

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 27 February 2023 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Sheila Ager, Marc Aucoin, Lisa Aultman-Hall, Sandra Banks, Jeff Casello, Joan Coutu, Neil Craik, Kristine Dalton, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Nenone Donaldson, Catherine Dong, Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes, Vivek Goel (chair), Kelly Grindrod, Mike Grivicic (secretary), David Ha, Kevin Hare, Nadine Ibrahim, Narveen Jandu, Jennifer Kieffer, Veronica Kitchen, Alysia Kolentsis, Christiane Lemieux, Robert Lemieux, Lili Liu, Brad Lushman, Jennifer Lynes Murray, Ellen MacEachen, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, Ceileigh McAllister, Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir, Kristiina Montero, Graham Murphy, Beth Namachchivaya, Cathy Newell Kelly, Chris Nielsen, Oudy Noweir, Daniel O'Connor, Nicholas Pfeifle, Luke Potwarka, Jacinda Reitsma, Cynthia Richard, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Matthew Schwarze, Marcus Shantz, Siva Sivoththaman, James Skidmore, Sharon Tucker, Graeme Turner, Diana Vangelisti, Paul Ward, Dan Weber, Mary Wells, Stan Woo, Clarence Woudsma, Changbao Wu, Annie Yang, En-Hui Yang, Stephanie Ye-Mowe

Guests: Tanya Andrews, Michael Dorr, Donna Ellis, Anne Galang, Diana Goncalves, Jenny Flagler-George, Sarah Hadley, Michele Hollis, Andrea Kelman, Nick Manning, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Rida Sayed, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Nadia Singh, Allan Starr, Caitlin Vaux, Sarah Willey-Thomas

Absent: John Abraham*, Dominic Barton*, Michael Beauchemin*, Trevor Charles, Kim Cuddington, Jack DeGooyer*, Aiman Fatima, Bruce Frayne*, Onurcan Gokkaya, Rob Gorbet*, Mark Giesbrecht, Mary Hardy*, Natalie Hutchings, Sonia Ismail, Martin Karsten, Achim Kempf, Scott Kline, Xianguo Li, Peter Meehan, Richard Myers*, Erin O'Connell*, Troy Osborne, Naima Samuel, Siv Sivaloganathan, Julian Surdi
*regrets

OPEN SESSION

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed three new members: Lisa Aultman-Hall, Nadine Ibrahim and Cynthia Richard. The chair observed that a communique was recently issued on the search for the next University Secretary, and he encouraged all senators to provide their comments to help inform that search process.

The chair noted Sandra Banks' announcement that she will depart from the University as of July 31, 2023. He observed that she has served with distinction over the last eight years and has brought a wealth of experience to the institution and has recruited an outstanding leadership team. Details will be forthcoming on the recruitment process for the next Vice-President, University Relations. He invited all senators to join him in expressing their thanks for her service and indicated that an opportunity to recognize her contributions more formally will come at a later date.

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 as distributed. Hare and O'Connor. Carried with one opposed.

3. MINUTES OF THE 16 JANUARY 2023 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Hare and Ye-Mowe. Carried with one abstention.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noting that Senate had delegated authority to the Senate Executive Committee to approve the faculty representative to Board, Goel confirmed that Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir was so elected.

5. SENATE WORKPLAN

Goel observed that the call for nominations for honorary degrees will come forward in March, to align with communications to the community to seek nominations for the University's highest honour.

6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. President's Update

Goel provided his report:

- He offered condolences to the victims and families of the recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, noting that many in the University community have close ties in the affected region. In response the University has shared resources to the community to foster assistance and offered support particularly to our Turkish and Syrian students. He noted the efforts of a postdoctoral scholar Ilkner Umay who is gathering supplies locally for delivery to the Turkish embassy, as well as two students Chris Shaw and Adrian Gray who launched an online humanitarian platform connecting displaced earthquake victims with nearby host families. Members of the community may donate to the Canadian Red Cross, for which donations are matched by the federal government.
- With the end of Black History Month, Goel noted his recent opportunity to meet with Black faculty including those recently recruited via the Black Excellence cluster hire process, as well as recalling the University's work through PART and the signing of the Scarborough Charter
- Recent seminar on ChatGPT hosted through WatSPEED, with Jimmy Lin speaking and over 1200 participants in the live online session (and 24,000 subsequent page views to date).
- The Associate Vice-President, Academic has recently released a FAQ document regarding academic considerations with the use of ChatGPT and related technologies
- Release of Global Futures Report, featuring inspiring stories of members of the Waterloo community who are changing the world
- Waterloo at 100 vision paper is nearly finalized, with thanks to those throughout the community who have contributed towards its development. The paper will be discussed at the Senate Long Range Planning Committee before being presented at the March Senate meeting, and onward to the Board of Governors in April
- Recent federal and provincial announcements on research partnerships and research security, including new directives/ policy directions in this space
- Recent announcement of the National Quantum Strategy, which took place in Waterloo in January. Professor Raymond Laflamme will co-chair the Quantum Advisory Council under the new strategy
- SDG Week at Waterloo will take place March 6-10, with a wide variety of events planned throughout the week
- The Waterloo Innovation Summit will take place on April 21 in Toronto, hosted with the MaRS Discovery District and focusing on sustainable transportation
- Goel and several members of the University leadership travelled to Asia recently for a variety of events and engagements: launch of FINCAPES project in Indonesia to foster local capacity to adapt to and mitigate against climate change (funded by Global Affairs Canada); conference in Singapore featuring a discussion with Professor Donna Strickland, Nobel Prize winner; visit to the new Centre for Eye and Vision Research in Hong Kong, and engaging with alumni and exchange/co-op students

