Senate

Open & Informal Sessions

October 5, 2026

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Needles Hall

NH 3407

Waterloo Campus

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UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

2026 10 05 Senate Meeting Book

AGENDA

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5:05 p.m.	10. Other Business	Discussion	
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5:10 p.m.	11. Informal Session Part 2 [Rosehart]		
	11.1 Wrap Up Discussion	Discussion	
5:30 p.m.	12. Adjournment		

The next meeting of Senate will take place on November 23, 2026.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Discussion **Informal Session**

To:	Senate
From:	Bill Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor Chair of Senate
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**1.1 Waterloo's Next Step**

Fellow Senators,

Waterloo was founded to do things differently. We embraced co-op when no one else would, we put computing in the hands of students and faculty and helped change the field, we made it normal for our people to work with industry and community when no other Canadian university did, and we became a world leader in undergraduate entrepreneurship. These are just some examples. None of that was the safe choice, and not all of it worked the first time. That willingness to try, and to try again when something doesn't land, is still who we are. This is the framing for Senate's informal session discussion.

For Part 1, our discussion will be focused on the following question:

1. Where and how could Waterloo be **bolder and more transformational** in advancing its academic mission and priorities?

For Part 2, later in the meeting, we'll have an open dialogue about the findings from Part 1.

Come thinking about where we should aim higher. We'll do the work together in the room. Together is an important theme for this and future discussions.

Please come ready to contribute. Senate's first informal session is a working session, and the thinking will happen at your tables, not from the front.

Many thanks,

Bill

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session**

To:	Senate
From:	Gen Gauthier-Chalifour University Secretary
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**3. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

3.1 Conflict of Interest

Senators are invited to declare any conflicts related to the open session agenda at this time. Should a conflict of interest arise during discussion, senators are asked to declare a conflict of interest as it arises.

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

3.2 Approval of the Agenda and Consent Items

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented/amended, and to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 7.1 – 7.7 and 8.1 of the Senate agenda.

Senators wishing to have an item removed from consent to the regular agenda are asked to contact the University Secretary in advance of the meeting. Senators may also request to have items moved to the regular agenda immediately prior to the approval of the agenda. Items removed from the consent agenda will be considered under item 9.

3.3 Minutes of the June 8, 2026 Meeting

Motion: To approve the open and confidential minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting, as distributed.

Documentation Provided:

- Open minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting (item 3.3)
- Confidential minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting (item 8.2)

3.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

There is no business arising from the minutes.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session**

To:	Senate
From:	Bill Rosehart President & Vice-Chancellor
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**4.1 Institutional Update**

Summary

This report provides Senate members with an update on key institutional items from each of the Vice-Presidents' portfolios, for information and awareness. Each Vice-President has contributed a high-level update on matters of institutional importance that may be of interest to Senators and support their role as members of Senate. There will be an opportunity during the Update from the President to ask questions related to the updates provided in this report.

Governance Path

PVP: September 17, 2026

Senate: October 5, 2026 (information)

Documentation Provided

Attached: President & Vice-Presidents' Institutional Report to Senate

Institutional Report to Senate

October 5, 2026

This report provides Senate with an update on a range of institutional activities and issues underway across the University. The items highlighted reflect current work in academic planning, international engagement, operations, external relations, research recognition, and compliance.

Academic priorities and program development

New program approval process

In October 2025, the AVPA and AVP-GSPA proposed a revised new program approval process to improve strategic oversight, reduce development timelines, and lessen administrative burden. Under the previous process, new program proposals took an average of 1.5 years to develop, and only 6 of 37 proposals submitted between 2016 and 2022 were ultimately approved. Key changes include elevating the Statement of Interest (SOI) as an early decision point, establishing submission deadlines, creating an Academic Programs Advisory Committee (APAC) to recommend provisional approval to the Provost, and providing centralized proposal-development support. In a June 2026 pilot, APAC reviewed 21 SOIs and proposals already in the system. Following review, the Provost provisionally approved six proposals to proceed, along with two additional proposals identified as institutional priorities. Approved proposals received specialist support for full proposal development, while others received detailed feedback and recommendations for revision. The process will be refined further in Fall 2026, with a new SOI intake and committee review anticipated in early 2027.

Graduate student and sessional instructor appointment processes

Implementation of collective agreements with CUPE 5524 for graduate teaching assistants, graduate research assistants and sessional instructors continues to progress. Major milestones include the launch of Workday to support recruitment and appointments, implementation of incumbency and seniority lists, and the introduction of biweekly pay effective September 2026, ahead of the collective agreement deadline. As of September 15, 2026, 2,140 graduate teaching assistant and graduate research assistant appointments and 414 sessional instructor appointments had been processed for the Fall term. Additional progress includes transitioning graduate student funding packages to the Guaranteed Appointments framework, improving consistency in offers of admission. Planning for Winter 2027 recruitment is underway, alongside continued process refinements and the establishment of an implementation advisory committee to support operational improvements and preparation for the next round of collective bargaining beginning in Winter 2027.

Global engagement

Waterloo's international activity continues to focus on strengthening institutional partnerships, supporting transnational education opportunities and advancing the University's global reputation.

Established in 2026, the Global Engagement Office supports Waterloo's international priorities by coordinating strategic global engagement across the University. Its work includes developing Waterloo's global engagement strategy, stewarding key international partnerships, supporting

transnational education opportunities, managing priority delegations, and strengthening Waterloo's international reputation through evidence-based initiatives. Over the coming year, priorities include developing a new global engagement strategy, strengthening processes for international partnerships, exploring transnational education opportunities, and deepening relationships with international institutions and governments.

Systems transformation

ERP Finance transformation

The ERP Finance initiative is one of the most significant business transformation efforts the University has undertaken in years. It is about more than replacing Unit4 and a collection of legacy financial systems; it is an opportunity to modernize how Waterloo manages, accesses, and uses financial information across the institution. Over the past year, the project completed its initiation and discovery phases, laying the groundwork to support better decision-making, more consistent data, and simpler processes. The project has now entered the design phase, with a focus on ensuring the future solution reflects the needs of faculties, researchers, and administrative teams while integrating with the existing Workday HR environment. Strong governance is in place through the ERP Steering Committee, with deliberate emphasis on stakeholder engagement, change management, and research requirements. This fall, stakeholder engagement is expanding, with initial priority areas including research project financial management, reporting needs, and procure-to-pay processes. Faculty members will be invited to participate in focused feedback sessions on specific business processes, reporting design, and testing activities. The project remains on track for Core Financials go-live in May 2028, followed by additional capabilities, including Adaptive Planning, in August 2029.

External engagement and institutional reputation

September brings students, alumni, faculty, staff and industry partners together through activities that showcase the energy and innovation that define Waterloo. Two long-standing events, Homecoming and Hack the North, highlight the University's ability to foster meaningful engagement across generations of alumni, current students and corporate partners.

Homecoming (September 19)

This year marked a significant evolution in alumni engagement by consolidating reunion* and Homecoming programming into a single fall weekend, creating a stronger focal point for alumni to reconnect on campus. Co-led with Athletics and Recreation, the expanded program included new centrally coordinated activities alongside long-established favourites such as the Parking Lot Party, Alumni VIP Tent and Warriors football game. Waterloo welcomed more than 1,800 participants, with strong engagement across faculty reunions, campus tours, alumni gatherings and athletic events. Strong participation at this annual celebration demonstrates the enduring connection alumni feel to UWaterloo and creates opportunities to strengthen relationships that support the University's long-term success.

*excludes Engineering who run their reunion in June

Hack the North (September 18-20)

Celebrating its 13th year in 2026, the event continues to reinforce Waterloo's reputation as a global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. Canada's largest hackathon welcomed nearly 1,200 student participants from 120 institutions across ten countries, including 547 UWaterloo students and 81 high school students from 40 high schools. Entirely student-led, the organizing team garnered more than $600k in sponsorships to deliver the event and remove financial barriers for participants. More than 60 industry partners and 35 judges from leading technology companies (including many UWaterloo tech founders) visited campus for a weekend of creativity, collaboration and problem-solving.

Government relations and public policy developments

Recent federal and provincial policy developments are relevant to Waterloo's work in research, innovation, infrastructure and academic planning. On September 3, 2026, the Government of Canada released the Responsible Data Centre Development Principles, intended to expand sovereign Canadian compute and AI infrastructure while ensuring community benefits and responsible electricity use.

On September 10, 2026, the Government of Ontario announced the allocation of 40,000 new funded college and university seats through the Priority Growth Fund. The new spaces are concentrated in high-demand fields including STEM, health care, education and skilled trades and form part of the government's broader $1.7-billion commitment to create 70,000 additional postsecondary spaces.

In August 2026, Ontario released its Data Centre Playbook, an early component of its forthcoming AI strategy, aimed at attracting data-centre investment while keeping Canadian data in Canada.

Research recognition and compliance

Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs and Prestigious Awards

The University of Waterloo was selected to host three of Canada's inaugural Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs, successfully attracting internationally recognized researchers whose work advances national priorities in health, social resilience, and innovation: Dr. Talia Bettcher (Arts), Dr. James Wolffsohn (Science) and Dr. Ruibing Wang (Engineering). This achievement demonstrates Waterloo's global reputation as a destination of choice for world-leading talent and positions the University to play a significant role in the Government of Canada's $1.7 billion Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative.

