

Senate Research and Innovation Council

Open Session

September 23, 2026

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Needles Hall

NH 3318

Waterloo Campus

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2026 09 23 Senate Research and Innovation Council Meeting Book

AGENDA

	1. Governance Resources		
	1.1. Link to Governance Resources		
2:30 p.m.	2. Approval of the Agenda		
	2.1. Conflict of Interest		
	2.2. Approval of the Agenda and Consent Items	Decision	3
	2.3. Business Arising from the Minutes	Information	
	3. Consent Agenda		
	3.1. Minutes of May 14, 2026 Meeting	Decision	4
	3.2. Research Centres and Institutes Renewal Application		
	3.2.1. Waterloo Centre for German Studies	Decision	6
	4. Regular Agenda		
2:35 p.m.	5. Chair's Remarks [Dean]	Information	
2:45 p.m.	6. Introduction and Orientation [Dean]	Information	
2:55 p.m.	7. Research Centres and Institutes Update [Dean and Doucet]		
	7.1. Interdisciplinary Initiatives	Discussion	32
3:20 p.m.	8. Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act [Nankivell and Voegelin]		
	8.1. FITAA	Discussion	40
3:50 p.m.	9. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda		
3:55 p.m.	10. Other Business		
4:00 p.m.	11. Adjournment		
	The next SRIC meeting will be held on November 26, 2026.		

For Approval**Open Session**

To: Senate Research and Innovation Council

From: Tony Kongly
Governance Officer

Date of Meeting: September 23, 2026

Agenda Item: **2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

2.1. Conflict of Interest

Members are invited to declare any conflicts related to the open session agenda at this time. Should a conflict of interest arise during discussion, members are asked to declare a conflict of interest as it arises. Information and guidance on conflicts of interest is provided on the Secretariat [website](#).

The Secretariat can provide guidance regarding potential conflicts of interest in advance of or during the meeting.

2.2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented/amended, and to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 3.1 – 3.2.

Members wishing to have an item removed from consent to the regular agenda are asked to contact the Secretariat in advance of the meeting. Members may also request to have items moved to the regular agenda immediately prior to the approval of the agenda.

2.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

University of Waterloo
SENATE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL
Minutes of the May 14, 2026 Meeting

Present: Hassan Baaj, Michael Beazley, Steven Bednarski, Sarah Burch, Sue Ann Campbell, Trevor Charles, Rob de Loë, Charmaine Dean (Chair), Ana Ferrer, Peter Hall, Todd Holyoak, Chris Houser, Suzanne Kearns, Tony Kongly (Secretary), Marina Mourtzakis, Kirsten Müller, Justin Wan, Stan Woo, Alfred Yu

Resources/Guests: Angelica Asis, Roy Brouwer, Diana Goncalves

Regrets: Yasmeen Almomani, Raouf Boutaba, Richard Cook, Tom Duever, Vivek Goel, Sara Hart, Alison Hitchens, Misha Khan, Ellen MacEachen, Ian Milligan, Sushanta Mitra, Amir Nazemi, Nicholas Pellegrino, Neil Randall, Jeffrey Wilson

Organization of Meeting: Charmaine Dean took the chair and Tony Kongly acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present.

1. Governance Resources

This item was provided for information only.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

2.1 Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

2.2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Council heard a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the April 9, 2026 meeting as amended. Campbell and Burch. Carried.

2.3. Minutes of the April 9, 2026 Meeting

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

2.5. SRIC Annual Review

Council members were invited to send their comments and feedback about SRIC membership composition, mandate, and responsibilities to the Secretariat.

3. Regular Agenda

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked members for their contributions at council meetings this year. The Chair noted that several Senators remain interested in continuing discussions related to defense research, particularly there are concerns regarding weapons related research. There was general consensus that the University of Waterloo's current approach to defense research is appropriate. Council members agreed that defense research is not synonymous with weapons research.

5. Water Institute

Bouwer and Houser presented a proposal to transition the Water Institute from university-level to faculty-level status within the Faculty of Science. The Water Institute was established in 2009 to facilitate cross-faculty collaboration with researchers from across the six faculties. The proposed overhead funding model is intended to support long-term sustainability for the Water Institute.

Houser confirmed that the Faculty of Science is committed to ensuring the institute retains its interdisciplinary focus. Discussion from council members focused on broader concerns about overhead funding, the proposed funding model, and cost-sharing approaches. de Loë noted that similar concerns were previously examined in a 2013 report.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve that the Water Institute becomes a Faculty-level Institute, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. Holoyak and Yu. Carried.

6. CREATE Grants

Asis provided an overview of the Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program, which is a federally funded program to support training and career readiness for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in strategic areas. In the past, four CREATE grants were secured, but recent applications have been unsuccessful. Currently, there are five applications that were shortlisted to move forward from an initial group of nine applications. There is a need to better align CREATE proposals with federal priorities. Submissions should include graduate training initiatives, career readiness, entrepreneurship, industry partnerships, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Council members expressed concerns regarding declining success rates and emphasized the need to gather additional agency feedback to strengthen future applications. Yu noted that unsuccessful proposals fail to clearly distinguish the CREATE trainee experience from traditional graduate training. Dean mentioned that the CREATE program is intended to address federal priorities and noted that repeated low success rates could threaten the continuation of the program.

7. Other Business

No other items of business were identified.

8. Adjournment

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



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO



WATERLOO CENTRE *for*
Germanstudies

30 June 2026

Dear Senate Research and Innovation Council:

Please find enclosed the report covering the activities of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies for the past seven years.

I trust you will find everything in order and see fit to renew the Centre's status as a research institute of the University of Waterloo.

Sincerely,



James M. Skidmore Director



Waterloo Centre for German Studies, 2019-2026

Introduction

The Waterloo Centre for German Studies was established at the University of Waterloo in 2004. Sustained by a privately funded endowment of \$4 million, it operates as a faculty-level research institute housed in the Faculty of Arts. The Centre has a strong public orientation and is active in three areas: supporting research in German studies across all disciplines, fostering student mobility and access to scholarships, and providing programming of a scholarly/cultural nature in the Waterloo area and beyond.

Financially stable and with a strong record of research support, community programming and student support, the Centre is nevertheless at a crossroads with a number of changes in the offing. The Faculty of Arts has reorganized 13 of its departments into two schools; on July 1, 2026, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies (the unit that provides a base for the Centre) merged with other departments to form the School of Critical and Creative Humanities where the focus will be on interdisciplinary and collaborative research. At the same time, in late summer 2026 there will be a change in leadership at the Centre. Dr. Priscilla Layne, the incoming Diefenbaker Memorial Chair in German Literary Studies, will be taking on the role of Director of WCGS for an initial five-year period. This report will explore the opportunities and the challenges that these and other changes present while also underscoring that the Centre is well situated to meet them.

This report is organized as follows:

- Overview
 - Research Activity
 - Student Mobility and Support
 - Community Engagement
 - Administration and Governance
 - Financial Statement and Budgets
- Plans going forward
 - Estimated Budget 2026-2031
 - Opportunities and Challenges
- List of Potential External Reviewers
- Appendices
 - Appendix One – Diversity and Inclusion Grants (funded projects)
 - Appendix Two – Events (Scholarly and Cultural Programming)
 - Appendix Three – Membership
 - Appendix Four – WCGS Charter (Policy 44)
 - Appendix Five – Letter of Support from the Dean of Arts



The mandate of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies is to pursue activities in three broad areas: supporting research into any aspect of the society and culture of the German-speaking world; providing mobility and other grants for undergraduate and graduate students, at Waterloo and throughout Canada; organizing events and other programming of interest to the scholarly and general communities. While there is some overlap among these spheres of activity, highlights from each are listed below.

