

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 21 November 2022 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: John Abraham, Sheila Ager, Marc Aucoin, Sandra Banks, Michael Beauchemin, Trevor Charles, Joan Coutu, Neil Craik, Kristine Dalton, David DeVidi, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, Jack DeGooyer, Natalie Doan (for Julian Surdi), Nenone Donaldson, Catherine Dong, Aiman Fatima, Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes, Bruce Frayne, George Freeman, Mark Giesbrecht, Moira Glerum, Vivek Goel (chair), Rob Gorbet, Kelly Grindrod, Mike Grivicic (secretary), David Ha, Kevin Hare, Narveen Jandu, Martin Karsten, Veronica Kitchen, Christiane Lemieux, Lili Liu, Brad Lushman, Ellen MacEachen, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, Ceileigh McAllister, Peter Meehan, Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir, Graham Murphy, Richard Myers, Beth Namachchivaya, Cathy Newell Kelly, Erin O’Connell, Daniel O’Connor, Troy Osborne, Nicholas Pfeifle, Luke Potwarka, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Naima Samuel, Matthew Schwarze, Siv Sivaloganathan, Siva Sivoththaman, Chao Tan, Sharon Tucker, Graeme Turner, Paul Ward, Dan Weber, Mary Wells, Stephanie Ye-Mowe

Guests: Jean Becker, Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Donna Ellis, Rebecca Elming, Anne Galang, Diana Goncalves, Sarah Hadley, Myeengun Henry, Michele Hollis, Ross Johnston, Karim Karim, Andrea Kelman, Nick Manning, Amanda McKenzie, Dina Meunier, Fayaz Noormohamed, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Rida Sayed, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Akashia Smith, Allan Starr, Brandon Sweet, Anita Taylor, Mat Thijssen, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, William Woodworth, Katy Wong-Francq

Absent: Dominic Barton*, Jason Blokhuis, Jeff Casello*, Lisa Bauer-Leahy, Kim Cuddington, Lori Curtis, Onurcan Gokkaya, Dennis Huber, Natalie Hutchings, Sonia Ismail*, Achim Kempf, Jennifer Kieffer*, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis*, Robert Lemieux*, Xianguo Li, Oudy Noweir, Marcus Shantz*, Diana Vangelisti*, Stan Woo*, Clarence Woudsma*, Changbao Wu, Annie Yang*, En-Hui Yang*
*regrets

OPEN SESSION

The chair called Senate’s attention to the framed Wampum belts hung for display in the room, recalling the Commitment Ceremony of 22 September 2022 where the University of Waterloo gave its full commitment to reconciliation, Indigenization and decolonization and inviting Elder William Woodworth to speak to the significance of the belts.

Elder William Woodworth spoke to the history of the belts, noting that the Wampum belts mark the important agreements and advances in the relationship between the Indigenous community and the University; he also described the belts’ designs, which represent the spirit of cooperation and generosity in the relationship and serve as a reminder of the commitments that have been made. He affirmed the importance of exploring opportunities for Indigenization for the betterment of the University community.

Elder Myeengun Henry offered: at Waterloo the opportunity exists to develop an exemplary model of cooperation that can be further emulated; continued importance of acknowledging the travesties to the Indigenous community that have historically marked relations with the settler community, including the impacts of residential schools and the ongoing gap in quality of life for Indigenous Canadians; the University has demonstrated that it wants to engage with Indigenous communities for a better future.

Vivek Goel thanked the elders for accepting the invitation to share their knowledge and for the gifts given to the University. He observed that the institution continues its efforts toward Indigenization, which include exploring how best to ensure representation on the University’s governance bodies (including Senate); these efforts will be driven through community engagement led by Indigenous Relations AVP Jean Becker and the advice of Elder Woodworth and Elder Henry.

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The chair’s remarks are combined with the president’s report, under item 6.

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Senators were asked to declare any conflicts they may have in relation to the items on the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A member requested that item 10(b)(ii) be extracted from the consent agenda for discussion. By consensus, members approved the agenda as amended.

3. MINUTES OF THE 17 OCTOBER 2022 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Ward and Glerum. Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No items of business arising from the minutes were noted.

5. SENATE WORKPLAN

This item was received for information.

6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The president provided a general update on recent events: memo issued to campus community on 8 November reinstating the masking requirement for indoor academic activity; masking is an important measure to mitigate the impact and spread of respiratory disease in order to reduce risk of disruption to the upcoming exam period; the most important measure is keeping one's vaccination status current for both the flu and for COVID-19 ; campus events to observe Remembrance Day; recent economic statements issued by the federal and provincial governments, with the former emphasizing affordability and signaling the intent of making Canada Student Loans interest-free, while the latter did not provide any specific new initiatives pertaining to the university sector; in the past week the provincial auditor general issued their special report on Laurentian University, including observations on oversight role of both the Board and the Ministry – it is expected that the province will give attention to accountability measures for postsecondary institutions in light of the report, and the Auditor General affirmed in their report that institutions require adequate resources and support to carry out the oversight function.

