

Senate Graduate Council

Open Session

September 17, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Needles Hall

NH 3318

Waterloo Campus

Think Differently | Act with Purpose | Work Together

2025 09 17 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book

AGENDA

Governance Resources

[Link to Governance Resources](#)

1. Conflict of Interest

1.1. Conflict of Interest - Excerpt from Senate Bylaw 1 3

1:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the item on the consent agenda, listed as item 2 below.

2. Graduate Awards and Scholarships

2.1. Awards and Scholarships for Approval Decision 4

Regular Agenda

1:05 p.m.

3. Chair's Remarks [Wan] Information

1:15 p.m.

4. Introduction and Orientation [Wan] Information

[4.1. Membership and Terms of Reference](#)

1:30 p.m.

5. Items Proposed for 2025/26 [Wan] Discussion

1:45 p.m.

6. Updates on TA/RA Unionization [Wan] Information

2:00 p.m.

7. Appointment/Election of AQuE Members [Wan] Decision

[7.1. AQuE Terms of Reference](#)

2:15 p.m.

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

Next meeting of SGC is scheduled for October 23, 2025.

Excerpt from Senate Bylaw 1

8. Declarations of conflict of interest

8.01	At the beginning of each meeting of Senate or any of Senate's committees or councils, the chair will call for members to declare any conflicts of interest with regard to any agenda item. For agenda items to be discussed in closed session, the chair will call for declarations of conflict of interest at the beginning of the closed portion of the meeting. Members may nonetheless declare conflicts at any time during a meeting.
8.02	A member shall be considered to have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest, when the opportunity exists for the member to use confidential information gained as a member of Senate, or any of Senate's committees or councils, for the personal profit or advantage of any person, or use the authority, knowledge or influence of the Senate, or a committee or council thereof, to further her/his personal, familial or corporate interests or the interests of an employee of the university with whom the member has a marital, familial or sexual relationship.
8.03	Members who declare conflicts of interest shall not enter into debate nor vote upon the specified item upon which they have declared a conflict of interest. The chair will determine whether it is appropriate for said member to remove themselves from the meeting for the duration of debate on the specified item(s).
8.04	Where Senate or a committee or council of Senate is of the opinion that a conflict of interest exists that has not been declared, the body may declare by a resolution carried by two-thirds of its members present at the meeting that a conflict of interest exists and a member thus found to be in conflict shall not enter into debate on the specified item upon which they have declared a conflict of interest. The chair will determine whether it is appropriate for said member to remove themselves from the meeting for the duration of debate on the specified item(s).

August 25, 2025

TO: Ashley Day, Associate University Secretary
Tony Ly, Governance Officer

FROM: Heidi Mussar, Associate Director, Graduate Financial Aid & Awards

RE: Agenda items for Senate Graduate Council – September 2025

Awards for Consent

1. Abundance Award for Women – trust

An award, valued at \$25,000, will be provided annually to a full-time, woman-identifying undergraduate or graduate student engaged in Velocity. Selection is based on the impact the award will have on the candidate's ability to pursue their educational and entrepreneurial goals. Candidates are required to complete the Velocity Cornerstone Program to be eligible. Interested students must complete the application found on the Velocity website by the advertised deadline. This fund is made possible by a donation from Robin Todd to support women-identifying founders and entrepreneurs.

Total gift = \$100k; the period of this defined award will be from 2026 to 2029 with first selection being made in winter 2026 and the last in winter 2029.

2. CWB Welding Foundation Graduate Scholarship – trust

One scholarship, valued at \$15,000, will be provided annually to a graduate student registered full time in the Master's or Doctoral program in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering; preference will be given to doctoral candidates. Selection will be based on academic excellence along with demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in the materials joining and allied technologies services industry. Interested students should submit an application found on the Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering website by October 1st. This fund is made possible by a donation from the CWB Welding Foundation.

Note: students who applied for the CWB Welding Foundation Graduate Scholarship for Women will be automatically considered for this scholarship without the need for a separate application.

Total gift: \$45,000

3. Master's of Data Science Award – operating

Awards will be provided annually to graduate students in the Master of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (MDSAI) and the Master of Mathematics in Data Science (MMath in DS) programs, in the Faculty of Mathematics. Selection will be made based on various factors that may include some or all of the following: academic excellence and/or demonstrated research ability or potential; student leadership; best co-op reports. The selection will be made annually by the Data Science Graduate Program Director(s) and the Awards subcommittee of the Data Science program.