Research Activities (click on links for further information)

- [WCGS Book Prize](#) - This annual award was launched in 2018 to recognize excellence in German Studies scholarship, specifically first-time authors whose scholarly monographs make a substantial contribution to understanding any aspect of German-speaking society. The goal of the prize is to highlight and amplify the quality and thematic range of German studies scholarship today. The award serves the discipline by publicizing the work to both academic and broader publics through a shortlist, and a cash award and public talk for the winning author. The latest prize (CAD \$3,000 plus an invited lecture) was awarded to Michelle Lynn Kahn for *Foreign in Two Homelands. Racism, Return Migration, and Turkish-German History* (Cambridge University Press), selected from 22 entries that included studies on German democracy and big business, Romanticism, art in the aesthetic state, Viennese “New Womanhood,” nineteenth-century queer identity, and early modern attention and aesthetics. The prize has been well received in German studies circles in Canada and internationally and has served to bring the work of the Centre to the attention of a much broader scholarly audience.
- [Diversity and Inclusion Grants](#) – this initiative has provided funding to departments, programs, graduate students, and instructors in Canada seeking to make German studies more diverse and inclusive, particularly by developing expertise and curricular content that foregrounds reconciliation, equity, and representation. The program is part of a broader commitment of the Centre to respond to the 2015 Calls to Action contained in the Sinclair report and to address our disciplines’ disregard of and even complicity in racism against Indigenous people and people of colour. An offshoot of the funding program included the compilation of resources on anti-Black racism and its specific connections to German studies for use by instructors, students, and others in the field.
 - See [Appendix One](#) for more details on funded projects.
- [Imagining Democracy seminar](#) - a two-day seminar (April 9–10, 2026) that brought together scholars from Canada, Germany, the USA, the UK, Poland, and Australia to investigate how contemporary German-language culture - namely literature, theatre, museums, and the arts - represents, critiques, and reimagines democracy in a time of populism, polarization, and perceived democratic crisis. The workshop foregrounded culture as both a reflection of and an active participant in democratic discourse, with papers on topics such as queer-feminist film collectives, Juli Zeh’s diagnoses of democracy, theatre with refugees, the documenta exhibition and censorship debates, meritocracy as democratic imaginary, Angela Merkel’s memoir and East German identity, exhibitions narrating democracy, transtemporal memory and political futures, literary responses to right-wing terrorism, satire and authorial posture, restitution and historical responsibility, migrant-centered theatre at the Maxim Gorki Theater, and the notion of “democratic literature” in contemporary Germany. Convened by Gabriele Mueller (York University) and James Skidmore (Waterloo), the Centre covered hospitality costs, subsidized the travel and accommodation of participants, and provided



logistical support.

- [Writing Illness workshop](#) – The “Writing Illness Workshop: Women’s Experiences in the 19th-Century Sickroom,” held on October 4, 2023, convened six literary scholars and historians of medicine from Europe and North America to examine how practices of self-care and nursing shaped nineteenth-century German women’s writing, especially that of Annette von Droste-Hülshoff. Through a series of talks and discussions, the workshop explored topics such as the relation of soma and psyche, everyday experiences of myopia, fever, exhaustion, and headaches, dietetics, homeopathy, vaccine debates, and the poetics of somatic micro-perception, situating illness narratives within medical humanities, disability studies, feminist studies, and life writing. It highlighted how medical texts and embodied experiences generate and categorize knowledge about the body, grief, death, and nature’s mutability. Prof. Alice Kuzniar hosted the event through a SSHRC grant, and the Waterloo Centre for German Studies provided additional financial and logistic support.
- [The Nature of Experiment workshop](#) - a one-day interdisciplinary conference (April 8, 2019) that examined how the practice and concept of “experiment” shapes understandings of intelligence, life, and the human, from Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* to contemporary AI and bioengineering. Scholars from Waterloo and neighbouring universities with expertise literature, philosophy, engineering, psychology, and the sciences explored what counts as an experiment, how experimental practices have changed since the Royal Society and Shelley’s era, and how new experimental “zones” such as data-driven autonomous vehicles and social media-driven forms of intelligence raise ethical and philosophical questions. Through panels on speculation and theory, ethics and agency, and a keynote by Jocelyn Holland (CalTech) on thought experiments, participants reflected on the experiential and inventive dimensions of experimentation, asking whether invention is always beneficial or even recognizably human, and whether experimenters risk becoming “cursed progenitors” in light of contemporary technological power. WCGS sponsored this event with the additional support coming from the Faculty of Arts, Department of Philosophy, and Department of English Language and Literature.
- [Germans of Waterloo Region project](#) – an oral history project that began in 2013 and culminated in a book publication in 2022. 120 interviews were conducted with German-Canadians who emigrated to this area after the Second World War. Edited by Mat Schulze, Grit Liebscher, and Sebastian Siebel-Achenbach, the book explores themes such as leaving home, negotiating life in an unfamiliar country, and living between cultures. Chapters were written by UW faculty paired with graduate students. WCGS covered all transcription and publication costs and also hosted a book launch that was attended by many of the people interviewed for the book. The project attracted local media attention, including a *Beyond the Bulletin* podcast episode with James Skidmore, a CBC News article on postwar German immigrants’ lives, and a Promenade community radio conversation about the project

Student Mobility and Support (click on links for further information)

- [Stork Awards in German Studies](#) – these scholarships support students at any Canadian university to undertake language and cultural studies in German-speaking Europe. The travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 saw an initial decline in the awarding of this scholarship. But since 2022 demand for these scholarships has been very high. Since 2019 about 350 travel awards averaging \$500 each have been awarded. To meet this demand, the Centre has had to limit awards to \$500 each, and the monies made available from the Stork endowment have had to be supplemented by the Centre’s own operating budget; the Stork endowment put approximately \$150,000 towards these awards in this period, and the Centre’s operating fund contributed \$25,000.
- [The Cecilia and Late George Piller Graduate Research Award](#) – two \$4,000 scholarships are awarded annually. Any Faculty of Arts graduate student with a major research focus on any aspect of the German-



speaking world is eligible.

- [Marga Weigel Award](#) – these scholarships, worth \$1,000 each, support Waterloo students from any faculty studying in Germany in the spring term.
- [Graduate Student Professional Development Fund](#) – This fund is for University of Waterloo graduate students whose programs or primary research projects substantially contribute to German studies. Students can request up to \$500 per year in reimbursed expenses for research and professional development, including conference and workshop fees, travel and accommodation, association dues, event organizing costs, books and media, tickets to cultural institutions, equipment and software, research travel, publication and printing fees, participant remuneration, and eligible meal costs. Unused funds can be carried over into subsequent years of a student’s program.

Community Engagement

- **Public lectures and events** – Almost all events sponsored by the Waterloo Centre for German Studies have a public-facing component. The research activities described above all held public talks or involved the community in some way, and the Centre encourages any scholar seeking support to include a public-facing component. To further encourage community participation in WCGS events, we try to hold most of them in the evenings and off campus, usually at CIGI/The Balsillie School in Uptown Waterloo, where community members find the parking easier and access more straightforward than trying to find an on-campus location. Our events attract on average audiences of 40-60 people, with some larger ones attracting around 100 people. The make-up of the audiences will depend on the nature of the event. For example, a recent series of research talks by candidates for the Diefenbaker professorship attracted on average 45-50 attendees; about 20 of these were faculty members from about six departments, about 8-10 graduate students (largely GSS), and two or three undergrads, with the rest of the audience being made up of community members. Events like the Kafka performance (see below), attendance was higher (about 85 people), with fewer faculty members and more student and community participation. Furthermore, we attempt whenever possible to partner with other departments or institutions to bring scholarly/cultural programming to Waterloo.
- Some **highlights** from the past few years:
 - [Franz Kafka’s *In the Penal Colony*: Performance and Symposium](#) - This event was a site-responsive performance and symposium based on Franz Kafka’s 1915 story *In the Penal Colony*, staged on September 21, 2024 at the University of Waterloo to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Kafka’s death. The goal of this performance and symposium was to demonstrate and explore the ongoing relevance of Kafka’s critique of colonial incarceration and disciplinary apparatuses. Created by student Kevin White and produced by UW colleagues Andy Houston, Jay Havens and their collaborators Aaron El Sabrout and Meghan Bunce, the performance animated Kafka’s text through the multi-level architecture of the J.R. Coutts Engineering Lecture Hall, inviting audiences to move with the performer and reflect on the “machinery” of punishment, law, policing, education, and politics that structures contemporary life. A follow-up symposium, featuring responses by UW colleagues Paul Malone, Leslie Wexler, Matt Borland, and Katherine Bruce-Lockhart, further examined Kafka’s representation of Euro-colonial power and asked whether we can recognize and critically confront the systems that shape our perception of the world, in the spirit of Kafka’s famous insistence that books should act as an “axe for the frozen sea inside us.”
 - [Thinking Itself is Dangerous: Reading Hannah Arendt Now](#) – this lecture by Hannah



Arendt scholar Samantha Rose Hill (Bard College), part of our [Grimm Lecture Series](#), was scheduled for March 19, 2020, just a couple of days after the University of Waterloo went into lockdown and travel from the United States was severely curtailed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We quickly pivoted to an online livestream of the event, which became probably the largest event the Centre has ever held, attracting over 400 attendees.