Considering the absence of urgent business for the December cycle, the Senate Executive Committee has decided to cancel the December meeting of Senate. The next meeting of Senate will be on 16 January 2023.

The president recognized the upcoming retirement of Dennis Huber - he is the university's longest-serving senior administrator having joined in 1986 and serving as Vice-President, Administration & Finance since 2001, and he is renowned for his dedication to the University.

7. LEADERSHIP UPDATES

a. Report of the Vice-President, Research & International

i. Operational and Strategic Matters

Charmaine Dean provided a PowerPoint presentation: current cross-section of CRC holders, with 2029 diversity targets; progress has been made in recent years on targets, with more work to be done; trend of reductions to provincial research funding since 2018; grant funding represents approximately 63% of financial support for graduate students; Waterloo leads comprehensive universities in CIHR funding and SSHRC funding, and is fourth among U15 institutions for NSERC funding; increased attention to research security/international security from funding bodies.

ii. Commercialization and Strategic Matters

Karim Karim presented: new unit Waterloo Ventures combines current programming in Velocity and WatCo with new activity in thought leadership and social impact; a new web-based gateway for entrepreneurship (innovation.uwaterloo.ca) is up and running; details on Velocity, which is likely to be Canada's best deep tech incubator; Waterloo compares very well against similar institutions with respect to startup activity when accounting for overall research expenditure.

Members discussed/clarified on items (i) and (ii): specific definitions in the presentation regarding the four equity-seeking groups will be refined and the deck to be distributed to senators following the meeting; there is no formal analysis of return-on-investment (ROI) for innovation/entrepreneurship support, though this would be worthwhile to consider in the future; there is some analysis on ROI for certain funding envelopes; the Finance & Investment Committee of the Board of Governors is examining investment opportunities in the venture capital space; Velocity is distinguished from other similar facilities/programs in North America by its deal flow, with about a dozen deals every quarter; no statistics immediately available for WatCo re: individuals who have left their studies to pursue a successful venture full-time; recognition that funding tends to increase with the accumulated experience of the individual researcher.

b. Report of the Vice-President, Academic & Provost

James Rush provided a PowerPoint presentation: enrollment data for the fiscal year to date, along with financial information/projections; recent trends of fewer international new admits and overall downward trending international FTEs since 2020, due to COVID and students accelerating their studies due to the pandemic conditions; domestic undergrad FTEs have been steady since 2020; the opening budget is constructed with a conservancy factor on projected enrollments, especially international enrollments to help better assist if there are downward trends in meeting international enrollment targets; HREI report was issued more than a year ago with many of the recommendations requiring ongoing work, and with progress being tracked within the Strategic Plan themes and the Futures Framework; detail on the increase to the new resources devoted as a result of the HREI report, including for new hires and for appropriate space.

i. Briefing Note – Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions Data

This item was received for information.

ii. Briefing Note – HREI Review Report

Jean Becker discussed the work of the Office of Indigenous Relations, which aims to build a strong Indigenous community through supports to employees and students, both within the office and embedded in other offices across campus. Anita Taylor spoke to the work of the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism, including initiatives to support racialized staff, implementation of the President's Anti-racism Taskforce (PART) recommendations, and a new initiative in progress for inclusive washrooms. This item was received for information.

Members discussed/clarified on the general update along with items (i) and (ii): year-to-year budget surpluses are designated for future projects, some of which are multi-year or are so significant that they are not fully funded within the one year operating budget (e.g., building projects, information systems, etc.); institutional attention is being paid to enrollment trends for international undergraduates and domestic master's students, and the challenges to diversify source countries of international students is shared by all U15 institutions; a report focusing on international is planned for a future meeting; detail on ways to make buildings Indigenous-friendly, including the inclusion of Indigenous symbols and making smudging feasible in the facilities.

8. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

a. Senate Graduate & Research Council

Charmaine Dean introduced item (i), and Mark Weber spoke in support of the recommended new plan. A motion was heard to approve a new research-based Doctor of Philosophy in Entrepreneurship

and Organization, offered by the Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business in the Faculty of Engineering, effective 1 September 2023, as presented. Dean and Wells. Carried, with Pfeifle opposed.

Dean took items (ii) through (vi) together and provided an overview of the recommendations. The following motions were heard together:

To approve the removal of the part-time option from the following programs: both the Master and Doctor of Philosophy in Pure Mathematics and both the Master and Doctor of Philosophy in Pure Mathematics-Quantum Information.

