

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the October 6, 2025 Meeting**  
**[in agenda order]**

**Present:** Ashley Day [Secretary], Laura Deakin, Tom Duever [Acting Chair], Mark Ferro, Nadine Ibrahim, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, Damian Mikhail, David Porreca, Jessica Rindlisbacher, Rida Sayed, Mark Seasons, James Skidmore, Justin Wan

**Resources/Guests:** David DeVidi, Jenny Flagler-George, Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, Tony Ly

**Regrets:** Vivek Goel [Chair], Vikas Gupta

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. Approval of the Minutes**

**1.1 Minutes of the September 8, 2025 Meeting**

No amendments were brought forward. A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 meeting. Skidmore and Ibrahim. Carried.

**1.2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**2. Remarks from the Chair**

The Acting Chair, Tom Duever, noted he would be chairing the meeting in the Chair's absence.

**3. Report to Senate Executive Committee**

**3.1. Senate Engagement Working Group Update**

Gauthier-Chalifour gave a brief overview of how the proposed membership slate was developed. Efforts were made to include as many interested senators as possible. Considerations during the discussion included gender balance, academic governance experience, and diversity of perspectives. It was clarified that the working group is a time-limited appointment, with the intention that it will conclude its recommendations before the June 2026 Senate meeting.

It was noted that three alumni members of Senate expressed disappointment that they could not participate due to the composition of the working group and lack of a designated seat for an alumni member. SEC members discussed the possibility of adding an alumni role to the working group, which would require approval by Senate. Following discussion, members agreed to retain the membership structure as approved by Senate.

Members then discussed the proposed co-chairs and SEC roles, including the skills and experience each individual would bring to the working group. Having put his name forward for consideration, Damian Mikhail recused himself from the meeting. Members discussed the benefits of the remaining interested individuals and perspectives that would be brought to the working group.

A motion was heard that the Senate Executive Committee appoint the proposed members (item 1.1 - 1.2) to the Senate Engagement Working Group, as follows:

Co-Chairs:

- Laura Deakin

- Marcus Shantz

SEC Members:

- Carol Ann MacGregor
- Damian Mikhail

And that the Senate Executive Committee recommend that Senate appoint the names of the faculty, student, and alumni members (item 2.1-2.3) to be appointed to the Senate Engagement Working Group, as follows:

- 2.1 6 Faculty Senators
  - Arts – James Skidmore
  - Health – Martin Cooke
  - Engineering – David Clausi
  - Environment – Rob Gorbet
  - Mathematics – Hans De Sterck
  - Science – Stan Woo
- 2.2 1 Undergraduate Student Senator
  - Alex Pawelko
- 2.3 1 Graduate Student Senator
  - Jessica Rindlisbacher

Deakin and Porreca. Carried.

### **3.2. Senate By-Election Update**

Ashley Day, Secretary to SEC, provided a brief update on the status of the Senate By-Election currently underway. The election process opened on October 1 and will close on October 8. A report with the results is to be included in the final October 20, 2025 Senate package for information.

## **4. Senate Agenda Preparation**

### **4.1. Senate Work Plan 25/26**

This item was provided for information only.

### **4.2. Draft Senate Agenda for October 20, 2025**

The committee reviewed the draft Senate meeting book and discussed the main items on the regular agenda. A member inquired if the Presidential update at the October meeting would address if Federal budget would have any impact on the University's operating budget. The Acting Chair noted this would likely be included in the Chair remarks. Another member inquired about the materials for item 10. Guidelines for Collective Bodies which were not included in the draft package. Gauthier-Chalifour noted that the material had not yet been received by the Secretariat and would be distributed to SEC ahead of the Senate package distribution, if possible.

A motion was heard to approve the October 20, 2025 Senate agenda, as presented. Seasons and Deakin. Carried.

## **5. Other Business**

No items of other business were identified.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:18 p.m.

It was noted the next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee will be held on November 10, 2025.

October 6, 2025

Ashley Day  
Associate University Secretary