- In 2019, in cooperation with the Communication Arts department at Waterloo, we hosted a discussion of the Stratford production of Lessing's play *Nathan der Weise/Nathan the Wise* with [the play's director Birgit Schreyer Duarte](#). The Centre also sponsored an excursion to Stratford to see the production.
- In order to highlight the research into "all things German" at the University of Waterloo, the Centre hosts presentations by local scholars in order to give them public exposure for their work. In the past few years we've hosted colleagues from History, Religious Studies, Germanic and Slavic Studies, and Anthropology.
- On occasion we're able to host German-language authors for readings and public discussions of their work. These arrangements are usually in cooperation with the diplomatic or cultural services of the German or Austrian governments. Visiting authors in the period under review include Benedict Wells, Bodo Hell, Peter Gruber, and Franzobel.

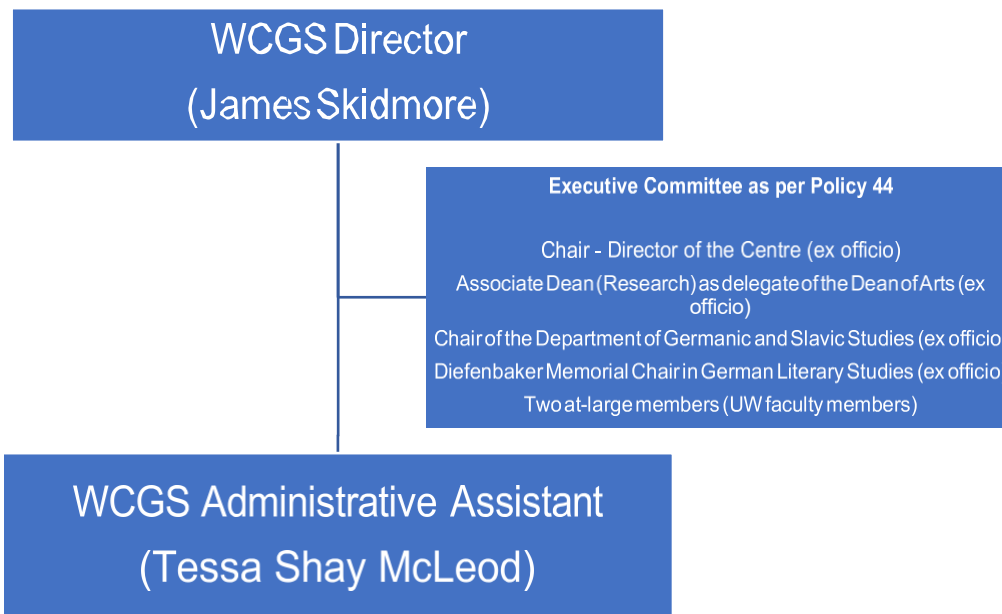
- For a full listing of all WCGS sponsored events, please see [Appendix Two](#).

Administration and Governance

The Centre is administered by the Director, a full-time UW faculty member. The Centre has had three directors: Founding Director Dr. David John, Dr. Matthias Schulze, and the current Director, Dr. James Skidmore, who has been Director since 2017. Dr. Priscilla Layne, the incoming holder of the [Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker Memorial Chair in German Literary Studies](#), an endowed professorship in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, will be taking over as Director of the Centre in late summer 2026. The Director receives a course release (or an equivalent research stipend) as compensation.

The Director is supported by a half-time (17.5 hours/week) administrative assistant. This position is currently held by Tessa Shay McLeod, who joined WCGS in April, 2026. The position has a USG Grade of 5; it had previously been 4, but we were successful in seeing it raised in recognition of the wide range of responsibilities the administrative assistant has: reconciling financial matters; managing the vast amount of work that comes with managing the Stork Awards; overseeing the Centre's social media, website, and other communications; organizing Centre events; hiring students and other casual staff; managing the mercurial whims of the Centre's Director. The position had been vacant for about a year prior to Tessa's arrival. It's difficult to attract people with the necessary qualifications to a part-time position, so the Centre Director attempted to find other centres on campus interested in joining forces to hire a joint full-time administrative assistant, but those efforts were unsuccessful.

The Centre's activities are governed by a charter that was written in 2015 to ensure that WCGS governance aligns with the University of Waterloo's [Policy on Research Centres and Institutes](#) (Policy 44). The organizational chart below outlines the Centre's governance structure.



Financial Matters

The Centre's activities are primarily supported by two endowment funds, a general fund that supports WCGS operations, and a fund donated by the family of the late Fred Stork to support student mobility scholarships. The University of Waterloo manages these funds, and the University's policy is to make 3% of the endowment's balance available on an annual basis to support the intended projects. The Centre also has access to some smaller trust accounts which are fully spendable and not subject to the rules governing the endowments.

Over the past couple of years, the Centre has built up a comfortable reserve in its operating account. Lower spending during the pandemic years was partially responsible, as was the gap in administrative support described above. Demand from students across Canada for the Stork Awards increased after the pandemic's travel restrictions eased, and in order to meet this demand and support the increased interest in studying in Germany, the Centre has started using operating funds to cover the additional scholarships not covered by the Stork fund.

Statement of Account

As of 2026.04.30.	Principal	Available Balance
Endowment - General	\$3,297,799.47	\$261,630.83
Endowment – Stork	\$702,885.23	\$20,184.11
Trust Account - General		\$18,802.21
Trust Account - Piller		\$33,187.50
Trust Account – Weigel		\$14,000.00

The figures show that at the end of the University's 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Centre has an operating surplus (i.e. money available to spend) of \$280,433.04. When one adds the amount being made available on 2026.05.01. for the 2026-2027 fiscal year - \$98,933.98 – the total amount available to the Centre to fund its general operations is \$379,367.02. Generally speaking,



the Centre has limited its spending to the “operating grant,” i.e. the money made available annually, which has been about \$90,000, although that has grown to be almost \$100,000 this year.

The Centre groups its expenses into three main categories; the budgeting for each category can fluctuate in any given year.

- *Administration* includes the salary for administrative assistant, the cost of a course release for the director, office expenses, student jobs, and advertising and publicity. In a normal year these expenses can total \$40,000 to \$50,000 or about half of the annual “operating grant.”
- *Research and engagement support* includes any activity that has a research or public engagement focus (WCGS Book Prize, guest speakers, seminars, conferences, etc.). For example, the recent Grimm Lecture by Karolina Watroba cost about \$6,000, whereas the Imagining Democracy seminar, which included travel support for about 15 visiting scholars, cost about \$35,000 (not including money earmarked to support an eventual book publication). We’ve been budgeting about \$40,000 annually in this category.
- *Sponsorships* is a smaller category that helps us keep track of monies we provide to support local initiatives (such as German film showings at the Princess Cinema in cooperation with GLOW Waterloo) or providing the extra support for the excess demand for Stork travel awards. This category is budgeted at \$5,000 annually.

