

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the November 17, 2025 Meeting

Present: Mike Beazely, Steven Bednarski, Helen Chen, Alison Hitchens, Rob de Loë, Brian Ingalls, Brian Laird, Christiane Lemieux, Tony Ly [Secretary], Carter Neal, Christopher Nielsen, Brad Pomeroy, Ian Rowlands, Meray Sadek, Justin Wan [Chair], Clarence Woudsma

Resources/Guests: Angela Christelis, David DeVidi, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Marianne Simm

Regrets: David Clausi, Charmaine Dean, Tom Duever, Vivek Goel, Abhishesh Homagain, Lilhac Medina, Tizazu Mekonnen, Nicholas Pelligrino

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

1. Governance Resources

2. Consent Agenda

3. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes

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

3.1. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3.2. Approval of the Agenda and Consent Items

Council approved the agenda as distributed.

3.3. Minutes of the October 23, 2025 Meeting

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair noted that information from the graduate funding presentation is confidential and will not be distributed. Members are welcome to contact the Chair with any questions.

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.

6. Regular Agenda

7. Char's Remarks

The Chair noted that the next meeting on January 13, 2026 will be the joint meeting with the Senate Research and Innovation Council.

8. Curricular Submissions

8.1. Faculty of Engineering

Nielsen presented the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering. Members discussed the changes to course requirement and specialization. Nielsen mentioned that 1 out of 3 Master students are taking a specialization.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications to the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical Engineering and the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering programs, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. Nielsen and Lemieux. Carried.

8.2. Faculty of Health

Laird presented the proposal from the Faculty of Health that outlines the name change from Master of Arts (MA) in Recreation and Leisure Studies to Master of Arts (MA) in Sport and Recreation Leadership. Beyond the name change, there are no other changes being proposed. No courses are being changed, the existing thesis option is not being altered, and there are no changes to the learning outcomes.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications to the Master of Arts (MA) in Recreation and Leisure Studies program, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. Laird and Beazeley. Carried.

9. Senate Alternative Credentials Committee

DeVidi presented a framework for the Senate Alternative Credentials Committee (SACC). Historical context for the creation of the Alternative Credentials Approval Committee (ACAC) was provided. SACC will operate similar to ACAC and report to Senate annually. Council members recommended adding students and Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) members on SACC. The Terms of Reference should specify that Senate Undergraduate Council and Senate Graduate Council will still have oversight over courses for credits. The structure and processes of WatSPEED need to be clearer. Members recommended a review of the SACC Terms of Reference within 2-3 years.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the Senate Alternative Credentials Committee (SACC) proposal as presented/amended. Woudsma and de Loë. Carried.

10. Items removed from the Consent Agenda

No item was removed from the consent agenda.

11. Other Business

No other items of business were identified.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The joint meeting of the Senate Graduate Council plus Senate Research and Innovation Council is scheduled on January 13, 2026 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in NH 3318. The next meeting of the Senate Graduate Council is scheduled on January 21, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in NH 3318.