Dr. Mary Thompson was appointed to the **Order of Canada**. The Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System. Drs. Andrew Cooper, David Hammond, Ian Goldberg, Jimmy Lin, Myra A. Fernandes, Raafat Mansour, and Robert Mann were named **Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada** for their outstanding contributions to research, innovation, and

society. Dr. Travis Craddock was awarded **Membership in the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada**.

Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act (FITAA)

The Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act ("FITAA") and associated Regulations came into force on August 4, 2026**.** FITAA creates a foreign influence registry administered by an independent Foreign Influence Transparency Commissioner. The FITAA legislation requires certain information to be disclosed in the registry when all the following are present:

i. an arrangement with a foreign principal;
ii. the goal of the arrangement is to influence a political or government process of Canada; and
iii. the arrangement involves certain influence activities.

The definition of "foreign principal" reaches well beyond foreign governments and would include foreign state-owned or state-controlled universities. As well the definitions related to 'influence' are yet to be clarified for academic settings as they currently include, for example, development of policy reports. Ultimately, the legislation targets arrangements beyond traditional lobbying, and the registry is public, meaning filings will name the University and its foreign counterparty.

Discussion with the Commissioner is underway, and advisory documents for academic institutions are expected to be developed by the Office of the Commissioner and shared shortly. These advisory documents are expected to inform the University's approach. In the meantime, Waterloo is developing strategies to address the requirements of the Act while awaiting additional guidance.

These updates point to several areas that will require continued attention over the coming months, including implementation of new academic and employment processes, modernization of core administrative systems, engagement with government policy developments, and readiness for emerging compliance obligations.

Institutional operations

Job architecture and labour relations

A major institutional priority is the implementation of a university-wide job architecture and job catalogue, a foundational initiative that will bring greater clarity and consistency to how roles are defined, classified, and managed across Waterloo. Once implemented, it will provide a common framework for recruitment, compensation, career development, workforce planning, budgeting, and future organizational decisions. There are currently more than 1,900 distinct staff job descriptions. Greater clarity and consistency for individual roles will strengthen strategic advice, improve workforce planning, and support more effective service across the University.

Work continues on several complex operational and labour-relations priorities, including implementation of the updated University of Waterloo Staff Association (UWSA) Memorandum of Agreement, rollout of the new CUPE 5524 collective agreements for sessional instructors, graduate

teaching assistants and graduate research assistants, preparation for upcoming bargaining activities, and support for workforce planning, payroll changes, and appointment process changes.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Approval **Open Session**

To:	Senate
From:	Senate Graduate Council
Presenter(s):	Justin Wan Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**5.1 Report of the Senate Graduate Council: Faculty of Arts – Graduate Diploma in Accounting**

Recommendation/Motion

That Senate approve the creation of a Graduate Diploma in Accounting within the Faculty of Arts, effective May 1, 2027, as presented.

Summary

Senate Graduate Council met on September 15, 2026 and agreed to forward the following item to Senate for approval as part of the regular agenda.

a. Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Accounting.

The full proposal can be found in the September 15, 2026 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book, starting on page 91.

Proposal/Rationale

The proposed program is a Type 3/direct-entry Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Accounting. It is a professional, course-based graduate credential designed to provide a direct pathway to the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation while developing strong technical and applied accounting competencies. The academic discipline is Accounting, with emphasis on financial reporting, assurance, taxation, performance management, and professional judgment.

The GDip in Accounting is structured as a full-time, one-term program consisting of five graduate-level courses. It is designed primarily as a professional program with strong elements of applied research and critical analysis embedded throughout the curriculum. Students complete coursework-only, with no thesis requirement. Experiential learning is integrated through case-based instruction, applied projects, simulations, and professional skill development, preparing students for Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) examinations and workplace practice.

The program is offered in a regular, non-co-op format. Delivery is in-person, with planned use of blended and technology-enabled learning approaches to support flexibility, engagement, and innovative pedagogy.

The program's objectives are to develop deep conceptual understanding of core accounting and tax principles, strengthen analytical and research-informed problem solving, and cultivate professional judgment and ethical reasoning. Through an integrated curriculum that connects theory with application, students learn to interpret complex standards, evaluate alternative approaches, and communicate well-supported conclusions and recommendations.

The GDip in Accounting responds to strong and sustained demand for accelerated CPA pathway programs that combine rigorous technical training with applied professional learning. The curriculum is intentionally designed to emphasize experiential learning, ethical reasoning, professional judgment, and technology-enabled practice, aligning with evolving expectations of the accounting profession.

The program supports institutional priorities related to student access and pathway flexibility, offering an efficient graduate-level credential for students seeking professional accounting careers. It also contributes to equity and inclusion goals by broadening entry routes into the profession and providing structured academic and student-support frameworks to promote persistence and success.

Recent changes in the CPA profession and evolving expectations for entry into the designation have created strong demand for flexible, accelerated academic pathways that meet CPA preparatory requirements while accommodating diverse student goals and circumstances. A short, diploma-type graduate option responds directly to this shift by providing an efficient, professionally focused route for students who choose not to pursue a full master's degree immediately after undergraduate studies, as well as for those seeking a shorter, cost-effective academic credential to meet entry as a CPA. By expanding Waterloo's academic options to include a GDip in Accounting addition to our Master of Accounting program, it increases student choice in academic planning, reduces barriers to participation, and introduces a flexible alternative that is well-positioned to attract and retain a broader pool of high-potential accounting students. This added flexibility strengthens our academic offerings in the discipline of Accounting, supports sustained enrolment growth and increases our leadership position in the professional accounting education market in Ontario.

Jurisdictional Information

As outlined in the council's Terms and Reference, Senate Graduate Council is empowered to make approvals on behalf of Senate for a variety of matters:

- Consider, study and review all proposals for new graduate programs, the deletion of graduate programs, and/or major modifications to existing graduate programs, and make recommendations to Senate thereon.

Governance Path

Faculty of Arts: May 21, 2026

Senate Graduate Council: September 15, 2026

Senate: October 5, 2026

Documentation Provided

Appendix A: Faculty of Arts - Graduate Diploma in Accounting

The full proposal can be found in the September 15, 2026 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book, starting on page 91.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Approval **Open Session**

To:	Senate
From:	Senate Graduate Council
Presenter(s):	Justin Wan Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**5.2 Report of the Senate Graduate Council: Faculty of Health – Major Modifications**

Recommendation/Motion

That Senate approve the major modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Kinesiology and Health Sciences and the Master of Science (MSc) in Kinesiology and Health Sciences programs for the Faculty of Health, effective January 1, 2027, as presented.

Summary

Senate Graduate Council met on September 15, 2026 and agreed to forward the following item to Senate for approval as part of the regular agenda.

a. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Kinesiology and Health Sciences

b. Master of Science (MSc) in Kinesiology and Health Sciences

The full proposal can be found in the September 15, 2026 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book, starting on page 110.

Proposal/Rationale

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Kinesiology and Health Sciences Program:

Proposed changes:

1) Adding a new Graduate Research Field in Health and Behaviour.

The Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences is proposing a major modification to its graduate program to better align with its current research strengths and to improve the student administrative experience. Following past cyclical reviews and a series of strategic planning retreats that occurred over the past two years, the Department identified that our three existing research fields (Biomechanics, Neuroscience, and Physiology and Nutrition) do not fully encompass the research and teaching expertise of many faculty members. To address this, we are formalizing "Health and Behaviour" as a fourth graduate research field.

This change provides a clear academic home for a recent hire (health behaviour change, exercise and health psychology), alongside established researchers (aging, mood and emotion, clinical research, dementia prevention and care, knowledge translation, implementation research and other research methods), while allowing the new cohort to establish a distinct identity that reflects their primary contributions. In a 2026 survey, a cohort of 8 students indicated that they would classify their work under the "Health and Behaviour" field, if available. Additional students are being recruited for MSc and PhD work that falls under the Health and Behaviour umbrella. Similar fields can be found across other Kinesiology programs in Canada. For example, the University of British Colombia has fields in "Socio-Cultural Studies" and "Psychological Studies", the University of Western Ontario has a field in "Social Impact", and the University of Calgary has a field in "Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Sport".

The "Health and Behaviour" stream is already well-substantiated, having operated effectively as a de facto research field for the last two academic years with a dedicated seminar series and a robust catalog of existing course offerings. The Health and Behaviour seminars draw 15-30 participants each session, a similar number of participants as our existing fields.

2) Changing the admit terms of the PhD in Kinesiology and Health Sciences programs from Fall, Winter and Spring to only Fall. A note will be added to the website to indicate that if applicants would like to apply for Winter or Spring admission they will need to contact the Graduate Program Coordinator. The rationale is that this aligns with other programs in our Faculty and reduces administrative burden. Additionally, supervisors do not tend to take on students in the Winter or Spring terms very often.

<u>Master of Science (MSc) in Kinesiology and Health Sciences</u>:

Proposed changes:

1) Adding a new Graduate Research Field in Health and Behaviour.

The Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences is proposing a major modification to its graduate program to better align with its current research strengths and to improve the student administrative experience. Following past cyclical reviews and a series of strategic planning retreats that occurred over the past two years, the Department identified that our three existing research fields (Biomechanics, Neuroscience, and Physiology and Nutrition) do not fully encompass the research and teaching expertise of many faculty members. To address this, we are formalizing "Health and Behaviour" as a fourth graduate research field. This change provides a clear academic home for a recent hire (health behaviour change, exercise and health psychology), alongside established researchers (aging, mood and emotion, clinical research, dementia prevention and care, knowledge translation, implementation research and other research methods), while allowing the new cohort to establish a distinct identity that reflects their primary contributions. In a 2026 survey, a cohort of 8 students indicated that they would classify their work under the "Health and Behaviour" field, if available. Additional students are being recruited for MSc and PhD work that falls under the Health and Behaviour umbrella. Similar fields can be found across other Kinesiology programs in Canada. For example, the University of British Colombia has fields in "Socio-Cultural Studies" and "Psychological Studies", the University of Western Ontario has a field in "Social Impact", and the University of Calgary has a field in "Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Sport".