7. LEADERSHIP UPDATES

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

i. Operational and Strategic Matters

Rush provided a presentation: progress on amendments to Policy 33 through the joint efforts of the Faculty Relations Committee and Staff Relations Committee, with work planned through the

Spring 2023 term; amendments to Policy 12, Compassionate Care and Bereavement Leave, as well as Policy 57, Employment Accommodations, are currently under consideration of both the Faculty Relations Committee and Staff Relations Committee; mediation process for Policy 76/77 is ongoing. Members clarified on the breadth and the nature of employee accommodations available under Policy 57.

ii. 2022/23 Operating Budget Update

Goel observed that the budget update was presented at Senate Finance Committee and that the 2022/23 budget update helps to inform the 2023/24 budget proposal expected for March Senate. Rush provided a PowerPoint presentation: presently tracking toward a small surplus for 2022/23; revenue attributable to enrollments was lower than budgeted, though other revenues came in higher than budgeted; expenses from salary/wages/benefits as well as the increased contribution towards deferred maintenance resulted in higher expenses; key themes for the upcoming budget include a constrained revenue environment, growth in expenses, and governmental/geopolitical uncertainty. Members discussed: overview of corridor funding and mechanisms on enrollment-based revenue; differentiation between research budget and the operating budget; clarification that increase in interest revenue comes from higher interest rates and the collection of revenues ahead of dispersing those funds for expenses; and deferred maintenance is a priority.

iii. Library Annual Report

Beth Namachchivaya provided a presentation: use of library facilities and services; Staebler Insurance Open Educational Resources (OER) Fellows Grant provides \$100,000 over five years for instructors to develop no- or low-cost course materials that are accessible and of high quality; Indigenous initiatives and embedding equity, diversity, inclusion & accessibility within the Library; strategic planning for Library spaces; projects for research data management; Library staff advancing research and practice within the discipline; planned Library town hall meeting on March 28; long term trend of declining in-person loans, and Waterloo has invested heavily in digital resources; key Library challenges include recasting its mission and functions within an evolving institution to meet the needs of the community.

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

i. Operational and Strategic Matters

Charmaine Dean provided a presentation: as part of Ontario's Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework, Scott Inwood was a member of the working group to develop metrics for the required institutional Annual Commercialization Plans; recent increased focus on internationalization of higher education; Waterloo is also working to increase the diversity of source countries from which it draws international students, and to improve the experience for the same students; recent statement from three federal ministers that research will not be funded for projects in sensitive areas where there is an affiliation with a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defense or state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to Canada's national security; recent statement on safeguarding Ontario research issued by the Minister of Colleges and Universities; Waterloo's website provides resources on safeguarding research, and Dean observed the Research Security Conference being hosted by Waterloo on February 27-28.

ii. Waterloo International

Ian Rowlands provided a presentation noting that internationalization at Waterloo focuses on the three P's: Presence, Partnership, And Presidential Travel. He elaborated: Waterloo aims to build relationships steadily upon mutual trust and effective communication, towards the goal of having ready partners when opportunities arise and building toward future big wins on a foundation of smaller successes; mechanisms include inbound/outbound delegations and networking activity; forthcoming planned travel/outreach in India; relationships are dynamic and Waterloo works within shifting circumstances towards its long term goals; the volume of student exchanges has resumed pre-pandemic levels, and the department is reflecting on the social elements of inclusion

for internationalization in that regard; engagements via Academics Without Borders as well as the Scholars at Risk network. Senate heard that Waterloo International works with the Sustainability office as well as Finance to integrate sustainability practices into operations, which dovetails with the overall increase in remote/virtual preparations that support travel engagements. In response to a question regarding the carbon footprint of these international engagements Rowlands outlined measures being taken to minimize the need for travel through use of virtual engagement tools. Regarding carbon offsets, Goel indicated that the University was investigating a mechanism to create offsets in meaningful and measurable impact locally and globally.

8. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

a. Senate Executive Committee

- i. Goel provided an overview of the report. A motion was heard that Senate appoints the Senate Executive Committee as the nominating committee to seek the next Chancellor of the University. Goel and Turner. Carried with one abstention.
- ii. A motion was heard to elect members to Senate committees/councils as described in this report. Goel and DeVidi. Carried with one abstention.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

CONSENT AGENDA

One member of Senate obtained clarification on the hiring of faculty as described in the two-year progress report on studies in Islam and Arabic Language, as well as on the replacement of a course requirement in Earth and Environmental Sciences plans.

A motion was heard to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 10-13 of the Senate agenda. Casello and Ye-Mowe. Carried.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

- a. **Senate Undergraduate Council.** Received for information.
- b. **Senate Long Range Planning Committee.** Received for information.

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

Received for information.

12. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – TEACHING AWARDS

To approve the committee appointments for the Distinguished Teacher Awards and for the Amit & Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student, as presented in this report.

13. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES. Received for information.

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