

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the October 16, 2025 Meeting**

**Present:** Yasmeen Almomani, Hassan Baaj, Michael Beazley, Steven Bednarski, Sara Burch, Sue Ann Campbell, Trevor Charles, Richard Cook, Rob de Loë, Charmaine Dean [Chair], Ana Ferrer, Peter Hall, Sara Hart, Todd Holyoak, Alison Hitchens, Suzanne Kearns, Misha Khan, Tony Ly [Secretary], Ellen MacEachen, Ian Milligan, Sushanta Mitra, Marina Mourtzakakis, Kirsten Muller, Amir Nazemi, Neil Randall, Justin Wan, Jeffrey Wilson, Stan Woo, Alfred Yu

**Resources/Guests:** Melissa Benjamin, Wendy de Gomez, Bernard Duncker, Diane Johnston

**Regrets:** Raouf Boutaba, Tom Duever, Vivek Goel, Nicholas Pellegrino

**Organization of Meeting:** Charmaine Dean took the chair and Tony Ly acted as secretary. The secretary advised that quorum was present.

**1. Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**2. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members to the first Senate Research and Innovation Council meeting after the restructuring of the Senate Graduate and Research Council. Justin Wan is currently serving as the Chair of the Senate Graduate Council. Tony Ly is the Secretary to both councils. There is a joint meeting with the Senate Graduate Council on January 13, 2026.

**3. Introduction and Orientation**

Roundtable introductions were made. The Chair provided an overview of the scope and mandate of the Senate Research and Innovation Council, as well as the role of each member. The Terms of Reference for the Senate Research and Innovation Council was reviewed. It was noted that the renewals for the Centres and Institutes were paused because of the Global Futures initiative. Müller will contact the Faculties about a timeline for the renewal process.

**4. Research Strategic Plan**

Duncker and de Gomez presented an updated Research Strategic Plan. Research reports were made publicly available and the goal is to communicate and highlight the results. Consultation and engagement with various stakeholders across campus was completed. The Research Strategic Plan includes high level goals aligned with Waterloo at 100 and includes thematic areas that are similar to Global Futures. The Deans will be asked to review this report to help identify any gaps. Members recommended changes to the language in some areas of the report and to highlight the following: University of Waterloo's top researchers; research funding; and the university's research strengths.

**5. Items Proposed for 2025/26**

Members discussed and shared ideas for potential upcoming items at the Senate Research and Innovation Council meetings in 2025/26. Members requested the following items brought forward at future meetings: DORA; CREATE grant proposals; statement and procedures on principles for institutional partnerships; research security plan; Global Futures; the role of Centres and Institutes; entrepreneurship and startup needs. Additional proposed items should be sent to the Secretary.

## **6. Report from Senate Graduate Council**

de Loë provided an update from the Senate Graduate Council. Key discussion points from council members included: graduate funding; strategic priorities for graduate education; and support for international graduate students. GSPA is reviewing data regarding graduate funding and the information will be presented at a future SGC meeting. Council members highlighted different needs from their respective Faculty/Department, which includes developing a sustainable research funding model to hire graduate research assistants and a strategic enrollment plan for graduate and postdoctoral students.

## **7. Other Business**

A member requested an updated list of Centres and Institutes. Müller provided the URL link for [Research Centres and Institutes](#).

## **8. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The joint meeting of the Senate Research and Innovation Council plus Senate Graduate Council is scheduled on January 13, 2026 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m in NH 3318. The next meeting of the Senate Research and Innovation Council is scheduled on February 12, 2026. from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in NH 3318.