

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE**  
**Minutes of the Monday 18 September 2023 Meeting**  
**[in agenda order]**

**Present:** John Abraham, Nasser Abukhdeir, Sheila Ager, Marc Aucoin, Lisa Aultman-Hall, Aubrey Basdeo, Jean Becker, Jeff Casello, Trevor Charles, Joan Coutu, Kim Cuddington, Kristine Dalton, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, Jack DeGooyer, David DeVidi, Catherine Dong, Mark Ferro, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Bruce Frayne, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour, Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel (chair), Rob Gorbet, Kelly Grindrod, Mike Grivicic, Vikas Gupta, David Ha, Peter Hall, Kevin Hare, Chris Houser, Natalie Hutchings, Nadine Ibrahim, Sonia Ismail, Martin Karsten, Acey Kaspar, Achim Kempf, Veronica Kitchen, Alysia Kolentsis, Christiane Lemieux, Xianguo Li, Lili Liu, Brad Lushman, Jennifer Lynes Murray, Stephanie Maaz, Shana MacDonald, Ellen MacEachen, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, Colleen Maxwell, Kristiina Montero, Richard Myers, Cathy Newell Kelly, Christopher Nielsen, Rory Norris, James Nugent, Erin O'Connell, Troy Osborne, David Porreca, Luke Potwarka, Jacinda Reitsma, Cynthia Richard, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Labibah Salim J Ali, Rida Sayed, Asher Scaini, 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, Catherine Burns, Kristine Dalton, Randy Dauphin, Nenone Donaldson, Bernard Duncker, Donna Ellis, Becky Elming, Barbara Forrest, Anne Galang, Diana Goncalves, Jenny Flagler-George, Sarah Hadley, Michelle Hollis, Jennifer Kieffer, Nick Manning, Laura McDonald, Ian Milligan, Anton Mosunov, Mary Power, Ian Rowlands, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Kathy Smidt, Allan Starr, Kerry Striker, Brandon Sweet, Anita Taylor, Sean Thomas, Nickola Voegelin, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Glen Weppler, Sarah Willey-Thomas

**Absent:** Dominic Barton\*, Judy Castaneda, Aiman Fatima, Murray Gamble\*, Neela Hassan, Narveen Jandu, Scott Kline, Peter Meehan, John Saabas\*, Marcus Shantz\*, Sivabal Sivaloganathan  
\*regrets

**OPEN SESSION**

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The chair welcomed senators to the meeting. He acknowledged the terrible attack in Hagey Hall in June, and indicated that with the major impact on members across the entire Waterloo community a significant portion of this meeting will be allocated to reporting on actions undertaken and planned in response. He also acknowledged that September 15 marked one year since the tragic death of Mahsa Amini while in custody in Iran.

The chair welcomed Chris Houser to Senate as the new Dean of Science, also welcoming Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour as the new University Secretary; he thanked Andrea Kelman for having served as Acting University Secretary for the past 10 months. He noted upcoming important dates: Rosh Hashana is on September 15, the Fall Equinox is on September 23, and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is September 30.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Sheila Ager offered a territorial acknowledgement along with a personal reflection. Goel observed that he and Jean Becker had an insightful and constructive visit to the Six Nations in August, and noted the university is proud to have taken the step of introducing the tuition waiver provision for eligible Indigenous students. He noted a number of events upcoming, including: the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Pow Wow on September 23; a renewal of the university's commitment to decolonization, Indigenization and reconciliation on September 29; this year's Black and Gold Fest event is aligned with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, with activities taking place September 26-30 on campus and also off campus in Waterloo, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, New York and London, UK.

## 2. 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.

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Members noted that 9(d) would be removed. A motion was heard to approve the agenda as amended. Hare and Porreca. Carried.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE 19 JUNE 2023 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Casello and DeVidi. 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, including:

- Following the June attack in Hagey Hall, the victims are recovering, the justice process continues for the assailant, and at town hall events members of the university community shared legitimate concerns on the aggressions, on safety in the classroom, and on the communications to the community
- There has been considerable media attention on the issue of low housing availability for students, and Waterloo has recently announced a commitment to build a 500-bed residence as one way to address this multi-factor challenge (while continuing to work with the City of Waterloo and the Council of Ontario Universities)
- Regarding international student visas, Universities Canada is working with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship on a potential framework for trusted institutions
- The university is developing plans to become smoke free, with a target date of 1 July 2024
- Activities around the Trust in Research Undertaken in Science and Technology (TRuST) network
- Recent announcement from the Royal Society of Canada of awards and honors for Waterloo faculty, with the society's gala event to be held in Waterloo in November
- Senators have been invited to join the afternoon portion of the upcoming Board of Governors retreat
- Upcoming reopening of the University Club
- Congratulations to Conrad Grebel University College on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and also to the United College GreenHouse on its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### b. Update from Vice-President, Academic and Provost

James Rush provided a presentation, including: an update on staff salary adjustment following the declaration of Bill 124 as being void and of no effect; the university continues discussions with CUPE on agreements with that group; housing availability for students continues to be a matter of focus, noting Waterloo's student housing commitments and multipronged approach to addressing these issues with community partners; Waterloo's international student enrollment has been relatively steady in recent years, with significant growth seen in the college sector. Members discussed: campus master plan will undertake a review and refresh,

which can be shared at a future meeting; newly announced housing will proceed in the meantime; it may be germane to consider a first-year housing guarantee for newly-arrived international graduate students; other models for student housing are being looking into beyond the classic residence model.