To approve identifying the process for students to enter the thesis study option for the Master of Mathematics in Pure Mathematics and the Master of Mathematics in Pure Mathematics-Quantum Information.

To approve removing the personal statement from the list of minimum admission requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Pure Mathematics and the Doctor of Philosophy in Pure Mathematics-Quantum Information.

To approve adding a transfer entry internship option to the Doctor of Philosophy in Combinatorics and Optimization and the Doctor of Philosophy in Combinatorics and Optimization-Quantum Information programs, in addition to keeping the regular existing PhD programs. Note: Other than the internship requirement and the fact that these are not direct-entry programs, these two PhD programs are identical to the regular existing PhD programs. The program name that appears on diplomas and transcripts will be identical for both options.

To approve adding a Master's Research Paper study option to the Master of Mathematics in Data Science program.

Dean and Giesbrecht.

On item (ii), members confirmed that there are currently no students in the part-time option, and that the department will be able to consider part-time studies for individual students on a case-by-case basis.

The five motions carried, with one opposed and one abstention.

b. Senate Undergraduate Council

David DeVidi discussed items (i) and (ii), and the motions were taken together:

That Senate approves the following proposed Biomaterials and Tissues Specialization, Medical Artificial Intelligence Specialization, and Medical Devices Specialization, effective 1 September 2023.

That Senate approves the following proposed Building Science Specialization, effective 1 September 2023.

DeVidi and Wells. Both motions were carried.

DeVidi provided an overview of (iii) and a motion was heard that Senate approve the following changes to the Bachelor of Sustainability and Financial Management, effective 1 September 2023. DeVidi and Ager. Carried, with one opposed.

c. Joint Report – Senate Graduate & Research Council and Senate Undergraduate Council

Cathy Newell Kelly provided an overview of item (i) and specified that the submission brings no changes to the associated guidelines but that the appendix shows where any deviations were required. A motion was heard to approve the 2023-2024 academic calendar dates and calendar guidelines for establishing academic dates, as presented. Newell Kelly and DeVidi. Carried.

David DeVidi spoke to item (ii), noting that both SGRC and SUC have recommended the principles and guidelines document. He clarified that the content on page 124 of the Senate agenda was removed as the content was procedural in nature and the aim was to focus on the principles and guidelines being put forward; both the Undergraduate Operations Committee and the Graduate Operations Committee will examine options for the development of online courses, and it would be expected approaches to this would mature over time.

A motion was heard to approve the Principles and Guidelines for Digital Learning, effective 1 January 2023, as presented.

DeVidi and Dean.

Members discussed: during the recent years of intensive remote learning, students have expressed frustrations at having to adapt to multiple delivery platforms, and it could be envisioned that the university would implement a handful of centrally funded and supported platforms; issues pertaining to online examinations are independent of the principles and guidelines under consideration; Senate has the authority to establish standards in this space within its empowerment to establish the educational policies of the institution; online courses must comply with other externally-imposed requirements e.g. accessibility, copyright rules. Concerns were expressed by some members touching on areas including academic freedom, scope for innovation, the speed at which this proposal has come forward, certain bodies on campus with mandates related to the subject matter where the document has not been vetted, and the potential to foster a divide between in-person and online courses.

In light of the deliberations, it was recognized that further consideration of the proposal would be beneficial, and the motion was withdrawn.

d. University Committee on Student Appeals

DeVidi provided a short overview of the item, observing that incidents are down from the previous year and noting that work is planned to harmonize the reporting from Faculties for future reports to ensure consistency. He conveyed that the campus incident system software is nearing end of life.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Members discussed item 10(b)(ii) and confirmed that the academic promotion rules are unchanged, but that the revisions aim to provide greater clarity and ease of navigation to the reader. A motion was heard that Senate approve the following proposed revisions to the Academic Promotion Rules for the Faculty of Engineering, effective 1 September 2023. DeVidi and Wells. Carried, with one abstention.

A motion was heard to approve or receive for information the remaining items on the consent agenda, listed as items 10-12 of the Senate agenda. Ward and Dong. Carried with one abstention.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

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- a. **Senate Graduate & Research Council.** Received for information.
 - b. **Senate Undergraduate Council.** Two items approved; remaining items received for information.
 - i. That Senate approve the following proposed revisions to the Academic Decisions for the Faculty of Engineering, effective 1 September 2023.
 - iii. That Senate approve the following proposed revisions to the Undergraduate Communication Requirement for the Faculty of Environment, effective 1 September 2023.
 - c. **Senate Long Range Planning Committee.** Received for information.

11. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL. Received for information.

12. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES. Received for information.

With no further business in open session, Senate convened in confidential session.

25 November 2022
/dg

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary
Secretary to Senate