Plans Going Forward

Estimated Budget, 2026-2031

The following chart provides a forecast of the Centre’s general operations budget for the next five years. (To get a sense of the annual amounts, divide the totals by five.) It suggests that shows the Centre’s general budgeting approach with regard to operating expenses:

Available to Spend		
	Balance 2026.05.01.	\$280,433.04
	Estimated Income (“Operating Grant”)	\$475,000.00
	Sub-total Available to Spend	\$755,433.04
Expenses		
	Administrative Assistant*	\$175,000
	Office Expenses	\$50,000
	Book Prize	\$40,000
	Keynote Guest Lectures (1 annually)	\$50,000
	Conferences and Seminars (1-2 annually)	\$200,000
	Smaller Events and Programming	\$100,000
	Sponsorships	\$50,000
	Sub-total Expenses	\$655,000

*NB: there is no course release budgeted for the Director as the incoming Director has a course release built into her employment contract.

What this exercise demonstrates is that the Centre has the means to expand its activity and yet remain in a healthy financial situation. This financial stability, the result of careful management and conservative spending, gives the Centre the opportunity to expand or rethink its programming. The plans laid out in the estimated budget above are more or less just an expansion of current



activity, but the time is right to consider what kind of activity would best suit the current situation in which German studies as a disciplinary field is under a lot of stress throughout Canada and elsewhere, and at Waterloo the Centre will as of July 1, 2026 be housed in the School of Critical and Creative Humanities, a new venture that will hopes to promote a more interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to humanities education and research.

Opportunities and Challenges

In preparing this report, the Director of WCGS held consultations with active participants and supporters of the Centre. These consultations were conducted by the Director in the past twelve months one-on-one with both academic and community members of WCGS, as well as a small focus group session held with key academic stakeholders. In general terms the consultations yielded the following feedback:

- The Centre is held in high regard and matters a lot to those connected with it; they see it as essential for supporting the field of German studies not only at the University of Waterloo, but across Canada as well.
- There were no calls for large-scale changes to the Centre's activities, simply the wish to see the Centre organize more programming that matters most to the members. For community members this meant cultural programming such as a film series; for academic members, interest in intellectual enrichment, collaborative and interdisciplinary activities, and support for scholarly connectivity and networking were considered priorities.
- One issue became clear during the consultations, namely how to provide adequate administrative support to pursue new initiatives. If WCGS were to increase the administrative assistant position from half-time to full-time, that would result in 70% of the annual budget allotment going towards administrative costs, which struck some as too high. A suggestion to hire students on a casual basis instead of increasing the hours of the administrative assistant was not considered conducive to continuity or planning.

At the same time, the presence of German studies at the University of Waterloo has declined over the past 10-15 years. The faculty complement in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies is half what it used to be 10 years ago, and the number of colleagues in other disciplines at the University with an interest in things German has declined. Fewer graduate students are coming into the German graduate programs, and the undergraduate major has been paused. The Region of Waterloo has changed as well, and the presence of German culture and society in the area has receded.

With the creation of the new School of Critical and Creative Humanities (SCCH) and its interdisciplinary and collaborative focus, there will be opportunities for WCGS to expand into interdisciplinary programming. There is always a tension here, however, as to how far the Centre can move away from "things German" without losing the central aspect of its identity. This is also an opportunity, however, to bring more awareness to the German studies discipline which can often find itself marginalized despite the quality of the work being produced in the field and the scholars doing that work.

While increasing its engagement with interdisciplinarity meets the goals of the SCCH and aligns with the strategic priorities of the Faculty of Arts, WCGS also needs to consider how it can support the broader aims of the University as a whole. Points of connection with the Global Futures initiative would be worthwhile pursuing, as would using the Centre's resources to assist colleagues wishing to pursue larger funding applications from SSHRC or elsewhere. WCGS could also investigate securing funding from granting agencies itself, something it has never been compelled to do thanks to an endowment that generally satisfies its needs.

All of this takes time, of course. In terms of its general operations, the Centre is largely a two-person show (the Director and the Administrative Assistant). WCGS could increase its level of activity, but it's naïve to think that this can be done without



increasing staff support. The part-time position has worked well for many years, but it may not be adequate to meet the future aspirations of the Centre. The new Director will have to consider what level of staffing is needed to support expanded activity. This may be possible by increasing the administrative assistant's hours, or by hiring co-op students for specific project-based work. In any event it will require careful planning.

List of Potential External Reviewers

- Martin Wagner, Professor of German, University of Calgary
- Helga Thorson, Professor of German, University of Victoria
- Christina Kraenzle, Associate Professor German, York University, and former Director of the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies
- Alexander Freund, Professor of German and holder of the Chair in German-Canadian Studies, University of Winnipeg
- Gisela Holfter, Professor of German and Director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick



- **Dis/Ability in German Literature – Lecture Series (Virtual Events):** This series of talks focused on Dis/Ability Studies both within and beyond German Studies. Organized by Professor Michael Boehringer as part of his Disability in German Literature course, the presentations cover critical disability studies, myths and rhetorics of disability, German literature, and a public reading and discussion.
 - 20.01.2022: Critical Disability Studies: The Intersections of Theory and Lived Experience
 - 03.02.2022: Disability Myths and Rhetorics
 - 17.03.2022: A life worthy of living: Kolmar's Susanna
 - 31.03.2022: Public Reading & Discussion on authorship & disability
- **Sofia Bach and Claudia Dueck** from the University of Winnipeg, used the funding to complete their project: *What They Can Teach Us: Stories from German-Canadian Women, 1950-1993*. The grant from WCGS assisted the scholars in launching their excellent website. It makes public for the first time four interviews with German-Canadian women conducted by Prof. Alexander Freund, Chair of German-Canadian Studies at the University of Winnipeg. This trilingual resource is available to all who are interested in the history of immigration to Canada.
- **East Germans: (Re)Claiming Black Identities Through Cultural Activism):** Prof. Angelica Fenner (Toronto), in cooperation with the Black German Heritage and Research Association (BGHRA) and Rutgers University-Camden Department of Africana Studies, hosted a virtual/online series of lectures fostering engagement with the field of Black German Studies.
- **Reading Blackness and Race in Germanic Arthurian Romance** - Sophie Jordan, a graduate student at the University of Toronto, developed some interactive online course materials to help students understand more about Blackness in medieval literature.
- **Games for Decolonization** - Elizabeth Nijdam (UBC) developed some course materials utilizing online gaming to deepen learners' awareness of decolonization's relationship to European culture and society.
- **Diversity and Inclusion awards to support graduate research:**
 - Susanna Cassisa, Master of Arts in Germanic Studies, University of British Columbia: *Groomer Rumor*
 - Ajibola Fabusuyi, PhD Candidate in German Studies, University of British Columbia: *Becoming in Black German Autobiographical Nonfiction and Documentary Filmmaking*
 - Christian Zeitz, PhD Candidate in Cinema Studies, University of Toronto: *Between Orientalism and the Posthuman: 21st-Century Television Programming in Multicultural Germany*



Appendix Two

WCGS Events (sponsored and/or organized by the Centre and its members), 2019-2026