The "Health and Behaviour" stream is already well-substantiated, having operated effectively as a de facto research field for the last two academic years with a dedicated seminar series and a robust catalog of existing course offerings. The Health and Behaviour seminars draw 15-30 participants each session, a similar number of participants as our existing fields.

2) Updating the required and elective courses for the existing three Graduate Research Fields for clarity.

This modification includes a comprehensive update to the required and elective course descriptions for the other three existing research fields. By refining the wording and standardizing the structure across all four fields, the Department will ensure greater transparency for students and more efficient degree audits. This dual approach of expanding research scope while clarifying academic milestones ensures the program remains competitive and accessible for all graduate students.

3) Changing the admit terms of the MSc in Kinesiology and Health Sciences programs from Fall, Winter and Spring to only Fall. A note will be added to the website to indicate that if applicants would like to apply for Winter or Spring admission they will need to contact the Graduate Program Coordinator. The rationale is that this aligns with other programs in our Faculty and reduces administrative burden. Additionally, supervisors do not tend to take on students in the Winter or Spring terms very often.

Jurisdictional Information

As outlined in the council's Terms and Reference, Senate Graduate Council is empowered to make approvals on behalf of Senate for a variety of matters:

- Consider, study and review all proposals for new graduate programs, the deletion of graduate programs, and/or major modifications to existing graduate programs, and make recommendations to Senate thereon.

Governance Path

Faculty of Health: March 25, 2026

Senate Graduate Council: September 15, 2026

Senate: October 5, 2026

Documentation Provided

Appendix A: Proposed Changes – Faculty of Health

The full proposal can be found in the September 15, 2026 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book, starting on page 110.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Approval **Open Session**

To:	Senate
From:	Senate Graduate Council
Presenter(s):	Justin Wan Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**5.3 Report of the Senate Graduate Council: Faculty of Mathematics – Master of Cybersecurity and Privacy**

Recommendation/Motion

That Senate approve the creation of a Master of Cybersecurity and Privacy (MCP) program within the Faculty of Mathematics, effective September 1, 2027, as presented.

Summary

Senate Graduate Council met on September 15, 2026 and agreed to forward the following item to Senate for approval as part of the regular agenda.

a. Master of Cybersecurity and Privacy (MCP)

The full proposal can be found in the September 15, 2026 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book, starting on page 127.

Proposal/Rationale

The proposed Master of Cybersecurity and Privacy is a coursework program with co-op and regular options. The degree requirements include nine graduate courses relevant to cybersecurity and privacy and an ethics workshop. All courses will be delivered on campus.

The two objectives of the proposed Master of Cybersecurity and Privacy program are:

- To give students the theoretical and practical knowledge required for obtaining a cybersecurity position in industry or the public sector.
- To provide students with opportunities to engage with cybersecurity professionals in industry or the public sector through work-integrated learning.

The proposed program is carefully designed to let students learn about cryptography, security, and privacy individually as well as how the three areas complement and sometimes interfere with each other. Students will learn about these areas both from a technical and a non-technical point of view. Co-op will give the students the opportunity to apply their knowledge learned in the classroom in the real world.

The proposed program consists of three mandatory core courses, where students learn about both the fundamentals of cryptography, security, and privacy, and more recent developments in these three areas, and six elective courses. In their elective courses, students can choose to get more insights into specific topics discussed in the core courses (depth) or learn about additional topics in these areas not covered in the core courses (breadth). Many of the offered elective courses are at the CS 800-level or CO 700-level, which are seminar courses, allowing students to familiarize themselves with the state-of-the-art research in the area. In addition, students must complete an Ethics Workshop milestone by participating in a three-day workshop that will usually be offered in the Fall term. The Ethics Workshop milestone will ensure students learn to think critically about the legal, ethical, and policy implications of cryptography, security, and privacy technologies.

The Faculty of Mathematics is proposing a new professional, course-based Master's program in Cybersecurity and Privacy to address a significant need for cybersecurity professionals locally, nationally, and globally.

Attacks on computer and cyberphysical systems have become commonplace. In the last few years, the Region of Waterloo and surrounding areas witnessed cyber attacks on various public institutions, such as the Waterloo Region District School Board, the Universities of Waterloo and Guelph, hospitals in Listowel and Wingham, SickKids, and the Cities of Stratford, Woodstock, Hamilton, and St. Marys, along with attacks on companies such as Waterloo Brewing, The Beer Store, SunWing Airlines, Maple Leaf Foods, Sobeys, Indigo, and iMedic. Researchers from the University of Quebec identified at least 75 foreign digital operations of a malicious political or industrial nature directed at Canada since 2010.

One of the reasons for the significant rise in attacks is a lack of cybersecurity professionals who have the expertise to deploy and maintain secure computer and cyberphysical systems, give security training to the users of such systems, design and build cybersecurity technologies, perform forensic analysis after an attack to avoid future attacks, and work for governments to coordinate the response against cybersecurity incidents.
As well as responding to the need for cybersecurity professionals, this program aligns with the Waterloo at 100 strategic plan, particularly the focus on technological futures, which explicitly mentions cybersecurity and privacy as areas where the University can play a role in shaping technology to better serve society.

Jurisdictional Information

As outlined in the council's Terms and Reference, Senate Graduate Council is empowered to make approvals on behalf of Senate for a variety of matters:

- Consider, study and review all proposals for new graduate programs, the deletion of graduate programs, and/or major modifications to existing graduate programs, and make recommendations to Senate thereon.

Governance Path

Faculty of Mathematics: April 28, 2026

Senate Graduate Council: September 15, 2026

Senate: October 5, 2026

Documentation Provided

Appendix A: Faculty of Mathematics - Master of Cybersecurity and Privacy

The full proposal can be found in the September 15, 2026 Senate Graduate Council Meeting Book, starting on page 127.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session**

To: Senate

From: Gen Gauthier-Chalifour
University Secretary

Date of Meeting: October 5, 2026

Agenda Item: **6.1 Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 3**

Summary

Senate Bylaw 3: *Selection of Members of Senate* establishes the requirements and procedures for the selection of elected members of Senate, including nomination requirements for undergraduate Senators-at-Large.

In June 2026, the Senate Engagement Working Group (SEWG) recommended that Senate review and reduce the nominator requirements for elected Senators in Senate Bylaw 3, with particular attention to ensuring that nomination processes do not create unnecessary barriers to candidacy. A fulsome review of Senate Bylaw 3 is anticipated in 2027–28, following an opportunity to assess the implementation of the newly approved Procedures for Senate Elections and Appointments, consider practices at comparator institutions, and identify opportunities to further strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of the Senate election process.

On July 29, 2026 a motion was passed by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) Elections and Referenda Committee, and later approved by the WUSA Board of Directors on August 20, 2026, a recommendation to advocate to the University Secretariat for operational changes to reduce the nomination threshold for undergraduate Senators-at-Large from 100 to 25 signatures.

The proposed amendment would advance the SEWG recommendation in a timely manner, support WUSA's request to reduce barriers to undergraduate student candidacy and enable the revised nomination threshold to be implemented in the upcoming undergraduate election cycle.

The proposed amendment to Bylaw 3 is being brought forward for a first reading. A second reading and motion to approve is anticipated at the November 23, 2026 meeting of Senate.

Summary of Proposed Amendments to Bylaw 3:

- 2.01 b " For faculty and graduate students, the required number of members is five; for undergraduate students elected from a single faculty, the required number is twenty-five; for undergraduate students elected at large, the required number is ~~one hundred~~ twenty-five."
- 2.03 c "For faculty and graduate students, the required number of members is five; for undergraduate students elected from a single faculty, the required number is twenty-five; for undergraduate students elected at large, the required number is ~~one hundred~~ twenty-five."

Jurisdiction

This item is submitted to Senate in accordance with the University of Waterloo Act, section 22(o), which empowers Senate "…to enact by-laws and regulations for the conduct of its affairs."

Senate Bylaw 1 states the procedural requirements for the passage of new bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws:

12.01 The passage of a new bylaw or amendment(s) to an existing bylaw is accomplished in two readings by Senate. At the first reading, such discussion as is deemed appropriate by Senate shall take place. At the second reading, further discussion may take place and the vote on the document shall be taken. The two readings shall take place at different, but not necessarily consecutive, meetings of Senate.

12.02 No proposed bylaw or amendment(s) will be given reading unless it has been bound into or accompanies the agenda portfolio distributed in advance of the meeting.

12.03 Any proposed bylaw or amendment(s) shall include the proposed wording of the bylaw or amendment(s), and where appropriate, a summary of the reasons for such bylaw or amendment(s).

12.04 In order to be approved by Senate, any new bylaw or amendment(s) to bylaws must receive the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of Senate present and voting at the meeting.

Governance Pathway

WUSA Board of Directors: August 20, 2026

Senate Executive Committee: September 21, 2026

Senate: October 5, 2026 (first reading)

Senate: November 23, 2026 (second reading and approval)

Documentation

Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 3

Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 3

A bylaw relating to the selection of members of Senate of the University of Waterloo.

