

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the June 16, 2026 Meeting

Present: Katherine Acheson, Veronica Austen, Khushvir Brar, Cecilia Cotton, Ray Darling, Laura Deakin, Hrushika Devaraja, David DeVidi [Chair], Tanraj Dulai, Jason Grove, Alison Hitchens, Tony Kongly [Secretary], Carol Ann MacGregor, Wania Noor, Sky Ounarom, Annika Persaud, Cynthia Richard, Sharon Roberts, Samir Sharma, Helena Shilomboleni, Johanna Wandel, Richard Wikkerink, William Wong

Resources/Guests: Angela Christelis, Jennifer Coghlin, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Alisa Sivak, Mark Weber, Ian VanderBurgh

Regrets: Faisal Al-Faisal, Tom Duever, Leeann Ferries, Vivek Goel, E-Therng Lee, Sean Meehan, Robert Stark

Organization of Meeting: David DeVidi took the chair and Tony Kongly 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. Wandel and Sharma. 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 and consent items as distributed.

2.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Consent Agenda

Council approved items 3.1 and 3.2 on behalf of Senate.

3.1. Minutes of April 7, 2026 Meeting

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

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 student members and thanked council members for attending the final Senate Undergraduate Council meeting for the 2025-2026 academic cycle. There will be a new Chair of the Senate Undergraduate Council starting in Fall 2026.

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 Environment

Wandel presented the major modifications from the Faculty of Environment. The Environment and Business students have always had access to the Entrepreneurship minor delivered by the Conrad School of Business and Entrepreneurship. However, there are limited open electives within the ENBUS degree and committing to the minor would require ENBUS students to dedicate all of their electives to this minor. Conrad and SEED worked together to develop a five-course specialization that allows ENBUS students to achieve an entrepreneurship specialization. This specialization recognizes that students in the ENBUS program have existing business and entrepreneurship knowledge from courses within the program, which may be replicated in the full Entrepreneurship minor. There will be further consultation with Co-operative and Experiential Education.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications for the Environment and Business plan with the addition of the Sustainable Innovation and Entrepreneurship Specialization for the Faculty of Environment, effective September 1, 2027, as presented. Wandel and Cotton. Carried.

7. Transnational Education Programs

VanderBurgh provided an overview of University of Waterloo transnational education programs. International partnerships could support both revenue diversification and enhance institutional reputation worldwide. The University of Waterloo is exploring expanded transnational delivery models to include 4+0 or 2+0 programs with international partners. Examples under consideration include partnerships in China and Singapore, with additional exploratory discussions about Africa and other regions. Key discussion points from council members included: student experience and access to services, safety and equity considerations, academic integrity, alignment of host institution with University of Waterloo values and policies, support for staff and their family members, geopolitical risks and contingency planning for international operations, and integration of co-op experiences for transnational education programs.

8. Business Programs and Courses

Weber provided an update on the newly established Waterloo Business initiative and his role as Executive Director. Weber mentioned that the University of Waterloo offers substantial business-related programming across multiple Faculties but lacks a unified business identity or coordinating structure. Weber noted that UW business programs performed strongly relative to peer institutions but are not widely recognized due to fragmented branding and promotion. Waterloo Business will operate under the Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost and existing reporting structures will remain unchanged. Waterloo Business aims to enhanced recognition of UW business programs, improve coordination across existing programs, and increase student recruitment.

Additional future opportunities under consideration include new degree offerings such as a Bachelor of Commerce or Master of Business Administration program. Council members raised questions regarding student involvement, faculty consultation, diversity and representation, and connections between potential future programs and existing offerings. Weber emphasized that Waterloo Business remains in its early stages and that stakeholder engagement will be critical for success.

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. Confidential Consent Agenda

12.1. Minutes of April 7, 2026 Meeting

Council approved the minutes of the confidential session as distributed.

13. SUC Mandate Review

Confidential minutes have been removed.

14. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Senate Undergraduate Council will be held in Fall 2026.