

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 19 September 2022 Meeting

Present: Sheila Ager, Marc Aucoin, Michael Beauchemin, Jason Blokhuis, Jeff Casello, Trevor Charles, Joan Coutu, Neil Craik, Kristine Dalton, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, Jack DeGooyer, David DeVidi, Nenone Donaldson, Aiman Fatima, Paul Fieguth (on behalf of Mary Wells), Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes, Mark Giesbrecht, Moira Glerum, Vivek Goel (chair), Onurcan Gokkaya, Rob Gorbet, Mike Grivicic (secretary), David Ha, Kevin Hare, Dennis Huber, Sonia Ismail, Narveen Jandu, Martin Karsten, Jennifer Kieffer, Veronica Kitchen, Christiane Lemieux, Lili Liu, Brad Lushman, Ellen MacEachen, Carol Ann MacGregor, Peter Meehan, Graham Murphy, Richard Myers, Prateep Nayak (on behalf of Bruce Frayne), Cathy Newell Kelly, Oudy Noweir, Daniel O'Connor, Troy Osborne, Nicholas Pfeifle, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Marcus Shantz, Sharon Tucker, Graeme Turner, Paul Ward, Stan Woo, Clarence Woudsma, Changbao Wu, Annie Yang, En-Hui Yang, Stephanie Ye-Mowe

Guests: Jean Becker, Catherine Burns, Aldo Caputo, Donna Ellis, Anne Galang, Diana Goncalves, Sarah Hadley, Karen Jack, Jimmy Lin, Bessma Momani, Fayaz Noormohamed, Alice Raynard, Chris Read, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Kerry Stryker, Glen Wepler

Absent: John Abraham*, Dominic Barton*, Sandra Banks*, Lisa Bauer-Leahy, Anne Bordeleau*, Kim Cuddington, Lori Curtis, Catherine Dong*, George Freeman*, Kelly Grindrod, Natalie Hutchings, Achim Kempf, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Robert Lemieux*. Xianguo Li, Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir*, Blake Madill, Ceileigh McAllister*, Beth Namachchivaya*, Erin O'Connell, Luke Potwarka*, Naima Samuel*, Matthew Schwarze*, Siv Sivaloganathan, Siva Sivoththaman*, Julian Surdi*, Chao Tan, Diana Vangelisti*, Dan Weber*

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair observed that 19 September is Powley Day, a day recognized and celebrated by Métis people and communities across the country. He also observed that earlier in the day the former head of state for Canada, Queen Elizabeth II, was laid to rest and that the day had been proclaimed a day of mourning both nationally and provincially – he called for a moment of silence. The chair remarked: welcome to new senator Stephanie Ye-Mowe, who is the new WUSA president; welcome to Mike Grivicic as the new secretary to Senate; Johanna Wandel's term as COU Academic Colleague has elapsed, and eligible senators can expect communication in the near term to solicit interest for the role. The chair noted upcoming observances and celebrations, including: Sunrise Ceremony on September 22nd at the Ceremonial Fire Grounds located at St. Paul's (soon to be United College); the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day (September 30th); National Day of Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (October 4th).

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 motion was heard to approve the agenda. Beauchemin and Meehan. Carried.

3. MINUTES OF THE 20 JUNE 2022 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Gorbet and Beauchemin. Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

5. MEMO: SENATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOLLOW-UPS

Karen Jack provided an overview of the memo and indicated that work on the governance review is well underway, including: planned engagement with the committee/council chairs as well as Faculties; a request for proposals will be issued for a governance portal; potential joint committee with the Board of Governors focusing on equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism. Members noted the move of the consent agenda items to follow the regular session, and the chair indicated that Senate Executive Committee reviews the content of all agenda items and reports to ensure Senate's business is carried out appropriately – any member may request discussion of any item in the consent agenda.

6. SENATE WORK PLAN

This item was received for information.

7. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The chair provided his report: with the start of the fall term, the University is carrying out its plan for a safe return to campus and continues to monitor public health data and guidance regarding COVID-19, with the potential to impose public health requirements if called for; orientation week was held earlier in the month with many students participating; acknowledgement of students' challenges re: housing, and more on the topic will be discussed under the provost's report; events held in August to welcome new faculty hired under the Black Excellence appointment process; recent launch of research initiatives re: sustainable futures as well as quantum and health; appointment of Jacinda Reitsma as incoming vice-president, administration and finance, who will start in the role on December 1st; the celebration of life for former president Douglas Wright will be held on Friday September 23rd.

Waterloo at 100

Consultations are well underway with engagement of faculty, staff and students - a discussion paper has been posted and approximately 1000 individuals have been engaged to date. Waterloo at 100 will be the focus at a special joint session of Senate and the Board of Governors is scheduled for September 28th as part of the Board retreat event, and further discussion will occur at the Senate Long Range Planning meeting on September 29th. The president will visit each Faculty as part of the consultation process, and the topic will be open for discussion at the upcoming President's Forum.