BE IT ENACTED as a bylaw of the University of Waterloo, as follows:

1. Chief Returning Officer

1.01	The university secretary or designate shall act as chief returning officer for the purpose of conducting the election of members of Senate. As chief returning officer, the university secretary or designate has overall responsibility for the general conduct of such elections and by-elections, which shall be by secret ballot. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the chief returning officer shall: a. Establish the timing of Senate elections and by-elections, subject to the provisions described in sections 2.01 and 2.03 below. b. Call for nominations and when doing so inform the university community of the names of those members of Senate whose terms of office expire that year and whether such members are eligible for a further term of service. c. Verify the eligibility of nominees and nominators. d. For undergraduate student elections, provide nomination information to the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association Election Committee. e. Distribute ballots and balloting information to eligible voters, allowing at least one week for the polling period. f. Announce the results to the university community, and resolve ties, as necessary.

2. Elections

2.01	**Elections** a. The election of faculty and student members to Senate shall be completed by the regular March meeting of Senate each year. Undergraduate student elections shall be held in conjunction with the annual elections conducted by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association in February. Faculty and graduate student elections are conducted by the Secretariat. b. The nomination period for faculty constituencies and graduate students is at least twenty-one (21) days. For undergraduate student constituencies, the nomination period is determined in consultation with the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association. The chief returning officer shall call for nominations from those faculty and student constituencies that have members whose terms are expiring by placing a suitable notice in such places and ways as may be designated from time to time by Senate, with copies to the appropriate faculties and constituency presidents. Nomination forms shall be made available by the Secretariat. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the chief returning officer. Each

	nomination shall be signed by the required number of members of the constituency from which the member is to be elected and shall include a signed statement from the nominee agreeing to serve if elected. For faculty and graduate students, the required number of members is five; for undergraduate students elected from a single faculty, the required number is twenty-five; for undergraduate students elected at large, the required number is ~~one hundred~~ twenty-five. c. Undergraduate student nominees, or their representatives, shall attend an all candidates' mandatory meeting held by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association. The chief returning officer, or designate, shall also be present. d. For faculty and graduate student elections, the chief returning officer shall publish the candidates' statements in such places and ways as may be designated from time to time by Senate.
2.02	**Campaigning/Voter Eligibility** a. Public campaigning shall not take place before the close of nominations. For faculty and graduate student elections, nominees are to provide a brief statement (100 words maximum) to appear with the ballot. b. The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association election rules as described in the Association's Elections and Referenda Procedure regulating campaigning for undergraduate student elections, including spending limits, shall be followed. The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association Election Committee decisions may be appealed to the university secretary, who shall act as chief returning officer, and whose decision is final. c. In a faculty constituency, all faculty members who hold a regular faculty appointment in that constituency are eligible to vote. In a graduate student constituency, all full-time and part-time graduate students registered in a degree program in that constituency are eligible to vote. In an undergraduate student constituency, all full-time students registered in a degree program in that constituency are eligible to vote; this includes students whose academic programs require a prolonged absence from campus such as a co-op work term or an approved study term abroad.
2.03	**By-Elections** a. The university secretary shall declare a Senate seat vacant: i. upon receipt of a written resignation from a member of Senate. ii. when a member of Senate ceases to be eligible to represent the constituency that elected the member, for example when a faculty member ceases to hold a regular faculty appointment, or when a student graduates

or otherwise ceases to be registered in the constituency that elected the student.[1]

b. If, within any year, a member of the Senate or any of its committees or councils, not having been granted permission to be absent by such body, attends less than 50 per cent of the regular meetings of such body, the member's office shall be by that very fact considered to be vacated and a confirmatory resolution shall be passed by Senate declaring the membership vacant. The Senate or its committee or council may grant such permission to members who are going on an approved sabbatical, on a co-op term, or any similar such absence related to the members' employment and/or educational program.

c. Subject to the provisions noted below, the chief returning officer shall call by-elections to fill vacancies as soon as feasible and shall place a suitable notice in such places and ways as may be designated from time to time by Senate, with copies to the appropriate faculties and constituency presidents. Nominations shall remain open for at least one week and shall be submitted in writing to the chief returning officer. Each nomination shall be signed by the required number of members of the constituency from which the member is to be elected, and shall include a signed statement from the nominee agreeing to serve if elected. For faculty and graduate students, the required number of members is five; for undergraduate students elected from a single faculty, the required number is twenty-five; for undergraduate students elected at large, the required number is ~~one hundred~~ twenty-five.

d. When a seat is vacant because of the failure of a constituency to nominate any candidate to contest an election or by-election, that seat shall remain vacant until the next annual election, unless a petition [available from the Secretariat] requesting a by-election signed by the required number of members of the constituency concerned is received by the chief returning officer.

e. When a seat becomes vacant within three months of the end of the term for that seat, no by-election shall be called to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.

f. No by-election shall be called or held in any constituency between 1 July and 15 September. In addition, no by-election shall be held in any undergraduate constituency between 1 April and 1 July.

3. Alumni representation

3.01	Each year the Alumni Council shall recommend the names of individual(s) for appointment to Senate. The university secretary shall be informed of such recommendations as they are made and shall so inform Senate.

4. Board of Governors Representation

4.01	Each year the university secretary shall request the Board of Governors to elect from among its community-at-large members as many as four individuals to serve as members of Senate pursuant to paragraph 18(b)(1) of The University of Waterloo Act, 1972. The university secretary shall be informed of the results of such election promptly following its completion, and shall so inform Senate.

Approved by Senate 15 June 1972.
Amended by Senate January 1973.
Amended by Senate April 1973.
Amended by Senate June 1975.
Amended by Senate in two readings, September and October 1975.
Amended by Senate in two readings, November and December 1982.
Amended by Senate in two readings, January and February 1983.
Amended by Senate in two readings, December 1984 and January 1985.
Amended by Senate in two readings, December 1989 and January 1990.
Amended by Senate in two readings, October and November 1990.
Amended by Senate in two readings, November and December 1991.
Amended by Senate September 1995.
Amended by Senate September 1999.
Amended by Senate in two readings, October and November 2013.
Amended from Bylaw 5 by Senate in two readings, September and October 2014.
Amended by Senate in two readings, January and February 2016.
Amended by Senate in two readings, November 2017 and January 2018.
Amended by Senate in two readings, October and November 2019.
Amended by Senate in two readings, January 2025 and March 2025.

[1]See *The University of Waterloo Act*, section 25, for instances when graduating students may be exempt.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	Senate
From:	Senate Academic Quality Enhancement Committee
Presenter(s):	Martin Cooke Associate Vice-President, Academic
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**7.1 Report: Senate Academic Quality Enhancement Committee**

Summary

Senate Academic Quality Enhancement Committee (AQuE) conducted e-votes concluding on May 25, 2026 and June 16, 2026 and agreed to forward the following items to Senate for information as part of the consent agenda. On behalf of Senate, the following items were received approved:

a. Final Assessment Report: Science and Aviation (BSc); Geography and Aviation (BES)
b. Update Report and Action Plan: Italian Studies Minor
c. Final Assessment Report for Sociology (BA, Minor, MA, PhD), Legal Studies (BA, Minor), Social and Legal Studies (MA)
d. Progress Report for Classical Studies (MA)

Approved final assessment reports and cyclical program review progress reports can be viewed on the AQuE Committee Reporting page. There were no issues noted in the reports or concerns raised by the committee.

Jurisdictional Information

As outlined in the committee's Terms and Reference, Senate Academic Quality Enhancement Committee is empowered to make approvals on behalf of Senate for a variety of operational matters:

2. On behalf of Senate, consider and approve all Final Assessment Reports and Progress Reports within the University's IQAP, and provide Senate with a summary of the committee's deliberations in this regard. Any matter of controversy that might arise may be referred to Senate.

Governance Path

Senate Academic Quality Enhancement Committee approval date: May 25, 2026

Senate Academic Quality Enhancement Committee approval date: June 16, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To: Senate

From: Bill Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor
Senate Executive Committee Chair

Agenda Item: **7.2 Senate Executive Committee: Summary of the September 21, 2026 Meeting**

Summary
At the September 21, 2026 meeting of the committee, the following items were discussed:

1. **Senate Council and Committee Membership**
   The committee discussed the vacancies on Senate committees and councils for 2026–27 that were filled over the summer, as set out in the list of nominees and in accordance with the delegation of authority approved by Senate on June 8, 2026. The committee approved by e-vote on September 28, 2026. (See item 8.1 in the Senate meeting book for October 5, 2026)

2. **Draft Senate Meeting Agenda for October 5, 2026**
   Following review and feedback, the committee approved the October 5, 2026 Senate agenda.

Senate Executive Committee meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the committee webpage: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/executive-committee-agenda-minutes

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	Senate
From:	Senate Graduate Council
Presenter(s):	Justin Wan Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**7.3** **Report of the Senate Graduate Council**

Summary

Senate Graduate Council met on September 15, 2026 and agreed to forward the following items to Senate for information as part of the consent agenda. On behalf of Senate, the following items were approved:

1. Curricular Submissions

   Council approved the following proposed minor changes to existing programs and regulations for:
   a. Faculty of Arts
   b. Faculty of Health
   c. Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs

2. New Scholarships and Awards

   Council received for information and approved the following awards: Anita B. Taylor Bursary; ECE MEng Program Entrance Award; Norman Esch Entrepreneurial PhD Awards; Dalia and Sally Ghazi Ibaid Graduate Scholarship; Sponsored Master's Award Program [S-MAP Course-Based + S-MAP Research]; J. Alan George Student Leadership Award; Norman Esch Graduate Scholarship; Sharon Lamont Student Award; Barry Goodison Graduate Scholarship for Cryospheric Research.

