

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 19 June 2023 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Nasser Abukhdeir, Kathy Acheson (for Sheila Ager), Marc Aucoin, Lisa Aultman-Hall, Aubrey Basdeo, Jean Becker, Jeff Casello, Judy Castaneda, Trevor Charles, Joan Coutu, Kim Cuddington, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, Jack DeGooyer, David DeVidi, Catherine Dong, Aiman Fatima, Mark Ferro, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel (chair), Rob Gorbet, Kelly Grindrod, Mike Grivicic (Secretary), Vikas Gupta, David Ha, Peter Hall, Kevin Hare, Neela Hassan, Natalie Hutchings, Acey Kaspar, Achim Kempf, Veronica Kitchen, Scott Kline, Robert Lemieux, Lili Liu, Brad Lushman, Stephanie Maaz, Ellen MacEachen, Blake Madill, Colleen Maxwell, Peter Meehan, Kristiina Montero, Richard Myers, Cathy Newell Kelly, Alysia Kolentsis, Chris Nielsen, Rory Norris, James Nugent, Erin O'Connell, Troy Osborne, David Porreca, Luke Potwarka, Jacinda Reitsma, Cynthia Richard, Mary Robinson, James Rush, John Saabas, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Rida Sayed, Asher Scaini, Marcus Shantz, Sivabal Sivaloganathan, Siva Sivoththaman, James Skidmore, Christopher Taylor, Sharon Tucker, Graeme Turner, Diana Vangelisti, Dan Weber, Mary Wells, Stanley Woo, Clarence Woudsma, Changbao Wu, Annie Yang

Guests: Aldo Caputo, Kathy Becker, Catherine Burns, Nenone Donaldson, Bernard Duncker, Donna Ellis, Diana Goncalves, Melanie Figueiredo, Jenny Flagler-George, Sarah Hadley, Michelle Hollis, Diane Johnston, Jennifer Kieffer, Nick Manning, Laura McDonald, Ian Milligan, Anton Mosunov, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Nadia Singh, Allan Starr, Brandon Sweet, Anita Taylor, Sean Thomas, Sarah Willey-Thomas, Johanna Wandel, Katy Wong-Francq

Absent: John Abraham, Dominic Barton*, Kristine Dalton, Bruce Frayne, Murray Gamble*, Nadine Ibrahim, Sonia Ismail, Narveen Jandu, Martin Karsten, Christiane Lemieux, Xianguo Li, Carol Ann MacGregor, Jennifer Lynes Murray, Shana MacDonald, Ceileigh McAllister, Labibah Salim J Ali
*regrets

OPEN SESSION

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed new members Jean Becker, Paul Fieguth and Christopher Taylor. He noted the recent appointment of Greg Smith as the new Chief Information Officer. He spoke to recent and upcoming events on campus: today marks Juneteenth, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States; June is Pride Month and Waterloo is flying the two-spirit and intersex-inclusive progress flags for the first time; events planned for Indigenous Peoples History Month and for National Indigenous Peoples Day on 21 June.

Goel observed that this meeting is the final meeting of Senate for Robert Lemieux, who has served as Dean of Science for eight years. On behalf of Senate, he thanked Dean Lemieux for his tireless service to his Faculty and to the University.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Goel provided the territorial acknowledgement and observed that Senate will commence a new practice in September of rotating the reading of the acknowledgement at each Senate meeting, starting with the deans.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Senators were asked to declare any conflicts they may have in relation to the items on the agenda. Abukhdeir noted a conflict with respect to item 15. No further conflicts were declared.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was heard to approve the agenda as distributed. Casello and Porreca. Carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE 15 MAY 2023 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Kitchen and Woudsma. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

6. SENATE WORKPLAN

This item was received for information.

7. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. President's Update

Goel provided his report: at recent spring convocation ceremonies more than 7300 degrees, diplomas and certificates were awarded, with 10 honorary degrees and over 50 honorary members of the university; convocation ceremonies featured a new tradition of the ceremonial Eagle Staff leading the academic procession; announcement of tuition waiver for current and incoming students who are members of the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; inaugural event Celebrating Black Communities on May 26, with 300 in attendance and featuring a keynote address from the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean; Waterloo will host the upcoming WACE conference from June 28-30.

b. PART Annual Update

Christopher Taylor provided a short introduction and Anita Taylor provided a PowerPoint presentation, including: establishment and history of PART with a series of recommendations; progress against recommendations and related projects; recent initiatives launched to support Black and Indigenous students; commencement of Black Excellence Orientation Series. Namachchivaya observed that the Library and Print & Retail Services are co-sponsoring the Anti-Racism Reads book club.

8. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

a. Digital Learning Strategy

Rush provided opening remarks noting the genesis of the strategy, the consultation with on-campus constituencies in the formulation of the strategy, and his acceptance of the report. Johanna Wandel provided a PowerPoint presentation: aim to develop a balanced strategy which promotes consistency while making room for autonomy and local decision-making; outreach to and consultations with the community through a variety of means including interviews, facilitated group discussions and surveys; the strategy is rooted in the principle that decisions on modality for a given course ought to occur at the same level as decisions on the course itself; seven core principles and objective of aligning strategic directions and actions. Members discussed: policy on intellectual property speaks to the posting of content to venues such as YouTube, and accessibility should also be considered by instructors when posting material; strategy can help to promote quality in digital offerings; technological changes in this space are in progress and this strategy reflects this reality; Waterloo has a real opportunity to lead in this space.

b. Recommendation to Change the Name of the Department of Management Sciences to the Department of Management Science and Engineering

Rush provided a short overview of the report and recommendation. A motion was heard to approve changing the name of the Department of Management Sciences to the Department of Management Science and Engineering. Rush and Wells. Carried.

9. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL

a. Graduate Studies Academic Calendar Revisions

Casello spoke to the proposed calendar revisions, which supports progress in fostering work-integrated learning within graduate studies at Waterloo. A motion was heard to approve revisions to the co-operative education section of the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar (GSAC) to include

Graduate Work-integrated Learning definitions and content, and to approve and add a new Community and Industry Research Projects (CIR) course component to the GSAC and Quest glossary of terms. Casello and DeVidi. Carried.

10. REPORT - ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

a. Teaching Assessment Report

DeVidi observed: development of a common instrument for teaching assessment had been contemplated for some time; with the transition to the Student Course Perceptions survey, attention is being paid to the behaviour of that instrument; parallel work to develop complementary teaching assessment methods. Members discussed: measures to potentially counter declining response rates to the student surveys; processes for peer review of teaching; support from the Centre for Teaching Excellence can complement peer teaching review processes; differing views on the role of peer review in the context of teaching assessment vs. providing formative feedback to instructors; administration aims to form a task force to provide advice on the use of teaching assessment metrics in performance reviews; students require some mechanism to provide feedback on their instructor; teaching dossiers are another mechanism by which instructors can obtain feedback; fluctuations in teaching assessment feedback should not be cause for overreaction, but do provide an opportunity for a chair and instructor to exchange thoughts on how to respond in a formative way. Senate will arrange for a presentation from the Centre for Teaching Excellence on activities related to teaching assessment/ quality at a future meeting.

b. Digital Learning Principles and Guidelines

Aldo Caputo spoke to the report: significant change to the proposal since the initial discussion in November 2022, including clarifying the language around the principles. The recommendation would have Faculties develop their own processes to approve digital elements in courses. DeVidi added that different processes would be followed in each of the Faculties, based on the local culture and norms.

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

Members discussed: faculty involvement in these decisions is implicit within the collegial governance model, whether this occurs via faculty councils, departmental bodies or other mechanisms; this proposal responds to student feedback in that the use of a wide variety of online platforms has been onerous on students, and the proposal achieves a balanced response to those concerns while allowing for local decisions; students may not know when online synchronous courses are to be held when registering, and academic support units should be cognizant of this in arranging class schedules; digital courses and digital elements of courses ought to be of equivalent rigour and workload to the traditional offerings. Members noted that the principles and guidelines represent a rational approach to foster best practices, while some members questioned the need for the recommendations with the relatively positive experience of having pivoted to online formats in recent years.

A motion was heard to amend the main motion to amend item 3 of ‘Principles for an ONLINE class’ striking out “Dean or delegate or Vice-President Academic & Dean (VPAD)” and adding in its place “appropriate Faculty academic approval process, or appropriate academic approval process at the Affiliated/Federated Institution in conjunction with the relevant Faculty”. Nugent and Abukhdeir.

Members discussed: the proposed principles and guidelines offer no notion of control in these areas other than by faculty; pivoting to online delivery during pandemic periods caused significant strain on faculty, and the recommendation would be offering faculty greater support in that regard; it is beneficial to provide guardrails for online elements of courses.

The chair called the vote for the amending motion, and that motion was defeated.

The chair called the vote on the main motion, and that motion was carried with six opposed and one abstention.

CONSENT AGENDA

The chair noted that an error in the web link in item 14 was discovered and will be corrected. A motion was heard to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 11-17 of the Senate agenda. Hare and Porreca. Carried.

11. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL

Received for information.

12. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Items under item 12 were received for information.

a. Academic Regulation Revision to Admission for the Faculty of Engineering

Motion: That Senate approve the proposed academic regulation revision to Admission for the Faculty of Engineering, effective 1 September 2024, as presented.

b. Academic Regulation for Admission Fraud

Motion: That Senate approve the proposed academic regulation revision for Admissions Fraud, effective 1 September 2023, as presented.

c. Academic Regulation Revision for Admission Requirements

Motion: That Senate approve the proposed academic regulation revisions of Admissions Requirement for Duolingo Component Scores, effective 1 September 2024, as presented.

13. REPORT – VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL

a. Awards, Distinctions, Grants, Waterloo International Engagements

Received for information.

14. REPORT OF THE PROVOST– UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CHAIRS

Received for information.

15. REPORT OF THE PROVOST – FACULTY APPOINTMENTS, LEAVES

Received for information.

16. LIST OF GRADUANDS – SPRING CONVOCATION

Received for information.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Senate Orientation Module

Received for information.

b. The chair noted that some appointments to the University Committee on Student Appeals will require approval in the time between this meeting and the next regular meeting in September. It is anticipated that those approvals will be brought to Senate Executive Committee to be appropriately approved on behalf of Senate.

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