

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday April 8, 2024 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: John Abraham, Nasser Abukhdeir, Marc Aucoin, Aubrey Basdeo, Jean Becker, Jeff Casello, Judy Castaneda, Trevor Charles, Joan Coutu, Kristine Dalton, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Catherine Dong, Aiman Fatima, Mark Ferro, Bruce Frayne, Murray Gamble, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour (Secretary), Vivek Goel (Chair), Mike Grivicic (Associate Secretary), Vikas Gupta, David Ha, Peter Hall, Kevin Hare, Neela Hassan, Chris Houser, Nadine Ibrahim, Narveen Jandu, Acey Kaspar, Scott Kline, Christiane Lemieux, Xianguo Li, Lili Liu, Jennifer Lynes Murray, Stephanie Maaz, Ellen MacEachen, Carol Ann MacGregor, Blake Madill, Colleen Maxwell, Peter Meehan, Kristiina Montero, Richard Myers, Cathy Newell Kelly, Christopher Nielsen, Rory Norris, James Nugent, Erin O'Connell, Troy Osborne, David Porreca, Jacinda Reitsma, Cynthia Richard, Mary Robinson, James Rush, John Saabas, Labibah Salim J Ali, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Rida Sayed, Asher Scaini, Marcus Shantz, Siva Sivoththaman, James Skidmore, Anita Taylor, Sharon Tucker, Diana Vangelisti, Dan Weber, Stanley Woo, Clarence Woudsma, Annie Yang

Guests: Katherine Acheson, Faisal Al-Faisal, Rebecca Butler, Aldo Caputo, Nenone Donaldson, Skyler Duggan, Bernard Duncker, Donna Ellis, Becky Elming, Melanie Figueiredo, Jenny Flagler-George, Barbara Forrest, Diana Goncalves, Bryan Grimwood, Sarah Hadley, Michelle Hollis, Diane Johnston, Ahmad Nabil, Andrea Kelman, Nick Manning, Eleanor McMahon, Nicholas Pfeifle, Chris Read, Karl Schuett, Greg Smith, Allan Starr, Brandon Sweet, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Sarah Willey-Thomas

Absent: Sheila Ager*, Lisa Aultman-Hall, Kim Cuddington, Jack DeGooyer, Paul Fieguth*, Wendy Fletcher*, Mark Giesbrecht*, Rob Gorbet*, Kelly Grindrod, Natalie Hutchings*, Sonia Ismail, Martin Karsten*, Achim Kempf*, Veronica Kitchen, Alysia Kolentis*, Brad Lushman, Shana MacDonald, Luke Potwarka, Sivabal Sivaloganathan, Graeme Turner, Mary Wells, Changbao Wu

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

The chair welcomed Senators to the meeting and offered remarks:

- Senate elections were completed last month, with new Senators starting at the May meeting;
- Three new University Professors announced - Raouf Boutaba (Computer Science), Philippe Van Cappellen (Earth & Environmental Sciences), and En-hui Yang (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Appointment of Dr. Jennifer Gillies to the position of Associate Provost, Campus Support and Accessibility, effective March 4
- The May Senate meeting will include an item on Waterloo's Values, which will be discussed at the Senate Long Range Planning Committee on April 10.

The chair recognized those Senators whose terms end on April 30, 2024 and thanked them for their service to the University.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jennifer Lynes Murray 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

The chair suggested amendments to allow a student representation after item 5, and to withdraw item 9(c) pending further consultation. A motion was heard to approve the agenda as amended, and to

approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 12-16 of the Senate agenda. Porreca and Casello. Carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2024 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Kline and Porreca. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

Representation

Ahmad Nabil addressed Senate as follows: called for a moment of silence for Sofyan Taya; expressed dissatisfaction with the University's stance of principled neutrality with respect to the ongoing situation in Gaza; called on the University to sever research and academic ties with Technion and other Israeli universities in relation to those universities' relationship with the military, and divestment from organizations that supply military equipment to Israel; expressed the destruction of schools, universities and libraries in Gaza and targeting of academics amounts to scholasticide; asserted the University should call for an arms embargo, and demanded a statement on the passing of Dr. Taya.

The Chair observed: the University condemns the violence in Gaza and supports the calls for a ceasefire and for the release of hostages; academic freedom includes the free flow of academic collaborations and supporting faculty members and students in these collaborations; the research funds in question are not part of the operating budget of the University but are external funds. The Vice-President Research & International further iterated: significant concern with the war and violence in Gaza; the areas of research in question are in quantum, nanotechnology and water; as is the case for much cutting-edge research in fields like quantum computing and at this institution broadly, it is possible to apply advances in knowledge to areas outside their original purpose, here that would be much longer term. On the question of release of related grant proposal documentation: all grant proposals and associated reports handled by the institution represent the intellectual property of the owners and are held under their ownership.