3. Waterloo Business

   Council received for information an update about Waterloo Business.

4. New Program Approval Process

   Council received for information and discussed the implementation of the proposed new process for new program development and approvals.

Jurisdictional Information

As outlined in the council's Terms and Reference, Senate Graduate Council is empowered to make recommendation and approvals on behalf of Senate for a variety of matters:

- Receive for information and make recommendation to Senate as appropriate with respect to governance, regulations, polices, and matters relating to graduate education and Studies at the University.
- On behalf of Senate, consider and approve all new graduate courses, the deletion of graduate courses, and proposed minor modifications to existing graduate courses and programs, and provide Senate with a brief summary of Council's deliberations in this regard.
- On behalf of Senate, consider and approve all new graduate scholarships and awards, and proposed changes to existing graduate scholarships and awards. Any matter of controversy that might arise may be referred to Senate.

Governance Path

Senate Graduate Council: September 15, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	Senate
From:	Senate Undergraduate Council
Presenter(s):	Martin Cooke Associate Vice-President, Academic
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**7.4** **Report of the Senate Undergraduate Council**

Summary

Senate Undergraduate Council met on June 16, 2026 and September 15, 2026 and agreed to forward the following items to Senate for information as part of the consent agenda. On behalf of Senate, the following items were approved:

1. Curricular Submissions

   Council approved the following new courses, the deletion of courses, course changes, and proposed minor changes to existing courses and programs for:

   a. Faculty of Arts

   b. Faculty of Engineering

   c. Faculty of Environment

2. New Scholarships and Awards

   Council received for information the following awards: Nola Abrams Memorial Award for Knowledge Integration; Botzang Women's Soccer Excellence Award; Wayne Chang E Co-op Award in Engineering; Chemical Engineering Year Two Bursary; Co-operators Bursary; Co-operators Scholarship; Connor Clark & Lunn Financial Analysis and Risk Management Scholarship; Engineering Launchpad Bursary; Ralph Furman Pi Scholarship in Pure Mathematics; Robert J. Glushko Undergraduate Prize in Cognitive Science; Harding Family Award for Experiential Education and Research in Anthropology; Harding Family Scholarship in Mathematics; Jerry Krauel Award for Excellence in Humanities; Jerry Krauel Experiential Learning Award; Thuthukudy Krishnamoorthy Scholarship; Lau Family Engineering Bursary; Let Hope Fly Aviation Award; Low/Chiu Perseverance Award; Peter Lowe Memorial Entrance Bursary; Maglin Site Furniture Award in Sustainable Design; Maglin Site Furniture Scholarship; Nandi Scholarship in Systems Design Engineering; PostGrid Innovation Award; D.S. Rajczak Enterprise Co-op Award in Engineering; David John Stricker Scholarship in Chemical Engineering; Anita B. Taylor Bursary; Mary Ann Vaughan Athletics Excellence Award in Football; Western Financial Group Athlete Leaders Award.

3. Transnational Education Programs

   Council received for information and discussed the proposed Transnational Education Programs.

4. Business Programs and Courses

   Council received for information an update about Waterloo Business.

5. New Program Approval Process

   Council received for information and discussed the implementation of the new process for new program development and approvals.

6. Curriculum Submission Guidelines

   Council approved minor changes to the curriculum submission guidelines, as presented.

Jurisdictional Information

As provided for in Senate Bylaw 2, section 5.03, council is empowered to make recommendation and approvals on behalf of Senate for a variety of operational matters:

a. Make recommendations to Senate with respect to rules and regulations for the governance, direction and management of undergraduate studies in the university.
c. On behalf of Senate, consider and approve all new undergraduate courses, the deletion of undergraduate courses, and proposed changes to existing undergraduate courses and minor changes to programs and/or plans, and provide Senate with a summary of council's deliberations in this regard. Any matter of controversy that might arise may be referred to Senate.

Governance Path

Senate Undergraduate Council, Curriculum Subcommittee: June 5, 2026

Senate Undergraduate Council: June 16, 2026

Senate Undergraduate Council: September 15, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	**Senate**
Presenter:	Thomas Duever, Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**7.5.1 Call for Nominations for University Professor**

Summary:

The attached memorandum details the process and timelines for which members of the University of Waterloo community may submit nominations for University Professor.

MEMORANDUM October 5, 2026

To: Members of Senate
Chairs of Departments and Directors of Schools

Copy: Daily Bulletin

From: Thomas Duever, Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost

Re: **Call for University Professor Nominations**

To date, the University of Waterloo has awarded this distinction to forty-one individuals:

N. Asokan, Cheriton School of Computer Science (2026)
Philip Beesley, School of Architecture (2023)
Raouf Boutaba, School of Computer Science (2024)
Phelim Boyle, School of Accounting and Finance (2006)
Roy Cameron, School of Public Health Sciences (2008)
Claudio Canizares, Electrical and Computer Engineering (2020)
Jennifer Clapp, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability (2021)
William Coleman, Political Science (2015)
Richard J. Cook, Statistics and Actuarial Science (2020)
William Cook, Combinatorics and Optimization (2015)
Ken Davidson, Pure Mathematics (2007)
Geoffrey Fong, Psychology, School of Public Health Sciences (2023)
Randy Harris, English Language and Literature (2026)
Keith Hipel, Systems Design Engineering (2007)
John Hirdes, School of Public Health Sciences (2022)
Robert Jan van Pelt, School of Architecture (2005)
Lyndon Jones, Optometry and Vision Science (2020)
Anita Layton, Applied Mathematics (2025)
Ellsworth LeDrew, Geography and Environmental Management (2009)
Ming Li, School of Computer Science (2009)
Robert Mann, Physics and Astronomy (2022)
Stuart McGill, Kinesiology (2010)
Terry McMahon, Chemistry (2005)
John McPhee, Systems Design Engineering (2026)
Ian Munro, School of Computer Science (2006)

Linda Nazar, Chemistry (2016)
Flora Ng, Chemical Engineering (2008)
Tamer Ozsu, School of Computer Science (2018)
Francois Paré, French Studies (2012)
Janusz Pawliszyn, Chemistry (2010)
Daniel Scott, Geography and Environmental Management (2025)
Sherman Shen, Electrical and Computer Engineering (2017)
Jacob Sivak, School of Optometry (2007)
Cameron Stewart, Pure Mathematics (2004)
Doug Stinson, School of Computer Science (2013)
Mary Thompson, Statistics and Actuarial Science (2004)
Donna Strickland, Physics and Astronomy (2025)
Philippe Van Cappellen, Earth and Environmental Sciences (2024)
Joanne Wood, Psychology (2017)
En-Hui Yang, Electrical and Computer Engineering (2024)
Weihua Zhuang, Electrical and Computer Engineering (2021)

The nomination and selection process is available at University Professors | Associate Vice-President, Faculty and Academic Life | University of Waterloo (uwaterloo.ca) and is reproduced below for your information.

Please ensure that nomination material is submitted by December 22, 2026 to avpfal@uwaterloo.ca (cc: adwyer@uwaterloo.ca).

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

The University of Waterloo owes much of its international reputation and stature to the quality of its eminent professors. University of Waterloo recognizes exceptional scholarly achievement and international pre-eminence through the designation University Professor. Once appointed, a faculty member retains the designation until retirement.

Not counting retirees, it is anticipated there will be one University Professor for approximately every 60 full-time regular faculty members, with at most two appointments each year. Such appointments are reported to Senate and the Board of Governors in March and April respectively.

Nomination and Selection Process

1. Annually, nominations will be sought from Faculty deans, directors of schools and department chairs, as well as from the university community generally. A nominee shall have demonstrated exceptional scholarly achievement and international pre-eminence in a particular field or fields of knowledge. The individual who nominates a colleague is responsible for gathering the documentation and submitting it to the Vice-President, Academic and Provost by December 22, 2026 to avpfal@uwaterloo.ca and cc adwyer@uwaterloo.ca. The University Tenure, Permanence and Promotion Committee will act as the selection committee; its decisions are final.

2. A nomination must be supported by at least six signatures from at least two UW departments/schools and must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a short, non-technical description of the nominee's contributions.

3. A nomination must also be accompanied by letters from the nominee's Dean, and from at least two and no more than five scholars of international standing in the nominee's field from outside the University. The scholars are to be chosen by the nominee's Chair/Director in consultation with the Dean and the nominator. The letter of nomination should explain why these particular scholars were chosen.

4. Letters soliciting comments from scholars shall be sent by the Chair/Director. Scholars shall be asked to comment on the impact and specific nature of the nominee's most influential contributions, addressing their responses directly to the Vice-President, Academic and Provost.

5. The dossiers of unsuccessful nominees remain in the pool for two additional years. The appropriate Dean should provide updated information each year. No candidate may be nominated again until at least two years have elapsed since the last consideration by the Committee.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	Senate
From:	Thomas Duever Interim Vice-President, Academic & Provost
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**7.5.2 Faculty Appointments**

Summary

The Faculty Reports for Senators' information regarding the variety of appointments, reappointments, special appointments, leaves, and other matters of interest about individuals in the Faculties are available on the Senate agenda page.[1]

[1] https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/all-faculty-october-2026.pdf

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	Senate
Presenter(s):	Charmaine Dean Vice President, Research
Date of Meeting:	October 5, 2026
Agenda Item:	**7.6 Awards, Distinctions, Grants, Commercialization Activity, International Engagements**

Recommendation/Motion

This item is for information purposes.