4. Layer 6 – TD Graduate Scholarship in Data and AI – trust

Two scholarships, each valued at \$15,000, will be provided to PhD students registered full time at the University of Waterloo. Selection will be based on academic excellence and demonstrated research interest in the areas of Large Language Models, Agentic Systems,

Tabular Data Modelling, or Trustworthy AI. The Waterloo Data & Artificial Intelligence Institute will select recipients based on an award application with award payments starting in the fall term. This fund is made possible by a donation from TD.

Total gift: \$30,000

5. Master's of Computational Mathematics Award – operating

Awards will be provided annually to select students registered full time in the Master's of Computational Mathematics (MMath in CM) programs, in the Faculty of Mathematics. Selection will be made based on various factors which may include some or all of the following: academic excellence; overall performance based on the quality and presentation of student's research; outstanding performance as a teaching assistant. The selection will be made annually by the Computational Mathematics Director and the Graduate Committee of the Computational Mathematics program.

Items for Information

6. RBC Graduate Scholarship – trust

Originally established in April 2023, the award is being updated to update the selection criteria to include an application. Previously, the award did not require students to apply; instead the Schools of Accounting and Finance, and Environment, Enterprise and Development would nominate students automatically based on their allocation of funds available.

The updated process will be that the Schools notify their respective registered students of the scholarship opportunity, application requirements and deadline in the spring term.

7. Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology (WIN) – Velocity Scholarship – operating

Originally established in December 2021 and amended in March and September 2023, two existing conditions in the terms are being amended as follows:

- Removal of the restriction that the award only be for master's students
- Removal of the restriction that students must be in the Faculties of Engineering or Science
- Updating the value so it will be the minimum based on the student's home department/Faculty.

8. Engineering Dean's Entrance Award – operating

The Faculty of Engineering would like to amend the terms of reference (previously updated in March 2021) as follows:

- Clarifying the eligibility criteria for students applying for admission to the doctoral program. Similar to those applying for an MASc program in Engineering, doctoral applicants must also have a minimum of 85% in the last 20 completed courses/two years or overall in their last completed degree program *from a Canadian institution*. The amendment takes effect for any new awards offered from May 2025 onwards.
- Adding the criterion that recipients of this award cannot concurrently receive the Dean of Engineering Master's Excellence Award.

9. Dean of Engineering Master's Excellence Award – operating

The Faculty of Engineering would like to amend the terms of reference, originally created in September 2024, to add the following criterion:

- Recipients of this award cannot concurrently receive the Engineering Dean's Entrance Award, effective for Winter 2026 admissions onwards.

10. Brian. M. Jessop Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries Science – endowment

Originally established in September 2019 and amended in December 2019, the goal was to provide at least one award valued at \$9,000 annually to a graduate student in either the

master's or doctoral program. Given that the endowment expendable will allow it, the award is now being amended so that at least one award valued at \$9,000 will be awarded annually to a doctoral student, and at least one award of \$7,000 will be awarded to a master's student. The updated award description is as follows:

Awards valued at \$9,000 for doctoral students, and \$7,000 for master's students, will be provided annually for graduate students registered full time in the Department of Biology in the Faculty of Science. Selection will be based on academic achievement (minimum 80% cumulative average) over the last two full-time academic years and interest in the biology and/or management of freshwater and/or diadromous fishes in Canada. This fund is made possible by a donation from Brian Jessop, to financially reward students with such interests at the University of Waterloo.

11. CWB Welding Foundation Graduate Scholarship for Women – trust

Originally established in 2023 with the last award being given in 2024, this gift is being renewed to provide awards up to 2027. A couple of minor edits include that while open to both master's and doctoral students, preference will be given to doctoral; and while previously to be awarded in both fall and winter terms, recipients will now normally be selected each fall term.

The updated award description is as follows:

One scholarship, valued at \$15,000, will be provided annually to a woman-identifying graduate student registered full time in the Master's or Doctoral program in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering; preference will be given to doctoral candidates. Selection will be based on academic excellence along with demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in the materials joining and allied technologies services industry. Interested students should submit an application found on the Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering website by October 1st. This fund is made possible by a donation from the CWB Welding Foundation.

12. Christine & David Edwards Graduate Studies Travel Award – trust

Originally established in 2016, this award is being renewed with a few modifications to better align with the centrally, GSPA-administered Graduate Studies Research Dissemination Award. The award will no longer be paid on a reimbursement basis but rather as an award through Quest.

The updated award description is as follows:

A limited number of awards, valued up to \$500 each, will be provided annually to graduate students registered full time in the School of Pharmacy. Interested students should complete the Conference Funding Application. This fund is made possible by a donation from David Edwards in memory of Christine Edwards.