

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

Present: John Abraham, Nasser Abukhdeir, 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, Catherine Dong, Aiman Fatima, Mark Ferro, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Bruce Frayne, Murray Gamble, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour (Secretary), Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel (Chair), Rob Gorbet, Kelly Grindrod, Mike Grivicic (Associate Secretary), Vikas Gupta, David Ha, Peter Hall, Kevin Hare, Neela Hassan, Chris Houser, Natalie Hutchings, Nadine Ibrahim, Narveen Jandu, Martin Karsten, Acey Kaspar, Veronica Kitchen, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Christiane Lemieux, Lili Liu, Brad Lushman, Shana MacDonald, Ellen MacEachen, Blake Madill, Colleen Maxwell, Peter Meehan, Kristiina Montero, Cathy Newell Kelly, Rory Norris, James Nugent, Troy Osborne, David Porreca, Luke Potwarka, Cynthia Richard, Mary Robinson, James Rush, John Saabas, Labibah Salim J Ali, Rida Sayed, Asher Scaini, Marcus Shantz, Siva Sivoththaman, James Skidmore, Christopher Taylor, Sharon Tucker, Graeme Turner, Diana Vangelisti, Dan Weber, Stanley Woo, Clarence Woudsma

Guests: Aldo Caputo, Nenone Donaldson, Bernard Duncker, Donna Ellis, Jenny Flagler-George, Barbara Forrest, Sarah Hadley, Andrea Hagedorn, Julie Joza, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Nick Manning, Christine McWebb, Norah McRae, Ian Milligan, Fayaz Noormohamed, Nicholas Pfeifle, Chris Read, Karl Schuett, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Brandon Sweet, Sarah Willey-Thomas, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Katy Wong-Francq

Absent: Dominic Barton*, Jack DeGooyer, Kristine Dalton, David DeVidi*, Sonia Ismail, Achim Kempf, Xianguo Li, Jennifer Lynes Murray, Stephanie Maaz, Carol Ann MacGregor, Ceileigh McAllister, Richard Myers, Christopher Nielsen*, Erin O'Connell*, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Jacinda Reitsma*, Sivabal Sivaloganathan, Mary Wells*, Changbao Wu, Annie Yang
*regrets

OPEN SESSION

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lili Liu offered a territorial acknowledgement along with a personal reflection.

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, AND APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was heard to approve the agenda as presented, and to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 14-18 of the Senate agenda. Deakin and Hare. Carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE 23 OCTOBER 2023 MEETING

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

6. SENATE WORKPLAN

The chair indicated that one item has been added to the workplan (fall budget update) and observed that two items slated for the November meeting have been deferred to the January meeting (UCSA annual report, and admissions update). This item was received for information.

7. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. President's Update. Goel provided his report and offered the following:

- There continues to be heightened emotions and tensions around the conflict in the Middle East, and members of University administration have been engaged with groups impacted by the events and violence
 - o It is important for the institution to maintain a supportive, respectful and open environment for all members to safely express ideas and come together, while adhering to policies on ethical behaviour and free expression
 - o A task force will be formed in the near term to develop distinct principles to foster freedom of expression and respectful engagement
- The speaker series on antagonism and intimidation in academia is underway, with one talk completed and three more to come before the international conference on this topic that is scheduled for June 2024
- The province's Blue Ribbon Panel has provided its report, which includes recommendations to increase the tuition framework simultaneously with the provincial grant, among others recommendations
 - o The province has not provided any timeline for its response
 - o In this context, the provost's recently published op-ed on the financial challenges facing the sector was timely
- On 28 November, there will be a town hall event with regard to the University budget
- The federal government has indicated that the law will be amended such that postsecondary institutions are excluded from proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*

In response to questions, Senators were advised that students encountering/concerned about offensive speech on campus should reach out to administrators in their department/Faculty, and/or contact the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism for support or to register a complaint. It was also noted that the campus environment aims to provide opportunities to engage in constructive dialogue on contentious issues, and that the search for the student ombudsperson has been launched with a view to operationalizing the office in early 2024. [Secretary's note: following the meeting, the University [announced](#) a new email address gethelp@uwaterloo.ca to expedite reporting of concerns]

8. FACULTY UPDATE PRESENTATION – MATHEMATICS

Mark Giesbrecht provided a presentation on the Faculty's initiatives and events, including: the Faculty boasts leading rankings among world comparators in several subject areas; new professional programs are under development as well as new research areas, with the latter highlighted by "Data + X" programs; departments, schools and teaching units are co-located and intentionally collaborative; the faculty complement includes numerous top researchers including Canada Research Chairs, dozens of disciplinary fellows and one officer of the Order of Canada; strong research partnerships, fostered by the establishment of the Math Innovation Office in 2020; entrepreneurship is encouraged and the Faculty supports the development of start-up and student-led entrepreneurship; strong teaching and pedagogy, with a common core across mathematics, computer science and statistics and resources devoted to supporting teaching enhancement; the Faculty is transitioning from a five-year strategic plan to a strategic framework; role of CEMC is supporting teaching excellence and innovation.

9. APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP TO SENATE COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

A motion was heard to elect Nicholas Pellegrino as a member of Senate Graduate & Research Council, term to 30 April 2025, as described in the report. Casello and Sivoththaman. Carried.

10. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL

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

a. Major Program Modification for Master of Accounting (MAcc)

A motion was heard to approve the addition of a part-time registration option for the Master of Accounting program, effective 1 January 2024, as presented. Casello and Woudsma. Carried.

b. Major Program Modification for Master of Taxation (MTax) – Co-operative Program

A motion was heard to approve the addition of a direct entry Co-operative program/option for the Master of Taxation program, effective 1 January 2024, as presented. Casello and MacEachen. Carried.

c. Major Program Modification for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Vision Science and Master of Science (MSc) in Vision Science

A motion was heard to approve the revisions to the Graduate Research Fields for the PhD and MSc in Vision Science, effective 1 September 2024, as presented. Casello and Houser. Carried.

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

a. Class Components Definitions

Casello gave a short overview of the report, and members clarified that practicum requirements are different within graduate studies compared to the undergraduate level. A motion was heard to approve the adoption of the new Class Components Definitions for the Undergraduate Studies Academic Calendar and the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar, effective January 1, 2024, as presented. Casello and Dong. Carried

12. SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE: CONTINUATION OF REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2023 SENATE MEETING

Rush spoke to the new University Financial Accountability Framework and noted the following: the framework is under development and the University sector has been engaged with the province in providing feedback; purpose of the framework is to conduct additional monitoring and assessment of the financial health of Ontario universities, and in some cases to require follow up actions; a technical manual was released by the province in October 2023, with eight defined financial metrics (along with the institution's credit rating) to assess the financial health of a university; as at 30 April 2023, the University of Waterloo is measuring well against the announced metrics and is also developing processes to proactively assess the impact of changes to the operating budget on the financial health metrics.

Fieguth presented on the Waterloo Budget Model and noted the following: key objective to identify guiding principles for budget modelling with attention to transparency, efficiency and migrating to a paradigm of integrated planning; aiming to make improvements to data supports for budget planning; anticipate coordination between the Budget Office (which is to be formed) and the Faculties/ASUs; aiming to have the budget model in place for the 2025-26 fiscal year, and currently making efforts to finalize templates and processes to support integrated planning. In response to questions, it was clarified that compared to previous models, the new budget model will be more reflective of actual cost realities, while also being rooted in an improved data set.

13. AMENDMENT TO FACULTY CONSITUTION

a. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws Of The Faculty Council

Goel observed that the covering report highlights the continued need for the Faculty to request an exception to Policy 45 to add one additional faculty member to decanal nominating committee, if the Faculty is to utilize its approved process for selecting those members, and that this will be the case until said policy may be amended in the future (the provost plans to raise this item at an upcoming meeting of the Faculty Relations Committee). Chris Houser provided an overview of the documents, noting that these have not been updated in 30 years and serve to formalize practices that have evolved over time in the Faculty. Members provided a minor correction to the documents put forward for approval to update the name of Co-operative and Experiential Education. One member inquired as to the reasoning for the reduction in student representation on the Faculty Council; Houser indicated that the Faculty is building alternate processes to best engage with students, and will liaise further directly with the senator following the meeting. A motion was heard to approve the amendments to the Constitution and By Laws of the Science Faculty Council as presented. Houser and Deakin. Carried, with one opposed and four abstaining.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved under item 3, with items approved or received for information.

14. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL

a. Regulation Revisions to the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar

Motion: That Seante approve the regulation revisions to the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar (GSAC), effective 1 January 2024, as presented.

15. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Received for information.

16. JOINT REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL, AND SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

a. Academic Calendar Dates for 2024-25

Motion: That Seante approve the 2024-2025 academic calendar dates and calendar guidelines for establishing academic dates, as presented.

17. REPORT – VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL - AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS, GRANTS, WATERLOO INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Received for information.

18. REPORT OF THE PROVOST – FACULTY APPOINTMENTS, LEAVES

Received for information.

19. OTHER BUSINESS

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

15 December 2023
MG/dg

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary to
Senate