Summary

This report summarizes successful commercialization, research and Faculty award outputs and outcomes for July and August 2026.

Proposal/Rationale

This report provides a summary of significant monthly outputs related to; awards and distinctions and commercialization and entrepreneurship activities.

Jurisdictional Information

N/A

Governance Path

N/A

Documentation Provided

Attached – Vice-President, Research: Report to Senate, October 2026.

Vice-President, Research
Report to Senate October 2026

Introduction

This report highlights successful research grant and award outcomes for the period July and August 2026.

Faculty Awards

Mary Thompson (Statistics and Actuarial Science)
Order of Canada
The Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System. Presented by the governor general, it recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation in the field of statistics.

Fellows, Royal Society of Canada (RSC)
The RSC recognizes excellence, advises the government and the larger society, and promotes a culture of knowledge and innovation in Canada and with other national academies around the world. The following were the latest RSC fellow awards.

- *Andrew Cooper (School of Social, Political and Historical Research)*
- *Myra A. Fernandes (School of Psychology)*
- *Ian Goldberg (School of Computer Science)*
- *David Hammond (School of Public Health Sciences)*
- *Jimmy Lin (School of Computer Science)*
- *Raafat Mansour (Electrical and Computer Engineering)*
- *Robert Mann (Physics and Astronomy)*

Travis Craddock (Biology)
Member, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists
Members of The College are Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents who have held that status for at least three years, are within 15 years of their PhD, and have demonstrated exceptional accomplishment. Membership in The College is limited to a seven-year term.

Steven Bednarski (History)
Fellow, Society of Antiquaries of London
Election as a Fellow follows a rigorous peer-nomination process to identify those who have made significant contributions to the understanding of the past.

Jason Bell (Pure Mathematics)
Fellow, Canadian Mathematical Society
The Fellow distinction recognizes CMS members who have "made excellent contributions to mathematical research, teaching, or exposition, as well as having distinguished themselves in service to Canada's mathematical community."

David Clausi (Systems Design Engineering)
Ontario Professional Engineers Award (OPEA) Engineering Medal in Research and Development.
Clausi has been awarded the Ontario Professional Engineers Award (OPEA) Engineering Medal in Research and Development for having advanced engineering knowledge, discovered new principles, and developed novel applications in vision and image processing.

Duane Cronin (Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering)
Safety Engineering Excellence Award
Cronin was awarded this award by transportation authorities in the United States and Canada for his contributions to vehicle safety research.

Charmaine Dean (Statistics and Actuarial Science)
2026 recipient of the Award for Impact of Applied and Collaborative Work presented by the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) and Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI)
The Impact Award recognizes outstanding contributions by SSC members in collaborative research and applied work, the importance of which derives primarily from its relatively recent impact on a subject area outside of the statistical sciences, on an area of application, or on an organization.

Andrea Edginton (School of Pharmacy)
2026 AFPC–Pfizer Research Career Award
The award recognizes research excellence among academic staff who stimulate and foster the development of research programs across all areas of pharmacy.

Monica Emelko (Civil and Environmental Engineering) Norman J. Howard Award
The award is one of OWWA's highest honors and recognizes individuals who demonstrate proficiency and leadership in key areas of municipal water supply, including design, construction, operation, maintenance, management, regulation and research.

Michel Fich (Physics and Astronomy)
Dunlap Award for Innovation in Astronomical Research Tools
This award recognizes Fich's sustained and visionary leadership in developing and ensuring Canadian participation in groundbreaking infrared and mm-scale astronomical instrumentation.

Igor Grossmann (School of Psychology)
Humboldt Research Award
The Humboldt prize is awarded for fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights with lasting impact and recognizes him as one of the most innovative behavioral scientists of his generation.

Vinny Gupta (Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering)
Silver Combustion Medal
The Silver Combustion Medal is presented biennially to authors of a distinguished paper that demonstrate exceptional quality, achievement and significance in advancing combustion science.

Gautam Kamath (School of Computer Science)
2026 Presburger Award
This prestigious honor recognizes exceptional contributions to theoretical computer science, notably pioneering work on computationally efficient algorithms for fundamental estimation tasks under robustness constraints.

Gautam Kamath (School of Computer Science)
2026 Godel Prize
The Gödel Prize recognizes outstanding contributions to theoretical computer science and is widely regarded as the field's most prestigious honor.

Amir Khajepour (Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering)
Fellow, Canadian Academy of Engineering
This award recognizes outstanding contributions to engineering in Canada and internationally.

Anita Layton (Applied Mathematics)
Fellow, American Physiological Society
This award honors distinguished leaders who have demonstrated excellence in science, have made significant contributions to physiological sciences and related disciplines and have served the Society.

Jock MacKay (Statistics and Actuarial Science)
2026 Brumbaugh Award
The Brumbaugh Award recognizes the paper judged to have made the largest single contribution to the development of industrial applications of quality control.

Chantel Markle (Geography and Environmental Management and School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability)
The Julian M. Szeicz Award for Early Career Achievement
This award is designated for recognition of research achievement and career potential in the field of wildlife ecohydrologist and conservation biology.

Mahsa Panahi (Statistics and Actuarial Science)
2026 Brumbaugh Award
The Brumbaugh Award recognizes the paper judged to have made the largest single contribution to the development of industrial applications of quality control.

Chris Rennick (Pearl Sullivan Engineering IDEAs Clinic)
2026 Isadore T. Davis Award for Excellence in Collaboration of Engineering Education and Industry
The award recognizes individuals who make a mark in the collaborative efforts between engineering education and industry toward the improvement of partnerships that advance learning, scholarship and engagement.

Stefan Steiner (Statistics and Actuarial Science)
2026 Brumbaugh Award
The Brumbaugh Award recognizes the paper judged to have made the largest single contribution to the development of industrial applications of quality control.

George Shaker (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
IEEE 2026 Service Award
This awards recognizes leadership in strengthening the Society's global engagement, member and student support and industry participation.

Xuemin (Sherman) Shen (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
2026 IEEE Canada A.G.L. McNaughton Award
This award honors his career-spanning contributions to wireless and ultra-broadband communication networks, including leadership in areas such as network security, vehicular communications, and AI-enabled systems.

Maria Strack (Geography and Environmental Management)
Mid-Career Scientist Award
Strack has gained this award for her outstanding research contributions to the advancement of peatland carbon cycling.

Changbao Wu (Statistics and Actuarial Science)
2026 Gold Medal of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC)
Wu is internationally recognized for his globally renowned for his groundbreaking research that bridges theoretical advancements and practical implementations in survey statistics.

Alfred Yu (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
2026 IEEE Canada Outstanding Engineer Award
Yu received this award in recognition of his transformative innovations in next-generation ultrasound imaging technologies, which have advanced clinical diagnostics and improved cardiovascular care.

Yizhou Zhang (School of Computer Science)
2026 AITO Dahl–Nygaard Junior Prize
Zhang is recognized for a series of original and influential contributions at the intersection of programming languages, mechanized metatheory, and effectful programming.

Boxin Zhao (Chemical Engineering)
Fellow, Canadian Academy of Engineering
Zhao received the award in recognition of outstanding contributions to engineering in Canada and internationally.

Jian Zhao (School of Computer Science)
Early Career Research Award from CS-Can | Info-Can
Jian’s is recognized for exceptional scholarly achievement and a deep commitment to education, mentorship, service and societal impact.

Commercialization and entrepreneurship highlights

PitchBook Rankings

In the 2026 PitchBook University Ranking, Waterloo moved from 11th to 7th spot globally, and retained 1st place rank among Canadian Universities for the number of undergraduate founders that have received at least one round of investment funding in the previous twelve year period. This is the first time a Canadian University has made the global top 10.

In the PitchBook ranking for the number of entrepreneurs with a graduate degree who have also raised at least one round of venture capital funding, Waterloo placed 54th globally and tied the University of British Columbia for the second-highest rank in Canada.

Waterloo was also recognized as the fastest riser in PitchBook's rankings for female founders with an undergraduate degree. The University ranked 11th globally for female entrepreneurs and first in Canada.

Since its launch in 2008, Velocity has helped more than 560 startups grow into companies that have generated more than $40 billion in enterprise value.

Funded Research Awards

Canada Research Chairs – (Cycles 2024 – 1 + 2 | Cycle 2025 – 1

The Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) stands at the centre of a national $311M annual strategy to attract and retain a diverse cadre of world-class researchers. Each Tier 1 Chair receives $200,000 annually for seven years, and Tier 2s receive $100,000 annually for five years.

