

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the June 8, 2026 Meeting

Present: John Abraham, Nasser Abukhdeir, Yasmeen Almomani, Michael Barnett-Cowan, Aubrey Basdeo, Jordan Bauman, Raouf Boutaba, Andrew Chang, David Clausi, Cecilia Cotton, Ray Darling, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Michael Drescher, Thomas Duever, Andrea Edginton, Mark Ferro, Paul Fieguth, Bruce Frayne, Murray Gamble, Gen Gauthier-Chalifour (Secretary), Vivek Goel (Chair), Rob Gorbet, Vikas Gupta, Kevin Hare, Nadine Ibrahim, Marc Jerry, Acey Kaspar, Achim Kempf, Scott Kline, Jochen Koenemann, Sachin Kotecha, John Lewis, Ondrej Lhotak, Jun Liu, Brad Lushman, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, Pendar Mahmoudi, Heather Mair, Colleen Maxwell, Richard Myers, Carter Neal, Christopher Nielsen, James Nugent, Alex Pawelko, Neil Randall, Jacinda Reitsma, Jessica Rindlisbacher, Sharon Roberts, Meray Sadek, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Rida Sayed, Mark Seasons, Marcus Shantz, Samir Sharma, James Skidmore, Karen Sunabacka, Su-Yin Tan, Christopher Taylor, Alexie Tcheuyap, Katie Traynor, Sharon Tucker, Diana Vangelisti, Bojana Videkanic, Justin Wan, Johanna Wandel, Mary Wells, Jeffrey Wilson, Stan Woo, Clarence Woudsma

Regrets: Laith Alkhawaldeh, Veronica Austen, Helen Chen, Martin Cooke, Hans De Sterck, Teresa Fortney, Peter Hall, Chris Houser, Misha Khan, Christiane Lemieux, Christopher Lim, Lili Liu, Shana MacDonald, Peter Meehan, Sushanta Mitra, Nicholas Pellegrino, David Porreca, Arya Razmjoo, Jagdeep Singh Bachher, En-Hui Yang

Resources/Guests: Ashley Day, Ben Doadt, Nenone Donaldson, Melanie Figueiredo, Jenny Flagler-George, Anne Galang, Jennifer Gillies, Diana Goncalves, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Tony Ly, Nick Manning, Ian Milligan, Judene Pretti, Karl Schuett, Kathy Smidt, Greg Smith, Ian VanderBurgh, Nickola Voegelin, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Katy Wong-Francq, Tamara Zur

Organization of Meeting: Vivek Goel took the chair and Gen Gauthier-Chalifour acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present.

1. Governance Resources

This item was provided for information only.

2. OPEN SESSION

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed all members to the last Senate meeting of the governance year. The Chair thanked all outgoing Senators for their contributions, engagement and service, with particular recognition of David DeVidi and James Skidmore, who collectively have more than 40 years of service on Senate. It was noted that Board Chair Murray Gamble has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Engineers Canada Meritorious Service Award for Community Service.

3. Territorial Acknowledgment

Alex Pawelko, student senator from the Faculty of Mathematics, provided the territorial acknowledgement and offered a personal reflection.

4. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

4.1 Conflict of Interest

Samir Sharma declared a conflict of interest with approval of the confidential consent agenda item 17.1 to appoint him as a student member to the Board of Governors.

4.2 Approval of the Agenda and Consent Items

A member requested that item 11.4 be pulled from the consent agenda. The Chair confirmed the item would be heard under item 12: Items removed from the consent agenda.

A member requested that the motions under item 9.1 be separated. The Chair noted that this would be discussed under item 9.1 later in the agenda.

A motion was heard to approve the agenda as amended, and to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 11.1-3 and 11-5-11.9 and 17.1 of the Senate agenda.

Madill and Gorbet. Carried.

4.3 Minutes of the May 4, 2026 Meeting

A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting, as distributed. Pawelko and Woudsma. Carried.

4.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the President

5.1 General Update

Vivek Goel, President and Chair of Senate provided brief remarks on items of importance to Senate.

6. Report of the COU Academic Colleague

6.1 Annual Report of the COU Academic Colleague

COU Academic Colleague Scott Kline provided an overview of the past year's Academic Colleague meetings, as presented in the meeting material. Over the past year, discussions have focused on AI, the COU Taskforce Report and Bill 33.

7. Report of the Teaching Awards Committee

7.1 Teaching Award Winners

David DeVidi, Associate Vice-President, Academic, and Justin Wan, Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, announced the winners of this years Teaching Awards. DeVidi and Wan introduced Brent Doberstein (Distinguished Teacher Awards Winner) and Nijani Nagaarudkumaran (Amit & Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Winner) who then provided brief remarks.

The Chair congratulated the winners and offered thanks.

8. Institutional Priority Discussion – AI Enablement

8.1 AI Principles

Paul Fieguth, Associate Vice President, Academic Operations, and Greg Smith, Chief Information Officer, provided a presentation on the proposed AI Principles, as presented in the meeting materials. Fieguth and Smith highlighted the development of the principles, noting that they were informed by extensive consultation with the University of Waterloo community and have evolved in modest ways over time in response to feedback.

It was noted that the principles align with and complement the University's values. The committee also discussed the potential implications and applications of artificial intelligence (AI) across the University, including research, operations, and teaching and learning.

The Chair added that rather than developing a standalone AI policy, the University anticipates amending existing policies as appropriate, with the principles providing overall guidance.

Members discussed issues of data privacy and security, the importance of providing guardrails to the UW community that supports an environment of enablement, and the human agency principle.

The Chair noted that a future discussion session would be planned prior to seeking endorsement of the principles from Senate.

9. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

9.1 Senate Engagement Working Group Final Report

Laura Deakin and Marcus Shantz, Co-Chairs of the Senate Engagement Working Group (SEWG) presented the final report of the working group, as provided in the meeting materials. Deakin highlighted the outcomes of SEWG's work and noted that cultural change will take time, with the implementation of the proposed documents to be monitored over the next governance year. Shantz added that SEWG sought to produce documents that could be used and refined over time, rather than attempting to perfect them at the outset.

Members discussed the process of calling a special meeting of Senate, as provided in the amendments to Senate Bylaw 1. Some members noted a perceived concern that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) would be given additional powers outside of its current delegated authority. Shantz clarified that the proposal establishes clear processes and appeal mechanisms which put procedural guardrails on the delegated authority of SEC. James Skidmore, faculty senator and SEWG member, added that a governance body is needed to assess whether items coming forward fall within Senate's jurisdiction, and noted that the working group was broadly of the view that SEC was the appropriate body.

Members discussed the Procedures for Senate Elections and Appointments, with some members stating that they preferred a democratic/electoral approach to developing a slate for Senate committees and councils. Alex Pawelko, undergraduate student senator and SEWG member, added that they were in support of a slate development process that accounted for student considerations including workload. Deakin and Shantz confirmed the proposed procedures are aligned with best practices and comparator institution processes, and that nominations from the Senate floor could still be made.

A member asked how diversity would be defined and applied in the appointment process. Shantz clarified that the EDI-R Office had been consulted. Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, University Secretary, added that current diversity considerations for committee membership recommendations include a range of factors including gender, experience on Senate and home Faculty, while aiming to balance factors such as committee continuity, and senator workload. It was noted that data on other aspects of diversity including race are not

collected, and that this may be considered for future surveys to help inform the appointment process.

A member moved to call the question. The motion carried.

A member requested that the motion be divided and voted on separately.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the Rules of Procedure of the University of Waterloo Senate, as presented, to take effect immediately following adjournment of the June 8, 2026 meeting; and that approval of the document shall expire on June 30th, 2028, unless renewed, amended, or replaced by Senate prior to that date.

Shantz and Deakin. Carried.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the University of Waterloo Senate Roles and Responsibilities, as presented, to take effect immediately following adjournment of the June 8, 2026 meeting; and that approval of the document shall expire on June 30th, 2028, unless renewed, amended, or replaced by Senate prior to that date.

Shantz and Deakin. Carried.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the Procedures for Senate Elections and Appointments, as presented, to take effect immediately following adjournment of the June 8, 2026 meeting; and that approval of the document shall expire on June 30th, 2028, unless renewed, amended, or replaced by Senate prior to that date.

Shantz and Deakin. Carried.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the revisions to Senate Bylaw 1, as presented to Senate, to take effect immediately following adjournment of the June 8, 2026 meeting and that the revisions to Senate Bylaw 1 approved on June 8, 2026, shall expire on June 30, 2028, unless renewed, amended, or replaced by Senate prior to that date.

Shantz and Deakin. Carried.

The Chair thanked the members of the Senate Engagement Working Group for their contributions and engagement. The Secretariat will note in the Senate work plan that an ad hoc working group will be formed in the fall of 2027 to review the efficacy of the documents prior to the expiration of the sunset clause on June 30, 2028.

10. Report of the Senate Graduate Council

10.1 Faculty of Arts

Justin Wan, Chair of the Senate Graduate Council, spoke to the modification, as presented in the meeting materials. There were no questions.

A motion was heard that Senate approves the major modifications to the Master of Catholic Thought (MCT), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy, Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy, and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

in Religious Studies programs for the Faculty of Arts, effective September 1, 2026, as presented, and;

That Senate approves the major modifications to the Master of Accounting (MAcc) program for the School of Accounting and Finance, effective May 1, 2027, as presented.

Wan and Tcheuyap. Carried.

10.2 Faculty of Engineering

Wan spoke to the modification, as presented in the meeting materials. There were no questions.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the major modifications to the Master of Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology (MBET) and the Master of Management Science (MMSc) programs for the Faculty of Engineering, effective September 1, 2026, as presented.

Wan and Wells. Carried.

10.3 Faculty of Mathematics

Wan spoke to the modification, as presented in the meeting materials. There were no questions.

A motion was heard that Senate approves the major modifications to the Master of Actuarial Science (MActSc) and the Master of Actuarial Science (MActSc) – Co-operative programs for the Faculty of Mathematics, effective January 1, 2027, as presented.

Wan and Koenemann. Carried.

10.4 Office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs

Wan spoke to the modification, as presented in the meeting materials. There were no questions.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the major modifications to the 2026 Graduate Studies Academic Calendar, effective September 1, 2026, as presented.

Wan and Neilson. Carried.

11. Consent Agenda

The following items were approved/received for information as part of the consent agenda motion for approval under item 4.2.

11.1 UARC Annual Report

11.2 Senate By-election Results

11.3 Amendments to Policy 68 – Vice-President, Research and International [A]

11.5 Report of the AQUE Committee

11.6 Report of the Senate Graduate Council

11.7 Report of the Senate Research and Innovation Council

11.8 Report of the Vice-President, Academic & Provost

11.9 Report of the Vice-President, Research and International

12. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

A senator requested to remove item 11.4 Amendments to Policy 77 – Tenure and Promotion of Faculty Members [F] from the consent agenda. Tom Duever, Interim Vice-President

Academic and Provost, briefly spoke to the item as presented in the meeting materials. There were no questions.

A motion was heard that Senate approve the amended Policy 77 – Tenure and Promotion of Faculty Members, as presented. Duever and Gorbet. Carried.

13. Other Business (Open Session)

There were no other items of business identified for the open session.

Senate then moved into confidential session.

June 9, 2026

Ashley Day
Associate University Secretary