8. LEADERSHIP UPDATES

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

i. Operational and Strategic Matters Underway. James Rush provided a PowerPoint presentation on operational and strategic matters underway: update on fall term enrollments, and recruitment/admissions activity for fall 2023; update on international student visa applications, with the observation that this is a common challenge among U6 universities and the Waterloo has extended its deadlines to September 27 to provide additional flexibility for students encountering difficulties; recent faculty hires made under cluster hire initiatives for both Black and Indigenous faculty; summary of five-year financial reporting to observe the unique factors and circumstances related to the pandemic that skewed certain revenues and expenses, which provides important context for recent media reports. Senators clarified that the financial figures presented are drawn from the consolidated financial statements and differ from the presentation seen in the operating budget, and that the financial positions of different universities are not uniformly impacted. Senators heard that Campus Housing has extended its required arrival date to help accommodate students encountering difficulties in arriving, with coordination among Faculties and departments/schools toward that end. Senators learned that cluster hiring process may continue to yield new hires, and that there will be similar reporting on staff hires and student recruitment at future meetings of Senate.

ii. Campus Housing. Rush invited Chris Read to provide a PowerPoint presentation: recent media coverage has highlighted students' difficulties in secure housing; Waterloo has one of the largest on-

campus housing operations in the country (together with the AFIW); rising rents are a Canada-wide trend; comparisons of on-campus housing offerings and amenities vis-à-vis private off-campus options; facility strategy development process began in 2019 in recognition of the need for campus housing to modernize its facilities/offerings, and key drivers/guiding principles have been enunciated and recommendations formulated. Goel noted that work is ongoing on this important file and that more consultation activity can be expected as the strategy moves forward. Members discussed: process to develop guiding principles arises from consultations held in early 2020 with proposals discussed at five engagement sessions held in early 2022; there are regular communications with Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College on these topics, along with engagement via the City of Waterloo and the Region of Waterloo; potential for the University to add to its housing stock, and recognition that both the affordability and adequacy of students' housing options may pose difficulties; graduate student represent a small portion of students in campus housing, with the University having prioritized undergraduate students as an outcome of the 100% residence guarantee for first-year and transfer students. An update on campus housing will be provided at a future meeting.

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

Charmaine Dean provided a PowerPoint presentation (with Catherine Burns): recent submission to Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) of a joint initiative with NOSMU focusing on transformative health technologies, with successful applicants to be announced in early 2023; recent launch of sustainable future initiative; evolving funding dynamics and interplay between federal CFI funding and provincial ORF-RI sources, resulting from the province having launched its own strategic reviews and research security reviews, which has brought about more decoupling of CFI and ORF-RI funding decisions; NSERC discovery grants decisions have seen delays; the annual report on research will come to Senate in October. Goel acknowledged the excellent work of the Office of Research over the summer months to develop high-quality and competitive proposals. Dean and Burns affirmed that approval of the CFREF funding submission would bring funding opportunities to both researchers and students.

9. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

a. Senate Graduate & Research Council

Dean spoke to items (i) and (ii) of the report. A motion was heard to approve the dissolution of the Centre for Advanced Trenchless Technologies (CATT), as presented. Dean and Ward. Carried with one abstention. A motion was heard to approve the dissolution of the Institute for Computer Research (ICR), as presented. Dean and Giesbrecht. Carried with one abstention. Casello provided an overview of item (iii) of the report. A motion was heard to approve the deletion of the graduate research fields from the Master of Arts (MA) in History program, effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Casello and Ager. Carried with one abstention.

b. Senate Undergraduate Council

DeVidi provided an overview of items (i)-(iii). A motion was heard to approve the proposed new Three-Year General English – Creative and Professional Writing academic plan, as described, effective 1 September 2023. DeVidi and Ager. Carried with one abstention. A motion was heard to approve the proposed new Diploma in Health Humanities, as described, effective 1 September 2023. DeVidi and Meehan. Carried. A motion was heard to approve the proposed new Mathematics/Chartered Professional Accountancy Data Analytics Specialization, as described effective 1 September 2023. DeVidi and Giesbrecht. Carried.

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

Cathy Newell Kelly spoke to the joint report, noting that the dates had been previously approved with placeholders for in-person exam dates pertaining to online courses, which have now been determined. A motion was heard to approve the revised academic calendar dates for 2022-2023 and calendar

guidelines for establishing academic dates as presented in Appendix 1, as presented. Newell Kelly and DeVidi. Carried.

d. Senate Executive Committee

Members noted Stephanie Ye-Mowe's recent WUSA appointment, and the chair indicated that if nominations are received from the floor, then an election will be held electronically following the meeting. Following a call, no nominations were made from the floor. A motion was heard to approve the appointment of Stephanie Ye-Mowe as undergraduate student representative on the Board of Governors, term to 30 April 2024. DeVidi and Giesbrecht. Carried. A motion was heard to approve the appointment of Stephanie Ye-Mowe as undergraduate student representative to Senate Executive Committee, term to 30 April 2023. DeVidi and Murphy. Carried.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Recalling the discussion under 8(a)(i), the provost observed that budget carryforwards are often subject to restrictions or designations, and that these are articulated in the financial statements.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was heard to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 11-15 of the Senate agenda. Hare and Turner. Carried with one opposed.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

- a. **Honorary Degrees.** Received for information.
- b. **Senate Graduate & Research Council.** Received for information.
- c. **Senate Undergraduate Council.** Two items approved; remaining items received for information.

12. REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. **Tenure and Promotion of Faculty Members.** Received for information.

13. REPORTS OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST

- a. **Call for Nominations for University Professors.** Received for information.

14. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES. Received for information.

15. REPORTS FROM THE COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE. Received for information.

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

26 September 2022
/dg

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary
Secretary to Senate