NSERC

New Tier 1

- *Raouf Boutaba (School of Computer Science)* - CRC in Network Intelligence
- *Kerstin Dautenhahn (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, School of Computer Science)* - CRC in Socially Intelligent Robotics
- *Marina Meila (School of Computer Science)* – CRC in Structure Discovery
- *Maria Strack (Geography and Environmental Management)* – CRC in Wetland Climate Solutions

Renewed Tier 1

- *Duane Cronin (Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering) - CRC in Trauma Biomechanics and Injury Prevention*

New Tier 2

- *Mahla Poudineh (Electrical and Computer Engineering) - CRC in Health Monitoring BioNano Devices*
- *Mina Tahmasbi Arashloo (School of Computer Science) – CRC in Minimizing Human Error in Operating Modern Networks*
- *Lan Wei (Electrical and Computer Engineering) – CRC in Nanoscale Devices and Circuits*

Renewed Tier 2

- *Brian Kendall (Earth and Environmental Sciences)* – CRC in Redox-Sensitive Metal Isotope Geochemistry

SSHRC

New Tier 1

- *Sarah Burch (Geography and Environmental Management) – CRC in Transformative Climate Change Governance*
- *David Fortin (School of Architecture) – CRC in Critical Relationalism and Design*
- *Katherine Ratliff (School of Psychology) – CRC in Intergroup Attitudes*

Renewed Tier 2

- *Dillon Browne (School of Psychology) – CRC in Child and Family Clinical Psychology*
- *Logan MacDonald (Fine Arts) – CRC in Indigenous Art*
- *Ashley Mehlenbacher (English Language and Literature) – CRC in Rhetorical Theory and Practice*

CIHR

New Tier 1

- *Lora Giangregorio (Kinesiology and Health Sciences)* – CRC in Bone Health and Exercise Science

CIHR Grants

CIHR Doctoral Health System Impact Fellowships

The Health System Impact (HSI) program provides highly qualified PhD trainees and postdoctoral researchers and now early career researchers in health services and policy research/related fields with the opportunity to develop embedded research projects/programs that address the most pressing problems faced by health system organizations and to support evidence-informed decision-making. The three successful awards are below:

Doctoral awards

Kate Posluszny - supervised by Steven Fischer (Kinesiology and Health Sciences) Title: Characterizing Indicators of Community-based Personal Support Workers' Workload: Towards the Development of a Workload Management Approach *Amount:* $50,000 ($35,000 CIHR; $15,000 VHA Home HealthCare)

Tara Chen - supervised by Susan Elliot (Geography and Environmental Management) Title: Laying the Groundwork and Building Strategic Capacity for Older Person-Inclusive Climate Action
Amount: $50,000 ($35,000 CIHR; $15,000 International Federation on Ageing)

Post-Doctoral award

Dr. Shahan Salim - supervised by Plinio Morita (School of Public Health Sciences) Title: Strengthening Global Health Systems Through Evidence-Informed Governance of AI and Health Data
Amount: $155,000 ($108,500 CIHR; $46,500 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

Project Grants – Fall 2025 and Spring 2026

The CIHR Project Grant program is designed to capture ideas with the greatest potential to advance health-related fundamental or applied knowledge, health research, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes. It supports research projects conducted by individual researchers or groups of researchers, at any career stage, in all areas of health. The best ideas may stem from new, incremental, innovative, and/or high-risk lines of inquiry; or knowledge translation approaches. The following six grants were successful in the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 funding rounds, representing a success rate of nine percent. In the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 rounds, there were three successful applications, representing a seven and a half percent success rate.

Wajd Alkabbani (School of Pharmacy) and Colleen Maxwell (School of Pharmacy)
Title: Access, Equity, and Real-World Effectiveness of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes: A Multi-Provincial Canadian Study
Amount: $481,950

Geoffrey Fong (School of Psychology)
Title: The Global Prevention of Disease (GPrev) Project: From Evidence Synthesis to Simulation Modeling to Population Impact-Estimating the Effects of Tobacco Control Policies on Smoking Reduction and Lives Saved in Five Diverse Low- and Middle-Income Countries
Amount: $2,570,400

David Hammond (School of Public Health Sciences)
Title: Evaluating the impact of nutrition policies: the International Food Policy Study
Amount: $3,568,725

Juewen Liu (Chemistry)
Title: Aptamer-functionalized liposomes for targeted delivery of drugs to treat dry eye disease
Amount: $872,101

Kelly Skinner (School of Public Health Sciences)
Title: Management in Inuit Nunaat through Indigenous Healing Practices and Culturally Responsive Approaches (Bridge Grant)
Amount: $100,000

*Willia*m Wong (School of Pharmacy)
Title: Learning Approach to Find Undiagnosed Infection in Canada
Amount: $852, 976

SSHRC Grants

Aid to Scholarly Journals

Aid to Scholarly Journal grants support Canadian scholarly dissemination by offering a contribution to enable journals to explore innovative activities and help defray the costs associated with publishing scholarly articles, digital publishing and journal distribution on Canadian not-for-profit platforms. The competition is run every three years, and in the latest round, there was a 100% success rate over three grants valued collectively at $436K.

- *Veronique Boscart (Adjunct Faculty, School of Public Health Sciences*): Canadian Journal on Aging
- Jay Dolmage (English Language and Literature): Canadian Journal of Disability Studies
- Katy Fulfer (School of Social Political and Historical Research): Feminist Philosophy Quarterly

Connection grants

Connection grants support events and outreach activities geared toward knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and engage with participants on research issues. In the 2025/26 competition, the success rate was 21% (N=5 successful, $137K) compared to a national success rate estimated to be 30%. This success rate is down from 38% in 24/25 and 67% in 23/24. The following were the successful applicants.

Faculty name	Department	Grant Title	Amount
Marta Berbes	School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability	Resilient urban futures: Connecting practitioners and scholars to reimagine climate adaptation	$23,800
Karla Boluk	Recreation and Leisure Studies	Indigenous Tourism Futures: Co-Creating Decolonial Pathways	$24,998
Chantel Markle	Geography and Environmental Management	Braided Knowledges-Based Collaboration to Support Indigenous Community Land Stewardship Priorities	$46,962
Jennifer Saul	Philosophy	Anti-Democratic Communication	$16,791
Simron Singh	School of Environment, Enterprise and Development	Interconnected Futures: Pathways to Justice in Global Health, Peace and Sustainability	$25,000

Insight Grants

Insight Grants support research excellence in the social sciences and humanities. In the latest 2026/27 round, 21 applicants were successful (Total value = $4.1M). Notably, the number of eligible applications increased from the previous round from 36 to 48. This represents a 44% success rate compared to a 41% National success rate. This represents a five percent success rate increase from the 25/26 competition for Waterloo and a 13% increase from the 24/25 competition. The following were the successful applicants.

Faculty name	Department	Grant Title	Amount
Felix Arndt	Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business	Innovation Ecosystem Success	$312,476
Janice Barry	School of Planning	Ethics as Code, Ethics as Craft: Exploring Dynamic Practices and Governance in Planning Ethics	$331,267
Tim Bauer	School of Accounting and Finance	When is Client Incivility Toward Auditors More or Less Problematic	$110,147
Jennifer Clary-Lemon	English Language and Literature	Field Notes on Hope	$111,951
Andrea Collins	School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability	Backlash: Anti-Feminist Opposition in Global Food Governance	$122,495
Andrew Cooper	School of Social, Political and Historical Sciences/Studies	Trump's Personalist Approach to International Politics: Implications for Diplomatic Processes, Practices and Outcomes	$120,484
Jordana Cox	Communication Arts	Radical Edits: Reimagining news participation in contemporary visual and performing art	$81,591
Igor Grossman	School of Psychology	From narratives to choices: Advancing semantic topic modeling for mapping cultural narratives to social decision making	$398,489
Sara Hart	School of Psychology	Intergenerational Transmission of Reading Ability	$322,399
Jingjing Huo	School of Social Political and Historical Research	How Has Population Aging Changed the Politics of Inequality in Advanced Industrialized Nations?	$85,892
Suzan Ilcan	School of Social Political and Historical Research	Constellations of migrant precarity: precarious legal status in precarious spaces and precarious times	$124,639
Tisha King	School of Accounting and Finance	Balancing Roles in Elite Tax Advisory: Insights from Big Four Tax Professionals Serving Family Offices	$77,611
Ellen MacEachen	School of Public Health Sciences	At-home Digital Service Work: Examining Employment Risks in a Post-pandemic Low Wage Sector	$226,822
David Moscovitch	School of Psychology	Autobiographical memory as a vehicle for social resilience	$329,864

Faculty name	Department	Grant Title	Amount
Michelle Rutty	Geography and Environmental Management	DRR360: Virtual Reality for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tourism Dependent World Heritage Sites	$412,284
Steffanie Scott	Geography and Environmental Management	Nourishing the Neighborhood: Mapping a relational (re)turn to future local food systems in Waterloo Region	$111,437
Jason Thistlethwaite	School of Environment, Enterprise and Development	The Canadian Location Intelligence Platform (CLIP): Precision Risk Assessment for a Changing Climate	$471,302
Winfried Siemerling	English Language and Literature	Critical Theory, Blackness, and Anthropocene Poetics	$78,980
Kaishu Wu	School of Accounting and Finance	The influence of information environments on tax efficiency and use of tax planning channels: Evidence from private CbCR tax disclosure	$92,764
Galen Watts	Sociology and Legal Studies	Culture Wars in Canada: Romantic Expressivism and the Reconfiguration of Political Conflict	$108,404
Will Zhao	Stratford School of Interaction Design and Business	Multimodal Optimal Distinctiveness in Creator Economy Entrepreneurship: A Verbal-Visual Alignment Approach	$93,990

Insight Development

Insight Development Grants support research in its initial stages. The grants enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas. Funding is provided for short-term research development projects of up to two years that are proposed by individuals or teams. In the February 2026 funding round, Waterloo was successful at obtaining 13 funded projects out of 36 submitted ($964K) representing a 36% success rate, down 14% from the February 2025 competition of 50%.