	Date	Event Name	Description
1.	2019.02.05	<i>Escape from the Nazis: The Dutch-Paris Resistance Line</i>	Dr. Megan Koreman discusses her book "The Escape Line: How the Ordinary Heroes of Dutch-Paris Resisted the Nazi Occupation of Western Europe"
2.	2019.03.06	Humans, Animals, and Nazis on Display: The Berlin Zoo in German History	UW History profess Gary Bruce explains how the Berlin Zoo helped shape German views not only of the animal world but also of the human world for more than 170 years, from the ethnographic display of Africans, Inuit, and other 'exotic' peoples in the late 19th century to the Nazis' bizarre attempts to bring back long-extinct European cattle. This talk will explore the Berlin zoo's long history as a mirror of both the different political eras in Germany and the longings of Berliners who were so profoundly attached to their zoo.
3.	2019.03.28	Modern Hungers: Food and German Identity from the Third Reich to the Berlin Wall and Beyond	Loyola University professor Alice Weinreb explains how food and hunger are used as instruments of power.
4.	2019.04.08	The Nature of Experiment	A conference organized by Prof. Alice Kuzniar exploring the intersections of intelligence, life, and the human from a unique perspective, through the concept and practice of the "experiment," both today and in the past.
5.	2019.04.11	WCGS Reading Group Winter 2019	Dörte Hansen: <i>Altes Land / This House is Mine</i> , trans. Anne Stokes
6.	2019.05.23	An Evening with Author Benedict Wells	A reading in German and English with author Benedict Wells
7.	2019.07.12	<i>Nathan the Wise</i> at the Stratford Theatre Festival	<i>Nathan the Wise</i> , the 18th-century play by German playwright G.E. Lessing
8.	2019. 07. 15	Summer 2019 Reading Group – Heike Geißler: <i>Saisonarbeit</i>	Heike Geißler: <i>Saisonarbeit / Seasonal Associate</i> , trans. Katy Derbyshire
9.	2019.09.17	"What makes me a Christian to you, makes you a Jew to me"	Dr. Schreyer Duarte's current production, a contemporary interpretation of Lessing's <i>Nathan the Wise</i> , is part of the 2019 Stratford Festival. Dr. Schreyer Duarte will discuss how she and her team approached the "staging of the other" in this 18th-century play from Germany, performed in today's Canada, that reflects on the common humanity that unites us all.
10.	2019.10.08	Corpora of spoken German: 'Hidden treasures' and their potential uses	A talk by Dr. Silke Reineke of the Leibniz Institute for the German Language (Institut für deutsche Sprache).



11.	2019.11.05	The Buried Raging Sermons of the Warsaw Ghetto Rabbi	A talk by James Diamond, Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo.
12.	2019.11.07	Legends and Dreams: Reinhard Kleist's Graphic Narrative	A poster exhibition of Reinhard Kleist's graphic novel <i>Berliner Mythen</i> .
13.	2019.11.12	The Social Media Aesthetics of Mobility: Reinhard Kleist's <i>The Olympic Dream</i> and Comics on Refugee Experience	Dr. Elizabeth Nijdam (UBC) discusses Reinhard Kleist's graphic novel <i>An Olympic Dream: The Story of Samia Yusuf Omar</i> and how it integrates the technologies of refugee life in order to disrupt media representation of migrants and the - often fatal - experience of migration.
14.	2019.11.20	In the Children's Best Interests: Unaccompanied Refugee Children in Germany, 1945-1952	UW History professor Lynne Taylor discusses her latest book, <i>In the Children's Best Interests: Unaccompanied Refugee Children in Germany, 1945-1952</i> .
15.	2019.11.21	International Education Week - Alexandre Trudeau	A visit to campus by filmmaker and storyteller Alexandre Trudeau. Mr. Trudeau will be giving a keynote address to high school and university students about how his ability to speak multiple languages has enriched his life, both personally and professionally, and why he believes all students should have diverse opportunities for language learning and study abroad.
16.	2019.11.21	Fall 2019 Reading Group	Benedict Wells: <i>Vom Ende der Einsamkeit / The End of Loneliness</i> , trans. Charlotte Collins
17.	2020.03.19	Grimm Lecture 2020 Thinking itself is Dangerous: Reading Hannah Arendt Now	What can Hannah Arendt's life and work teach us about our present political moment? Arendt scholar Samantha Rose Hill talks about the renewed interest in Hannah Arendt's work, and why we should be reading Arendt now to better understand the politics of today.
18.	2020.06.17	Google Translate – A Tool for Cheating or a Tool for Learning?	Given our new remote teaching reality, now is a good time to shift our attitude towards Google Translate. How can we turn a tool used for cheating into a teachable moment where students make use of online translation services and dictionaries to raise their language awareness, to foster their intercultural competence and learner autonomy, and improve their electronic literacy and critical thinking skills?
19.	2020.06.18	Simple and Effective Online Teaching – Grad Student Edition	We're all online teachers now. And this scares us a bit, because online teaching has a reputation for being technology-heavy and difficult to master. This webinar will help us dial back some of that anxiety. It will introduce some simple strategies, such as discussion forums, course organization, and curation, that can be used to create effective online courses using the tools already available at any Canadian university.
20.	2020.06.22	Spring 2020 Reading Group	Eugen Ruge: <i>In Times of Fading Light</i> , Faber & Faber (German title: <i>In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts</i> , 2011). English translation: Anthea Bell.



21.	2020.07.15	Examples and Tips Webinars – reducing cheating online	The Examples and Tips webinars address some of the major concerns people have about online teaching and learning. These compact, 45-minute webinars will equip instructors with concrete examples and ideas they can implement in their own courses.
22.	2020.07.16	Examples and Tips Webinars – fostering student engagement online	The Examples and Tips webinars address some of the major concerns people have about online teaching and learning. These compact, 45-minute webinars will equip instructors with concrete examples and ideas they can implement in their own courses.
23.	2020.11.24	Fall 2020 Reading Group	Alina Bronsky: <i>Baba Dunja's Last Love</i> (German title: <i>Baba Dunjas Letzte Liebe</i>).
24.	2020.12.07	Waterloo/Mannheim Virtual Transatlantic Symposium	On Monday, December 7th, the Germanic and Slavic Studies Department is hosting its first virtual Transatlantic Symposium via Zoom. Starting from 9:00AM EST, our Canadian and German master's students will give an insight into their current research. There will be three sessions with three presentations each and discussion time in-between. Topics range from linguistics to literature to film to cultural studies, and touch on both German and Canadian themes.
25.	2021.03.09	Winter 2021 Reading Group	<i>Der geteilte Himmel/They Divided the Sky</i> by Christa Wolf, trans. Luise von Flotow
26.	2021.03.23	Collaborative Works-in-Progress: Open Opportunity	Open educational resources (OERs) are basically open access materials for teaching and learning. As an Open Education Fellow with eCampusOntario, James Skidmore produced - with the assistance of Myrto Provida - a research report on how universities can encourage greater uptake of these shareable materials. This research has led to the examination of other open educational practices that Prof. Skidmore is now beginning to employ in his German studies courses. The most promising of these seems to be co-creating OERs with students that can be used in those very same courses.
27.	2021.04.13	Collaborative Works-in-Progress: Bawdy Medieval Badges	In this special event, Waterloo Professor Ann Marie Rasmussen, author of <i>Medieval Badges: Their Wearers and Their Worlds</i> (forthcoming, 2021), will be joined by multidisciplinary artist Melanie Jackson to discuss the world of bawdy medieval badges. This event will feature Melanie Jackson's recent reimagining of these bawdy badges in her artistic project, " Spekying Rybawdy ," where she brings these infamous badges to new life.
28.	2021.05.11	Collaborative Works-in-Progress: Rediscovering Alexander Moritz Frey	Guelph professors Paola Meyer and Ruediger Mueller discuss their forthcoming edition of Frey's short fiction. They will address such questions as: Who was Alexander Moritz Frey? What did his oeuvre look like? How does one create an anthology that will put him back on the literary map?



