

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the November 10, 2025 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Ashley Day (Secretary), Laura Deakin, Tom Duever (Acting Chair), Mark Ferro, Vikas Gupta, Nadine Ibrahim, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, David Porreca, Rida Sayed, Mark Seasons

Resources/Guests: Nasser Abukhdeir, David DeVidi, Jenny Flager-George, Andrea Kelman, Tony Ly

Regrets: Vivek Goel, Damian Mikhail, Jessica Rindlisbacher, James Skidmore, Justin Wan

1. Approval of Minutes

1.1 Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.2. Minutes of the October 6, 2025 Meeting

No amendments were brought forward. A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2025 meeting. Porreca and Seasons. Carried.

1.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Ashley Day, Associate University Secretary, provided an update on the status of the Senate Engagement Working Group. A Teams site has been created for the working group to be populated with environmental scans of the U15, recent senate survey data and analysis, and discussion questions to guide the working group's first two meetings to be scheduled for November and December.

No other matters of business arising were identified.

2. Remarks from the Chair

2.1. Remarks from the Chair

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

3. Reports to the Senate Executive Committee

3.1. Senate Executive Committee Mandate Review

Day spoke to the memo provided in the meeting materials that notified the committee of the upcoming review of the Senate Executive Committee's (SEC) mandate and terms of reference. This review reflects the University's ongoing review of governance practices and follows recent reviews of other Senate standing committees and councils. The Secretariat will undertake an environmental scan of U15 comparator institutions and findings will be presented to SEC at its January 12, 2026 meeting for discussion and feedback. Members were invited to share any initial comments with the Secretariat for consideration.

3.2. Draft Proposal – Senate Alternative Credentials Committee

David DeVidi, Associate Vice-President, Academic (AVPA), provided an overview of the proposal to create a Senate Alternative Credentials Committee (SACC), as provided in the meeting materials. The [Credentials Framework Report](#) released in Spring 2024 recommended the creation of a new Senate committee to oversee the approval of alternative (non-credit) credentials. Alternative credentials are currently approved by the Alternative Credentials Approval Committee (ACAC), managed by the AVPA Office, but with an increased interest in offering these types of credentials, there is a need to more closely tie the approval process to Senate.

Discussion followed. Members provided feedback including that consideration be given to include an AFIW, student, or alumni member. The committee discussed appropriate next steps and that the proposal should move forward to Senate Undergraduate Council (SUC) and Senate Graduate Council (SGC) for additional consultation and feedback, consistent with the standard approach to the establishment or review of Senate committees and councils with oversight of academic programming, and matters related to graduate and undergraduate education. It is anticipated that both SUC and SGC will need to recommend that the proposal move forward to Senate.

3.3 Draft Proposal – Senate Academic Innovation Committee

Faculty Senator Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering, provided an overview of a proposal to create a Senate Academic Innovation Committee (SAIC), as provided in the meeting materials. In addition to the materials provided, Abukhdeir spoke to the potential inclusion of alternative credentials within the mandate of the SAIC. The rationale for the proposal is to create a standing committee of Senate that is formalized and collegial, provides a long-term solution where elected faculty and students can contribute their expertise, and potentially reduces the number of committees being created should alternative credentials be included in the SAIC terms of reference.

Discussion followed. Members provided feedback and recommendations on the proposal including the need to address areas of duplication with SUC and SGC, and the proposed Senate Alternative Credentials Committee. Members discussed other considerations such as positioning the SAIC as a subcommittee of SUC and SGC, whether such a committee be considered after the Academic Innovation Working Group completes its work in July 2025, and the potential inclusion of discussions of related work at the University such as Strategic Enrolment Management and strategic hubs like the Teaching Innovation Incubator.

Abukhdeir excused himself from the meeting.

The committee continued discussion of appropriate next steps and reached a consensus that the proposal should move forward to SUC and SGC for consultation and feedback, consistent with the standard approach to the establishment or review of Senate committees and councils with oversight of academic programming, and matters related to graduate and undergraduate education. It is anticipated that both SUC and SGC will need to recommend that the proposal move forward to Senate. Additionally, members recommended a memo with a fulsome rationale be included in the materials to SUC and SGC. Members also agreed that a summary of the discussion would be provided to Senate under the Report of the Senate Executive Committee.

4. Senate Agenda Preparation

4.1. Senate Work Plan 25/26

This item was provided for information only.

4.2. Draft Senate Agenda for November 24, 2025

The committee reviewed the draft Senate meeting book and discussed the main items on the regular and confidential agendas. A minor amendment to the minutes was received by the Secretariat. Members discussed the materials for proposed amendments to Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances. It was noted that it had been quite some time since consultations took place with the Associate Deans and appropriate committees and councils of Senate, and that additional consultation would be beneficial to allow more time to put processes in place to support the proposed policy amendments. Members agreed that the item should be removed from the November Senate agenda and brought forward at a future date once consultations are completed.

Day spoke to a request from the Secretariat to add an item to the consent agenda for approval. The item would bring forward a recommendation to appoint a graduate student member to the University Committee on Student Appeals. This appointment would fill the final vacancy on the committee. Members agreed this item should be added to the November Senate agenda.

A motion was heard to approve the November 24, 2025 Senate agenda, as amended. Deakin and Porreca. Carried.

5. Other Business

No items of other business were identified.

6. Adjournment - ensure that the time of adjournment is noted

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m. It was noted that the next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee will be held on January 12, 2026, from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 12, 2025

Ashley Day
Associate University Secretary