

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the April 7, 2026 Meeting

Present: Katherine Acheson, Faisal Al-Faisal, Veronica Austen, Makenzie Campbell, Benoit Charbonneau, Victoria Chu, Ray Darling, Laura Deakin, David DeVidi [Chair], Tanraj Dulai, Leeanne Ferries, Jason Grove, Tony Ly [Secretary], Carol Ann MacGregor, Sean Meehan, Damian Mikhail, Samantha Pater, Cynthia Richard, Sharon Roberts, Joshua Stainton, Robert Stark, Johanna Wandel, Richard Wikkerink

Resources/Guests: Melissa Benjamin, Martin Cooke, Angela Christelis, Jennifer Coghlin, John Dick, Shawn Gilbertson, Pam Flutters, Danielle Jeanneault, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Samir Sharma, Alisa Sivak, Krysta Traianovski, Ian VanderBurgh

Regrets: Tom Duever, Vivek Goel, Steven Singh, Helena Shilomboleni, William Wong

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

1. Governance Resources

This item was provided for information only.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

2.1. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2.2. Approval of the Agenda and Consent Items

Council approved the agenda as distributed.

2.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair provided an overview of the pathways for renewal of agreements and new agreements. Renewal of agreements will be going forward to Senate Undergraduate Council for information only. New agreements are only brought forward for approval should they contain impacts to curriculum or other major/minor modifications that would otherwise be under the mandate of Senate Undergraduate Council. The Chair spoke to the memo for the Senate Alternative Credentials Committee. Concerns were raised about the memo not addressing all of the comments and feedback provided by Senators.

3. Consent Agenda

Council approved items 3.1 and 3.2 on behalf of Senate.

3.1. Minutes of February 4, 2026 Meeting

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as amended. A council member provided minor amendments for the minutes.

3.2 Curricular Submissions

Council received for information item 3.2.1 and approved items 3.2.2 – 3.2.3 on behalf of Senate.

4. Regular Agenda

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed new members to the Senate Undergraduate Council including the new Registrar and student leaders. The Chair expressed appreciation for a council member, Benoit Charbonneau, support and contribution to Senate Undergraduate Council and the Curriculum Subcommittee.

6. Curricular Submissions

6.1. Report from the SUC Curriculum Subcommittee

Council received a report from the SUC Curriculum Subcommittee for information only.

6.2. Faculty of Science

Deakin presented the major modifications from the Faculty of Science. The proposed changes to remove three Science and Business specializations is aligned with evolving processes. A future proposal for a biotechnology option or minor is anticipated.

A motion was heard to recommend to SUC that Senate approve the major plan modifications for the Biochemistry Specialization, Biology Specialization, and Biotechnology Specialization for the Faculty of Science, effective September 1, 2027. Deakin and Ferries. Carried.

7. EdTech Fee

Fluttert and Gilbertson provided a presentation on the Edtech project and proposed ancillary fee. The proposal aims to address gaps previously identified such as the rising cost of technology and duplication of tools and services across campus. The proposed 2-year pilot project introduces a new \$25 ancillary fee for full-time students. There will be a list of centrally supported software that will reduce duplication and extra costs for educational technology in the classroom. Members expressed general support for improving coordination and cost efficiency, but raised concerns about instructor autonomy, government regulations, and the need for transparency in student costs. Additional consultation will occur with members of the campus community.

8. Velocity Resources and Support for Undergraduate Students

Dick and Traianovski provided a presentation about Velocity and highlighted various programs and funding opportunities that are available for students, staff, and faculty members. Velocity initiatives have demonstrated strong outcomes including high startup survival rates. Velocity aims to bridge the gap into industry by helping entrepreneurs develop new skills and create sustainable impact through its programming. The resources available at Velocity will support student entrepreneurs navigate transition to full-time opportunities, broaden engagement across faculties, and expand co-curricular learning opportunities. Council members emphasized the importance of further outreach to increase awareness of services and clearer pathways for student involvement.

9. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

No item was removed from the consent agenda.

10. Other Business

No other items of business were identified.

11. Confidential Session

12. SUC Mandate Review

Confidential minutes have been removed.

13. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Senate Undergraduate Council will be held on June 16, 2026 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.