Name	Department	Title	Amount
Steven Bednarski	History	DAMMES: the Digital Archive of Medieval Manosquin Environment and Society	$74,000
Julie Bernard	School of Environment, Enterprise and Development	Tackling Climate Change Shareholder Proposals in an Anti-ESG Era Through a Proxy Voting Lens	$75,653
Holly Campeau	School of Social Political and Historical Research	Curbing the Craft: AI, Officer Discretion, and the Sociotechnical Transformation of Policing	$73,657
Clara Colombatto	School of Psychology	The moral weight of confidence: How decision dynamics shape perceptions of moral character	$36,739

Victor Cui	Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business	The Global Chilling Effects of U.S. Sanctions on Open-Source AI	$92,925
Sepideh Ebrahimi	School of Accounting and Finance	How Does Anthropomorphism Influence Consumers' Susceptibility to Deception by Conversational Agents?	$79,601
Irenius Konkor	Provost's Program for Black and Indigenous Postdoctoral Scholars	Wellbeing under threat: community experiences of galamsey in Ghana	$98,827
Leia Minaker	School of Planning	Enabling evidence-based policymaking and interdisciplinary social change research for homelessness: Developing and evaluating CivicInquire, Canada's first intersectional AI-powered social science platform	$95,000
Richard Nyiawung Achankeng	Post-doctoral Fellow, Faculty of Environment	Assessing complexities in mangrove fisheries to deliver food, climate, and equity benefits	$76,898
Seda Oz	School of Accounting and Finance	Decentralized Entry Signals and Strategic Disclosure: How Crowdfunding Activity Shapes Incumbent Firms	$48,250
Stephen Quilley	School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability	Embodied Technics in an Age of Automation: Craft Practice, Skill, and the Transformation of Work	$39,761
Nancy Worth	Geography and Environmental Management	Stigma and strategy: Learning from disabled students' GenAI self-accommodation practices	$78,665
Zhu Qian	School of Planning	Resettling a large ensemble of Indigenous heritage buildings in China: impacts, challenges and potential	$94,818

Partnership Development Grants

Partnership Development grants support the development of partnered research and related activities in the social sciences and humanities. In the 2025 round, Waterloo was successful at obtaining two grants valued at $397K. This represents a 67% success rate compared to a National rate of 35%. It also represents a 42% success rate increase from the one grant received in the 2024 round.

Cameron McCordic (School of Environment, Enterprise and Development)
Title: Sustainable Horizons Under a Changing Climate
Amount: $198,944

Heather Henderson (School of Psychology)
Title: Co-Creating Belonging: Strengthening Youth Inclusion Through Shared Practice
Amount: $198,430

New Frontiers in Research Exploration
The New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) supports world-leading interdisciplinary, international, high-risk / high-reward, transformative and rapid-response Canadian-led research. In the 2025 competition, the University had two successful grants out of 26 submitted, representing an eight percent success rate, which is down 18% from the 26% success rate in 2024.

Travis Craddock (Biology)
Title: From Quantum Spins to Cognition: Harnessing Magnetic Fields to Improve Memory
Amount: $250,000

Will Percival (Physics and Astronomy)
Title: A robust statistical understanding of Dark Energy
Amount: $250,000

International Grants

Horizon Europe - Call – Horizon- CL6-2025-02-Climate-01
Horizon- CL6-2025-02-Climate-01 focuses on the "ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus and marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR)". It aims to develop standardized monitoring, reporting, and verification for marine carbon removal methods, assess ecological impacts of ocean-based carbon sequestration, and improve data-based ocean modelling. Projects are expected to contribute to climate neutrality.

*Dr. Derek Armitage (*School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability*)*
Title: Ocean Alkalinity enhancement: Sustainability and Impacts across Scales (OAeSIS) Amount: $859,129

Partners:
- Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) – Italy
- National Oceanography Centre (NOC) – United Kingdom
- Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI) – Switzerland
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory Limited (PML) – United Kingdom
- Rudjer Boskovic Institut (RBI) – Croatia
- Goeteborgs Universitet (UGOT) – Sweden
- Centro Nacional de Supercomputacion (BSC) – Spain
- University of Hamburg (UHH) – Germany
- IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories (IAEA-MEL) Monaco – United States

NSERC

Research Tools and Instruments

Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) grants foster and enhance the discovery, innovation and training capability of university researchers in the natural sciences and engineering by supporting the purchase of research equipment. In the 2026 round, there were 12 successful projects that valued $1.5M.

Name	Department	Title	Amount
Jason Au	Kinesiology and Health Sciences	Infrastructure for continuous non-invasive hemodynamic monitoring	$ 80,037
Dipanjan Basu	Civil and Environmental Engineering	AI Integrated Ground-Based Wildfire Sensor	$ 136,843
Anamaria Crisan	School of Computer Science	An Experimental Platform for Real-Time Human Interaction with Multi-Agent AI Systems	$ 150,000
Adrian Gerlich	Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering	Ultra-high speed thermal imaging in materials processing	$ 139,139
Bradley Hauer	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Millimeter-wave infrastructure supporting next-generation quantum sensors	$ 149,945
Martin Karsten	School of Computer Science	Testbed for Sustainable System Software	$ 150,000
Nikolas Knowles	Kinesiology and Health Sciences	A Spectral MicroCT for High-Resolution Imaging of Bone and Joint Tissue Adaptation	$ 150,000
Stewart McLachlin	Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering	Development of a Surgical Environment Robotic Assistant (SERA) for Applications in Orthopedic Surgery	$ 106,633
Ewa Niechwiej-Szwedo	Kinesiology and Health Sciences	Eye and gaze tracking system for investigating visuomotor control, expertise development, and human-computer interactions	$ 53,997
George Shaker	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Real-Time Spectrum Analysis System for Next-Generation Wireless Integration	$ 150,000
Xiaoyu Wu	Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering	A Versatile Sorption Measurement Setup for Gas Capture and Separation in Net-Zero Technologies	$ 109,317
Victor Zhong	School of Computer Science	A High-Performance Platform for Synthesizing AI Training Data	$ 150,000

NSERC Discovery

Discovery Grants support the development and sustainability of a diverse, high-quality research base in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) at Canadian universities, fostering research excellence and strengthening the research training environment. In the 2026 funding round, Waterloo received 108 grants valued at $5.2M.

Subatomic Physics Discovery Grants

The Subatomic Physics Discovery Grants program fuels research that reinforces Canada's leadership in particle physics, nuclear physics and related areas of quantum science. In the 2026 funding round, Waterloo had two successful projects totaling $165,000.

Davide Gaiotto (Physics and Astronomy)
Title: Investigations in Quantum Field Theory and String Theory
Amount: $85,000

Robert Myers (Physics and Astronomy)
Title: Scanning New Horizons: Entanglement, Holography and Gravity
Amount: $80,000

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

For Information **Open Session - Consent**

To:	Senate
From:	Gen Gauthier-Chalifour University Secretary
Date of Meeting:	**October 5, 2026**
Agenda Item:	**7.7 Senate Work Plan 2026-27**

Summary

This document provides an overview of Senate's work plan for the 2026–27 governance year, including key items and anticipated activities. It is provided for information and awareness and is intended to support Senators' understanding of the work planned for the year.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Senate

Senate Agenda Items p = planned ✓= completed	**October 5, 2026**	**November 23, 2026**	**February 1, 2027**	**March 8, 2027**	**April 5, 2027**	**May 10, 2027**	**June 7, 2027**
LEADERSHIP, FACUTLY, AND ASSOCIATION REPORTS							
Institutional Update	p		p		p		p
Faculty Tenure and Promotion Report (*consent*)		p					
Annual Institutional Partnerships Report					p		
Report of the Vice-President, Academic & Provost							
• Faculty Appointments and Leaves (*consent*)	p	p	p	p	p	p	p
• Call for Nominations and Designation of University Professor	p					p	
Report of the Vice-President, Research (*consent*)							
• Annual Report of the Vice-President, Research				p			
• Awards, Distinctions, Grants, Commercialization Activity	p	p	p	p	p	p	p
Annual Association Reports: FAUW, WUSA, GSA				p			
Report of the COU Academic Colleague							p
COMMITTEE & COUNCIL REPORTS Each committee and council of Senate will provide a report to Senate after each meeting.							
Executive Committee, Academic Quality Enhancement Committee, Graduate Council, Honorary Degrees Committee, Planning and Finance Committee, Research and Innovation Council, Undergraduate Council	p	p	p	p	p	p	p
POLICIES & BY-LAWS Policy and By-Law amendments may also be brought forward based on review schedules or as required.							
Annual Report on Gift Acceptance (Policy 7) (*confidential*)							p
University Committee on Student Appeals Annual Report (Policy 72)					p		
University Appointment Review Committee Annual Report (Policy 76)							p
Executive Appointments (Policy 48, 50, 68) (*confidential*)							
OPERATING BUDGET Under the Report of the Planning and Finance Committee.							
University Operating Budget Update		p					
Joint Board/Senate Budget Education Sessions			p	p			
Operating Budget (recommendation to Board)					p		
ADMISSIONS UPDATES, CONFERRING OF DEGREES, AND AWARDS							
Call for Nominations: Honorary Degree and Honorary Member	p				p		
Academic Calendar Dates		p					
Teaching Awards Committee: Appointment and Award Winners			p			p	
Delegation and Reports of the Roster of Graduands		p			p		
Spring and Fall Convocation Reports		p	p				
Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions Update			p				
SENATE MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE							
Senate Orientation (September 16, 2026)	p						
Call for Senate Nominations, Elections, and Appointments		p		p			p
Senate Effectiveness Survey						p	