guidance and procedures for senators to bring forward an item of business to Senate; potential consideration for time limits or other appropriate limitations to govern Senate discussions/debate. A working group of senators supported by the Secretariat is envisioned for some projects, and if the committee were in agreement the Secretariat will develop such a proposal to bring forward in the Fall term. By consensus, members agreed with this approach.

4.2 Update on Senate Visitor Guidelines

Gauthier-Chalifour indicated that visitor registration processes will be updated to require advance registration for in-person attendance and to signal that visitors may be asked to show government or university-issued identification to access the meeting room. In parallel, access to the meeting through

electronic means will be expanded through the provision of a live transmission via webcast. The chair noted that at the time when the visitor guidelines were approved at Senate, there were concerns expressed by some senators at requiring identification noted at that time. The University has examined best practices at other institutions and comparable organizations, with most having some degree of security screening, registration in advance etc. For individuals who are disinclined to present identification, the expanded access to livestreaming is available without any requirement for identification. The proposed changes were brought to the President's Advisory Committee on Freedom of Expression while still under initial consideration, for their advice and input. It was noted in discussion that with access to live transmission, it is not possible to stop individuals from recording the meeting, (e.g. with screen recording software).

5. Other Business

With no further business, the meeting moved into confidential session. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday September 8, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.