29.	2021.06.01	WCGS Reading Group: <i>Töchter/Daughters</i> by Lucy Fricke, translation by Sinéad Crowe	The WCGS German Reading Group has selected <i>Töchter / Daughters</i> by Lucy Fricke, translation by Sinéad Crowe as its next read.
30.	2021.08.29	WCGS Reading Group	Selection: <i>A Complicated Kindness/Ein komplizierter Akt der Liebe</i> , by Miriam Toews, translation by Christiane Buchner.
31.	2021.09.24	Apocalypse and Salvation: Faith in Catholic Miracles during Twentieth-Century Germany	A public lecture co-sponsored by the Waterloo Centre for German Studies and the Lectures in Catholic Experience. From World War I until the late 1950s, Catholics in Germany reported more instances of stigmata and visions of the Virgin Mary than at any time in modern history. WCGS Book Prize winner Michael O'Sullivan explores the life of the charismatic Therese Neumann of Bavaria and the Cold War apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the small town of Heroldsbach. Neumann's story in particular reveals much about the fall of German democracy in the 1920s and the relation of Catholics to the Third Reich, illuminating why the Catholic minority in Germany is significant to the country's social and political history.
32.	2021.10.08	Winnetou, White Innocence, and Settler Time	Proclaiming "every generation has its Winnetou," German network RTL ushered in the return of Winnetou to German television with a big-budget film trilogy, <i>Winnetou—Der Mythos Lebt</i> . Dr. Maureen Gallagher analyzes this 2016 Winnetou film trilogy in dialogue with the 1960s West German westerns and Karl May's original 1893 novel using concepts from settler colonial studies, Indigenous studies, and critical race theory to show how Winnetou centers whiteness.
33.	2021.10.15	A German Board Game & the Need for New Stories	In 2018, German board game manufacturer dlp games released <i>Manitoba</i> , a strategy game where players take the role of "different clans of the Cree Indians". Lars Richter discusses the representation of Cree culture in the game's manual and artwork - replete with totem poles, canoes, axe-wielding warriors, and wise-looking spiritual leaders - raises serious concerns about misrepresentation, cultural appropriation, and racism.
34.	2021.11.14	<i>Der Reisende / The Passenger</i> : a Novel, Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz, trans. by Philip Boehm	A meeting of the WCGS Reading Group.
35.	2021.11.17	Becoming Black: Film Screening with Director in Attendance	This event is part of an ongoing series, All Black Lives Matter, being run in cooperation with the Waterloo Centre for German Studies, The University of Toronto, and Africana Studies at Rutgers University-Camden.
36.	2022.01.20	Critical Disability Studies: The Intersections of Theory and Lived Experience	This talk is part of a series focusing on Dis/Ability Studies both within and beyond German Studies, organized by Michael Boehringer as part of his Disability in German Literature course and sponsored by WCGS.



37.	2022.02.03	Disability Myths and Rhetorics	This talk is part of a series focusing on Dis/Ability Studies both within and beyond German Studies, organized by Michael Boehringer as part of his Disability in German Literature course and sponsored by WCGS.
38.	2022.03.17	A life worthy of living: Kolmar's Susanna	This talk is part of a series focusing on Dis/Ability Studies both within and beyond German Studies, organized by Professor Michael Boehringer as part of his Disability in German Literature course and sponsored by WCGS.
39.	2022.03.31	Public Reading & Discussion on authorship & disability	This talk is part of a series focusing on Dis/Ability Studies both within and beyond German Studies, organized by Professor Michael Boehringer as part of his Disability in German Literature course and sponsored by WCGS.
40.	2022.06.28	Lecture and Workshop with Visiting Researcher Georg Marschnig	WCGS welcomes visiting researcher Georg Marschnig (Universität Graz) on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 for a lecture and workshop.
41.	2022.09.26	Bodo Hell + Peter Gruber: Nature Writers	Two Austrian writers give a multi-media presentation and reading of their collective works on Monday, September 26, 2022.
42.	2022.10.28	Germans of Waterloo Region – Book Launch	The Waterloo Centre for German Studies will be holding a book launch for a collection of essays, <i>Germans of Waterloo</i> . Edited by Mat Schulze, Grit Liebscher, and Sebastian Siebel-Achenbach, this anthology recounts the experiences of German-speaking immigrants to the Waterloo region since the end of the Second World War. The essays, all co-written by faculty members and students at the Waterloo Centre for German Studies, are based on over 100 interviews conducted with members of the German-Canadian community.
43.	2023.01.31	Public-facing Medieval Scholarship	To encourage and expand current conversations about public-facing scholarship in medieval studies, two young scholars, Carolin Rinn and Lucy Splarn, share their experiences about doing public-facing research and work. Ann Marie Rasmussen will discuss with them the importance of public scholarship, its challenges, and its possibilities.
44.	2023.03.31	<i>Einstein's Brain</i> – A new novel by Franzobel	Franzobel will give a reading from his book <i>Einsteins Hirn</i> , as part of his North American tour on Friday, March 31, 2023.
45.	2023.10.04	Writing Illness Workshop	Writing Illness: Women's Experiences in the 19th-Century Sickroom. A workshop organized by Prof. Alice Kuzniar.
46.	2023.10.23	Hospitality: Refugee Integration through Languages, Spirituality, and Arts	A Special Lecture by a University of Waterloo Honorary Doctorate Recipient Alison Phipps, UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts at the University of Glasgow.
47.	2023.11.24	Online Workshop: Graduate Studies in German	Join fellow graduate students to learn everything you want to know about graduate studies in German. The workshop is open to all current and prospective students who are interested in German studies on the graduate level.



48.	2024.09.21	Franz Kafka's In the Penal Colony: Performance and Symposium	The Waterloo Centre for German Studies and the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Waterloo are proud to present <i>In the Penal Colony</i> , a performance and symposium event.
49.	2024.10.12	DAAD Alumni Meet Up: Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest	The DAAD Alumni Association Canada invites its members to partake in a Canadian interpretation of a distinctly German (well, Bavarian) cultural ritual: Oktoberfest!
50.	2024.11.07	Funding Your Research in Germany Info Session	DAAD director John Paul Kleiner provides details on specific funding programs to support research activities in Germany and/or with German partners.
51.	2024.11.07	The Changing German Political Landscape	The German Academic Exchange Service's (DAAD) alumni organizations in the US and Canada, in conjunction with the Waterloo Centre for German Studies, are pleased to sponsor a panel discussion that brings together leading scholars in the field for an in-depth examination of these recent elections that have changed Germany's political landscape.
52.	2025.02.24	Grimm Lecture Book Event	Distinguished Professor Emerita Alice Kuzniar will host a free book club discussion of Kafka's novella <i>The Metamorphosis</i> , his famous story about travelling salesman Gregor Samsa's strange transformation into a human-sized bug.
53.	2025.02.27	Grimm Lecture 2025	Grimm Lecture 2025 with guest speaker Dr. Karolina Watroba on Franz Kafka.
54.	2025.04.02	WCGS Book Prize Lecture with Andrea Rottman	Andrea Rottmann introduces her book <i>Queer Lives Across the Wall: Desire and Danger in Divided Berlin, 1945-1970</i> .
55.	2026.03.05	Priscilla Layne	Part of The Diefenbaker Lectures , a series of talks by leading scholars in German studies.
56.	2026.03.26	Hannah Eldridge	Part of The Diefenbaker Lectures , a series of talks by leading scholars in German studies.
57.	2026.04.06	Anjeana Hans	Part of The Diefenbaker Lectures , a series of talks by leading scholars in German studies.
58.	2026.04.09/10	Imagining Democracy in German Culture Today	A two-day seminar on the role that cultural expression plays in defining and defending democracy in contemporary Germany. Scholars from Canada, the US, the UK, Germany, Austria, Poland, and Australia presented papers on a variety of topics. Organized by Prof. Gabriele Mueller (York) and Prof. James Skidmore (Waterloo).



Appendix Three

Membership

Due to the public-facing component of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies, the Centre doesn't have a membership list per se. We have a mailing list of close to 600 people of which we've identified 127 current and retired faculty members from Waterloo and elsewhere.