Paul Fieguth and Christine McWebb provided a presentation on the response to the June 28 attack in Hagey Hall, including: inventory of short, medium, and long-term actions completed or underway; review of WatSAFE app and alert system; posting of emergency protocols; movement of certain class schedule information behind a sign-in wall, which has been adopted by other institutions; development of a coordinated approach for addition of additional doors to classrooms, with clear criteria; upcoming plans for facilitated dialogue with 2SLGBTQIA+ community; training and curricular support for instructors; building awareness for members of the Board of Governors on social justice and related issues; development of expert speaker series leading to international conference in June 2024. Members discussed: some sentiment against science and engineering disciplines was observed in the wake of the attack; while the WatSAFE app was not a point of failure, the system did not meet the needs of the community; safety information was prepared ahead of the Fall term however there was concern in some areas that instructors would not receive proper support with the information, which resulted in differential distribution within the community; aim to empower instructors to discuss tough subjects in the classroom and foster productive dialogue; outreach process for planned facilitated discussions is under development and advice would be welcomed.

#### **8. FACULTY UPDATE PRESENTATION – ENGINEERING**

Mary Wells provided a presentation, including: overview of the Faculty's academic units and programs offered, including collaborative programs; programs and other academic projects under development, including the Global Futures Capstone Experience and work-integrated learning internships; signatory to Invention To Innovation (I2I), and serving as lead institution in Ontario; commenced entrepreneurial PhD fellowships in 2022 with growth in the interim period; established a new tradition of the Waterloo Engineering Pin to uphold the values of community, responsibility, innovation and excellence that are fundamental to the engineering profession.

#### **9. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Casello provided an overview of items (a)-(c).

##### **a. Major Program Modification to the Master of Arts (MA) in Psychology**

A motion was heard to approve revisions to the Master of Arts (MA) in Psychology, effective 1 January 2024, as presented. Casello and Ager. Carried.

##### **b. New Academic Program – Master of Applied Science (MAsc) in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Aeronautics**

Items (b) and (c) were taken together and a motion was heard to approve the proposed new academic program, Master of Applied Science (MAsc) in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Aeronautics, effective 1 January 2024, as presented, as well as to approve the proposed new academic program, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Aeronautics, effective 1 January 2024, as presented. Casello and Wells. Carried.

##### **c. New Academic Program – Master of Applied Science (MAsc) in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Aeronautics**

This item was addressed under 9(b).

**10. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

DeVidi provided an overview of items (a)-(c).

**a. Academic Plan Change – Diploma in Studies in Islam**

A motion was heard to approve the proposed academic plan revisions to the Diploma in Studies in Islam, for the Faculty of Arts, effective 1 September 2024, as presented. DeVidi and Montero. Carried.

**b. New Academic Plans – Diploma in Restorative Justice & Restorative Justice Specialization**

A motion was heard to approve the proposed new academic plans, Diploma in Restorative Justice, and Restorative Justice Specialization, for the Faculty of Arts, effective 1 September 2024, as presented. DeVidi and Osborne. Carried.

**c. Academic Plan Change – Social Innovation and Impact Minor**

A motion was heard to approve the proposed new academic plan, Social Innovation and Impact Minor, for the Faculty of Arts, effective 1 September 2024, as presented. DeVidi and Abraham. Carried.

**11. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL, AND SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

**a. Course Delivery Modes**

DeVidi spoke to the proposed definitions and the rationale for the development of the definitions, in particular their need following the experience of online teaching during the onset of the COVID pandemic. Members discussed: delineation of the “blended” course delivery mode from that of “in-person” and “online” and ascertaining the differences thereon; the definition of “blended” is intentionally worded to be flexible so as to accommodate a variety of potential combinations of activities, with substantive work both in-person and online; definitions will be evaluated as experience is gained with the passage of time; decision of which definition applies to a given course would be taken at the time of course planning; definitions would benefit from additional guidance and/or examples. A motion was heard to approve the adoption of the new and revised definitions for the undergraduate calendar and the graduate calendar (glossary of terms), effective 1 September 2023, as presented. DeVidi and Casello. Carried with one opposed and three abstaining.

**12. AMENDMENT TO FACULTY CONSTITUTION – ENGINEERING**

Wells provided a short overview of the proposed amendment, affirming that the required approvals have been appropriately obtained from within the Faculty. A motion was heard to approve the amendments to the *Constitution and By Laws for the Assembly and Faculty Council of the Faculty of Engineering* as recommended by the Engineering Faculty Assembly. Wells and Aucoin. Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was heard to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 13-18 of the Senate agenda. Porreca and Deakin. Carried.

**13. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

Received for information.

**14. REPORT – VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL**

**a. Awards, Distinctions, Grants, Waterloo International Engagements**

Received for information.

**15. REPORT OF THE PROVOST – FACULTY APPOINTMENTS, LEAVES**

Received for information.

**16. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – TENURE AND PROMOTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS**

Received for information.

**17. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR**

Received for information.

**18. HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE – HONORANDS FOR FALL 2023**

Received for information.

**19. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

25 September 2023  
MG/dg

Mike Grivicic  
Associate University Secretary  
Secretary to Senate

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