

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the October 23, 2025 Meeting

Present: Mike Beazely, Steven Bednarski, Helen Chen, Charmaine Dean, Rob de Loë, Abhishesh Homagain, Brian Ingalls, Brian Laird, Christiane Lemieux, Tony Ly [Secretary], Lihac Medina, Tizazu Mekonnen, Carter Neal, Christopher Nielsen, Nicholas Pelligrino, Ian Rowlands, Justin Wan [Chair], Clarence Woudsma

Resources/Guests: Angela Christelis, Trevor Clews, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Marianne Simm

Regrets: David Clausi, Tom Duever, Vivek Goel, Alison Hitchens, Brad Pomeroy, Meray Sadek

Organization of Meeting: Justin Wan took the chair and Tony Ly acted as secretary. The secretary advised that quorum was present. The agenda was approved without a formal motion.

1. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Ingalls and Rowland. Carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes of September 17, 2025

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. Graduate Studies Academic Calendar (GSAC) Updates

Council received for information and approved all minor GSAC updates as presented.

4. Graduate Awards and Scholarships

Council received for information and approved all new awards and scholarships.

5. Curricular Submissions

Council approved all curricular submissions items 5.1 – 5.3 on behalf of Senate.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair reviewed the list of items proposed for 2025/26 SGC meetings and asked members to send him any other items of interest.

7. Chair's Remarks

The Chair encouraged good attendance and reminded council members of standard meeting practices such as reviewing materials ahead of time to actively participate in the discussions.

8. Curricular Submissions – Faculty of Engineering

Nielsen presented the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering. Members discussed the changes to the research field and the reporting requirements. Christelis and Molson clarified that there is no ministry regulation that require a research field for a graduate program. Clews was invited to the meeting to help answer questions from council members.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Master of Applied Science (MASc) in Electrical and Computer Engineering programs, effective January 1, 2026, as presented. Mekonnen and Beazley. Carried.

9. Graduate Student Funding

The Chair presented data about graduate student funding among the U15 institutions. The data includes various internal/external funding sources for domestic and international graduate students. The Chair highlighted that the University of Waterloo provides higher amounts of funding for both Masters and Doctoral students on average. An institutional dashboard was presented to illustrate the level of funding provided by each Faculty. Members discussed differences between the Faculties and how research funding is spent to hire staff and students. Members suggested that changes to administrative rules and processes (performance

evaluations and funding forms) could help increase rates of hiring for graduate assistants. The Chair noted that it is difficult to calculate the take home pay for graduate students and asked members to contact GSPA if they would like to request specific data.

10. Other Business

No other items of business were identified.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in NH 3318.