Faculty Members Total: 127 (UW - 38; non-UW - 89)

	University of Waterloo (current and retired)	Other universities
1.	Michael Boehringer (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Harald Bauder – Toronto Metropolitan University (Geography)
2.	Barbara Schmenk (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Diane Bielicki - Brock (German)
3.	Emma Betz (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Erich Langenbach - Georgetown
4.	Alice Kuzniar (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Nina Woll – UQ Trois-Rivières
5.	Grit Liebscher (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Christine Lehleiter - Toronto (German)
6.	Paul Malone (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Ute Lischke - WLU (German)
7.	Ann Marie Rasmussen (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Alexandra Zimmerman - WLU (German)
8.	James Skidmore (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Paola Mayer - Guelph (German)
9.	Gary Bruce (History)	Mathias Schulze – San Diego State University (German)
10.	Alicia Batten (Religious Studies)	Gabrielle Mueller - York (German)
11.	Marlene Epp Conrad Grebel (History and Peace & Conflict Studies)	Mareike Mueller - UIC (German)
12.	Katy Fulfer (Gender and Social Justice)	Nikolai Penner - McMaster (German)
13.	Geoffrey Hayes (History)	Jean Wilson - McMaster (German)
14.	David G. John (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	John H. Smith - UCI (German)
15.	Sebastian Siebel-Achenbach (Stratford School)	Hangsun Kim – Toronto (German)
16.	Lynne Taylor (History)	Thomas Wortmann - Uni Mannheim (Germanistik)
17.	Markus Moos (Planning)	Justus Fetscher - Uni Mannheim (Germanistik)
18.	Tara Collington (French Studies)	Regine Zeller - Uni Mannheim (Germanistik)
19.	Douglas Peers (History)	Christina Kraenzle - York (German)
20.	Imre Szeman (English – Communication)	Ruediger Mueller – Guelph (German)
21.	Jasmin Habib (Political Science)	Markus Stock – Toronto (German)
22.	Altay Coskun (Classical Studies)	Angelica Fenner – Toronto (German)
23.	Karin MacHardy (History)	James Retallack - Toronto (History)
24.	Greta Kroeker (History)	David Pugh – Queen's (Languages and Literatures)
25.	Goetz Hoeppe (Anthropology)	John Noyes – Toronto (German)
26.	Ian Rowlands	Jennifer Askey – Alberta (German)
27.	Tristanne Connolly (English)	Erol Boran - Toronto (German)
28.	Beth Jewkes	Angela Borchert - Western (Modern Lang & Lit)
29.	Andrew Houston (Theatre and Performance)	David Darby – Western (Modern Lang & Lit)
30.	Guy Poirier (French Studies)	Kyle Frackman – UBC (German)
31.	Paul Fieguth	Annika Orich - Georgia (German)
32.	Onyeka Ezech (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Stefan Soldovieri – Toronto (German)
33.	Johanna Wandel (Geography/Env. Mgmt.)	Ervin Malakaj – UBC (CENES)
34.	Zina Gimpelevich (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Iris Bruce – McMaster (English)



35.	Norbert Lütkenhaus (Quantum Computing)	Oliver Schmidtke –Victoria (Political Science)
36.	Michael Drescher (Planning)	Daniela Roth – Dalhousie (German)
37.	Ireneusz Szarycz (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Mario Hirstein – Mannheim (Germanistik)
38.	Hildegard Nabbe (Germanic & Slavic Studies)	Biz Nijdam – UBC (German)
39.		Seth Peabody - Carleton
40.		Simone Pfleger – Alberta (Women's Studies)
41.		Christopher Ewing - Purdue
42.		Andrea Speltz – Queen's
43.		Ryan Carroll – Georgia (German)
44.		Ute Lischke - WLU
45.		Jan Völkel – Ottawa
46.		Alexandria Ruble - Idaho
47.		Georg Marschnig - Graz
48.		Sarah Clift – University of King's College
49.		Andre Fischer – Wisconsin (German)
50.		Monja Stahlberger – Reading (German)
51.		Katharina Linge – Exeter (German)
52.		Craig Griffiths – Manchester Metropolitan (History)
53.		Adi Nester – University of North Carolina
54.		Jeremy Best – Iowa State (History)
55.		Bettina Stoetzer – MIT (Anthropology)
56.		Barbara Hales – Houston (History)
57.		Samuel Huneke – George Mason (History)
58.		Karolina May-Chu – Wisconsin (German)
59.		Stephanie Galasso – Middlesex College (Philosophy)
60.		Andrea Meyertholen – Kansas (Museum Studies)
61.		Katya Motyl – Temple (History)
62.		Nicholas Baer – Berkeley (German & Film Studies)
63.		Phil Alexander – Edinburgh (Music)
64.		Annegret Oehme – UWashington (German)
65.		Monika Holzschuh – Queen's (German)
66.		Johannes Wankhammer – Princeton (German)
67.		Tobias Nagl – Western (English and Film Studies)
68.		Douglas Pretsell – Keele (History)
69.		John Plews – St. Mary's (German)
70.		Michael McGillen – Dartmouth (German)
71.		Elizabeth Stuart – King's College London (German)
72.		Mary Philip – Martin Luther University College
73.		Helga Thorson – Victoria (German)
74.		Christian Thomas – Acadia (German)
75.		Mikkel Dack – Rowan (History)
76.		Brandon Woolf – NYU (Dramatic Literature)
77.		Meindert Peters – Oxford (Medieval Studies)
78.		Alexander Sorenson – Binghamton (German)
79.		Kyrill Kunakhovich – Virginia (History)
80.		Sara Jackson – UMass Amherst (German)
81.		Maximilian Scholz – Florida State (History)
82.		Jens Klenner – Bowdoin (German)
83.		Sophie Salvo – Chicago (German)



84.		Claire Scott – Vanderbilt (German)
85.		Kathryn Starkey – Stanford (German)
86.		Jane Freeland – Queen Mary (History)
87.		Wesley Lim – Australian National University (German)
88.		Renate Wickens – York
89.		Rosemarie Morewedge – Binghamton (German)



Approved at the WCGS Executive Committee meeting – 24 September 2015

The Waterloo Centre for German Studies was founded and approved by Senate in 2004, with renewals in 2009 and 2014. Most of its operations are supported by private endowment.

Objectives

The Waterloo Centre for German Studies has the following mandate:

- To conduct research on the language, culture, and society of German-speaking peoples, from both historical and contemporary perspectives;
- To provide a wide range of educational and cultural activities for the academy and the broader community;
- To engage with German-Canadian heritage.

Organizational and Reporting Structure

The structure of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies shall be as follows:

- The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Centre and has the authority to execute and monitor the affairs of the Centre, subject to all applicable University policies, including Policy 44 (Research Centres and Institutes).
- The Director of the Centre shall manage the Centre, its employees, and its activities.

The Executive Committee

Membership

- The Director of the Centre, who will also act as chair of the Committee*
 - Term of office: ex officio
- The Associate Dean of Arts (Research) as delegate of the Dean of Arts (the Responsible Officer of the Centre as per Policy 44)
 - Term of office: ex officio
- Chair of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies
 - Term of office: ex officio
- Diefenbaker Memorial Chair in German Literary Studies
 - Term of office: ex officio
- Two at-large members the Executive Committee:
 - Eligibility: members of the Centre who are also Regular Faculty at the University of Waterloo as defined in Policy 76 (Faculty Appointments), and at least one of whom is normally not a member of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies
 - Term of office: two years (renewable)
 - In consultation with Centre membership, the Director nominates at-large members to serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee must approve the nominations.



- Only the Dean of Arts may remove an at-large member of the Executive Committee.

**Although Policy 44 states that the Responsible Officer for the Centre (here, the Dean of Arts) or his/her delegate will function as the Chair of the Committee, the Centre in consultation with the Associate Dean of Arts has decided that it is better to have the Director chair the Committee.*

Responsibilities

The Executive Committee serves as the primary executive authority of the Centre and oversees the Centre's activities. The Executive Committee shall:

- Enact rules and regulations for membership of the Executive Committee and the conduct of its affairs;
- Recommend appointment of the Director and other leaders to the Dean of Arts;
- Appoint and remove Members, and establish categories of membership and associated fees;
- Plan and implement the Centre's development;
- Establish processes to manage and monitor the Centre's financial affairs;
- Establish and enforce rules and regulations governing the Centre's activities, provided such rules and regulations are consistent with University policies, procedures and guidelines; and
- Establish such Committees as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities; this may include establishing advisory bodies comprised primarily of external Members for the purpose of providing strategic or scientific advice to the Executive Committee or the Director.
- Vetting the applications of prospective Members of the Centre.

Meetings

- The Executive Committee will meet at least once annually and additionally as appropriate.
- The Executive Committee will conduct its business transparently. Meetings of the Executive Committee will be open to Regular Members of the Centre, with advance notice of at least seven days being given of any meeting. Minutes will be taken at all meetings of the Executive Committee and will be available to the Members of the Centre.

The Director

Appointment and Term of Office

- The Director must be Regular Faculty at the University of Waterloo as defined in Policy 76 (Faculty Appointments).
- The Director is appointed by the Dean of Arts on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. In making this recommendation, the Executive Committee will seek the views of the Centre's membership.
- Appointment process:
 - At least nine months prior to the expiry of the current Director's appointment, the Dean ascertains the director's his/her interest in continuing.
 - If the Director wishes to continue, the Dean approaches the Executive Committee (less the Director) to ascertain its opinion on reappointment before making a final decision.
 - If the Director does not wish to continue, the Dean instructs the Executive Committee (less the Director) to form a Director Nominating Committee.
 - The Director Nominating Committee will be comprised of the Executive Committee (less the Director) who will also elect a committee chair from amongst themselves.
 - The Director Nominating Committee should make its recommendation to the Dean of Arts at least six months prior to the expiry of the current Director's appointment.



- The Director's term is determined by the Dean of Arts and is normally for a five-year period. The Director's term may be extended or renewed by the Dean of Arts with the support of the Executive Committee.
- The Director's performance is reviewed annually by the Dean of Arts. With prior knowledge of the Director, the Dean will seek confidential input from the Executive Committee, Members of the Research Centre, and its staff by any means s/he deems appropriate.
- The Director may only be removed from office for cause, which is to be understood in relation to the duties of the Director as described herein. Causes for removal include negligence, incompetence, unprofessional conduct, and inability to maintain the confidence of the Members. The procedures governing removal for cause shall be those set out in section 4 of Policy 40 – The Chair, except that all references to the "Chair" shall mean the Director.
- In the event of the Director's absence for any prolonged period, arrangements should be made for the Dean to appoint an Acting Director for a period of no more than one year.
- If permitted by the Executive Committee, the Director may delegate some of his/her responsibilities to one or more Associate Directors and/or to one or more staff members.
- The procedures followed by the Director in all matters shall be governed by prevailing departmental and/or Faculty practices, as applicable, and by University policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Compensation: normally, the Director receives an annual course release paid for by the Centre, or the equivalent amount in the form of an RAship for a student if the Director wishes to forego the course release.

Responsibilities

- Overseeing the Centre's operations and managing its budget;
- Recommending appointment and removal of staff to the Dean of Arts;
- Supervising staff members;
- Establishing working groups or Committees to provide appropriate guidance and advice in support of his/her responsibilities;
- Preparing an Annual Report to the Executive Committee;
- Discharging all responsibilities set out in the Centre's charter, and as directed by the Executive Committee.

Centre Membership: Categories and Responsibilities

Membership categories and criteria

- Regular Members: members of the University of Waterloo faculty (as outlined in Policy 76)
- Student Members: graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo or other universities
- Research Members: non-faculty instructors at the University of Waterloo or elsewhere; postdoctoral fellows at the University of Waterloo or elsewhere; faculty members at other institutions
- Community Members: other persons interested in the activities of the Centre.

All applications for membership will be vetted by the Executive Committee. Members of the Centre can join and leave the Centre at any time. The Centre will confirm continuing membership of all members on a regular basis.

Privileges and responsibilities of membership

- Members are eligible to request funding from the Centre for research projects or to support special events or activities.
- Members are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Centre.

Ratification of this Charter



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WATERLOO CENTRE *for*
Germanstudies

This charter, and any changes to it, will be ratified by the Executive Committee and subject to the approval of the University of Waterloo Senate Graduate and Research Council.



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Appendix Five

Letter of Support from the Dean of Arts

See next page.



June 30, 2026

Charmaine Dean
Vice President, Research & International

Re: Support for the renewal of the Waterloo Centre of German Studies

Dear Professor Dean,

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts, I am delighted to offer our full support for the renewal of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies. Since its last renewal, the Centre's director and members have worked diligently to ensure its continued success, fostering excellence in academic research and supporting the next generation of researchers and research users through small grants and awards. The Centre has also been highly effective in mobilizing public interest through its outreach activities. Its widely recognized WCGS Book Prize not only celebrates the work of scholars in German Studies but also brings the Centre's work to the attention of a broad scholarly audience.

Similarly, the Grimm Lecture series is an excellent example of the Centre's commitment to public engagement, bringing leading scholars from across the humanities and social sciences to Waterloo to deliver wide-ranging talks that address significant questions and speak to many disciplines, as well as to the interested public. The Centre has used its endowment wisely to support faculty and students and to mount events that collectively help sustain and inspire a wider community of scholars and supporters.

The Waterloo Centre for German Studies has consistently advanced leading-edge research and knowledge dissemination and has been instrumental in giving our researchers the impact and profile they deserve. It exemplifies the Faculty's commitment to internationalization, interdisciplinarity, and experiential education.

I enthusiastically recommend that the Senate Graduate and Research Council renew WCGS's mandate for a new five-year term.

Ana Ferrer

Ana Ferrer
Acting Dean and Associate Dean of Research
Professor of Economics



For Discussion**Open Session**

To: Senate Research and Innovation Council

From: Charmaine B. Dean
Vice-President, Research and International
Mathieu Doucet
Associate Vice-President, Research Oversight and Integrity

Date of Meeting: September 23, 2026

Agenda Item: **7. Research Centres and Institutes Update**

Summary

Charmaine B. Dean, Vice-President, Research and International, and Mathieu Doucet, Associate Vice-President, Research Oversight and Integrity, will provide an update about research centres and institutes.

Documentation Provided

Interdisciplinary Initiatives Presentation Slides

Interdisciplinary Initiatives

September 23, 2026

Mathieu Doucet, AVP Research Oversight and Integrity, Office of Research



Centres and Institutes at SRIC

- **February 2026:** SRIC approved a staggered approach to the extension/renewal of the mandates of Centres and Institutes.
 - Renewals of Centres and Institutes with mandates ending in 2025 and 2026 will be staggered through the end of 2027.
 - The aim is to support a manageable review process for both Centres and Institutes and the OVPRI.

Centres and Institutes at SRIC

- **Process for 2026-27:**
 - All **renewals** will be part of the consent agenda.
 - **Changes** to the status of Centres and Institutes (i.e. from University-level to Faculty-level administration) will be part of the regular agenda.
 - **Dissolution** of both Faculty- and University-level Centres and Institutes will be part of the regular agenda.

Interdisciplinarity at Waterloo

- Both **Centres and Institutes** and **Global Futures Initiatives** aim to advance interdisciplinarity at Waterloo.
- We have an opportunity to think strategically about the best approach to interdisciplinary research.

University Centres and Institutes:

- Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC)
- Waterloo Climate Institute (WCI)
- Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology (WIN)
- Games Institute (GI)
- Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute (CPI)
- Currently there are at least 16 Faculty-level Centres and Institutes

Global Futures Initiatives 1.0

- The Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute
- The Future in Motion
- Creating Canada's Largest Capstone Ecosystem
- Building Canada's Capacity to Address Climate Change
- SIGNAL Network
- Build Now/Future Cities
- Indigenous Futures Circle
- The Future of Work

Interdisciplinarity at Waterloo

- Is the current approach effectively advancing interdisciplinary research with impact?
- What's working? What are we doing well?
- What are the current challenges and barriers to effective interdisciplinary research? Can we remove any of those barriers?
- What opportunities are we missing?
- Should we focus our resources on a few specific high-impact areas? If so, how should we choose those areas?

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YOU+WATERLOO

Our greatest impact happens together.

For Discussion**Open Session**

To: Senate Research and Innovation Council

From: Nickola Voegelin
General Counsel

Justin Nankivell
Director, Research Security

Date of Meeting: September 23, 2026

Agenda Item: **8. Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act**

Summary

Nickola Voegelin, General Counsel, and Justin Nankivell, Director, Research Security, will provide an overview about the Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act (FITAA).

Documentation Provided

N/A