Members discussed: areas for research collaboration in the current agreement with Technion, in addition to Water, Nanotechnology and Quantum Computing include AI, health, cybersecurity, photonics and smart cities; though a call for proposals was circulated for research in AI and cybersecurity, no proposals were funded from that 2023 call and there has been no activity past that call; the University conducts due diligence in advance of engagements with donors, as per Policy 7, and also relies on our safeguarding research team along with guidance from the federal government to conduct risk assessments. Some members expressed that the relationship with Technion represents a reputational risk, given that institution's engagement with the military, and a broader examination of similar such relationships may be appropriate; potential to raise reputational risks at the upcoming Board meeting; a Senator expressed that there has been far less University communications on the situation in Gaza, in comparison to that in Ukraine.

For the next meeting of Senate, the Office of Research will consider whether the titles of research proposals can be provided to Senate, and will provide Senate with further context on processes for assessing research partnerships. The University will consider the policy framework that guides such partnerships in a comprehensive manner to ensure that it is consistent with best practices.

6. SENATE WORKPLAN

This item was received for information.

7. REPORT – TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE

Casello announced the recipients of the Amit & Meena Chakma Award Exceptional Teaching by a Student: Anthony Vogliano, Sean Monahan, Shannon Kennelly and Ryan Lok. DeVidi announced the recipients of the Distinguished Teacher Award: Cecilia Cotton, Brenda Lee, Carol Hulls, and Jordan Hamilton. Senate applauded all of the award recipients, and 1-2 of the recipients will be invited to an upcoming Senate meeting to speak to Senate about their teaching experience.

8. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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

- Recent provincial announcement re: allocation of international student places, with Waterloo's allocation in line with that of 2023, though concerns persist on the general trends for international applications and that the confusion caused as a result of the communications from the federal and provincial governments may deter some students from considering Waterloo
- Provincial budget had minimal additional funding for postsecondary education, though potential new provisions under the Building Ontario Fund may support large scale projects for postsecondary student housing
- Freedom of Expression and Respectful Engagement Task Force is well underway with consultation activity
- Town Hall event regarding the university budget on April 23
- Launch of the Future Cities Institute on April 3rd
- Approval of revisions to Policy 29 will make Waterloo a smoke-free campus on July 1, 2024 with allowance for designated smoking areas during a transition period in support of smoking cessation

On the last point, one Senator noted that the new policy would prohibit smoking outdoors but that he believed risks for respiratory illnesses from an indoor environment persist; the chair noted that the smoking policy changes come through the Wellness Collaborative which was created in response to and guided by the principles of the Okanagan Charter.

9. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

Casello provided an overview of reports (a) and (b).

a. New Program – Graduate Type II Diploma in Climate Change

A motion was heard to approve the creation of the Type 2 Graduate Diploma in Climate Change, effective September 1, 2024, as presented. Casello and Frayne. Carried.

b. Major Modifications – MA in Recreation and Leisure Studies

A motion was heard to approve the proposed major modifications to the Master of Arts (MA) in Recreation and Leisure Studies, effective September 1, 2025, as presented. Casello and DeVidi. Carried.

c. Regulation Revisions – Approved Doctoral Dissertation Supervisors

Casello noted that this item has been withdrawn to be taken back to the council for further discussion, as well as for discussion with FAUW's Lecturers Committee.

10. REPORTS – SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a. Elections to Senate Committees and Councils

Additional nominations were received from one senator via email during the meeting and those nominations will be included in the tranche to be approved by Senate Executive Committee following the meeting.

A motion was heard to acclaim the membership of Senate committees and councils as presented on the list of nominees, and to delegate approval to the Senate Executive Committee for any remaining or subsequent vacancies. Porreca and Lynes Murray. Carried.

b. Elections to the Board of Governors

A motion was heard to acclaim the election of a graduate student Senator to the Board of Governors as presented on the list of nominees, for a two-year term commencing May 1, 2024; and to delegate approval to the Senate Executive Committee for any vacancies which exist. Porreca and Woudsma. Carried.

For items (a) and (b), where elections are necessary these will be held following the meeting.

c. Delegation of Authority for Approval of Roster of Graduands

A motion was heard that Senate delegate its authority for the approval of the roster of graduands jointly to the chair and vice-chair of Senate, for convocation ceremonies scheduled in June 2024 and October 2024, and that Senate direct that a report on the complete roster of graduands be presented for information to the Senate meeting following the relevant convocation. Newell Kelly and DeVidi. Carried.

11. REPORT OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. 2024/25 Annual Operating Budget

The chair observed that a budget education session was held on March 25th with approximately 50 Senators in attendance, and that the recommendation under consideration comes from the Senate Finance Committee meeting held on April 2nd. The report includes detail on the wide range of discussion at the committee meeting along with a copy of the PowerPoint slides given at that meeting.

James Rush provided a presentation and noted the following: suppression of expenses in previous budget years due to Bill 124, and the impact of the compensation reopener clause increased expenses on the 2023/24 budget as well as the upcoming operating budget; projected but uncertain increased expenses arising from new employee compensation agreements that would take effect on May 1, 2024, along with general inflation in expenses broadly; revenues face ongoing constraints due to the domestic tuition freeze and corridor funding limitations; international tuition levels are now competitive with peers so there is diminished ability for further increases; enrollment trends for domestic and international enrollments; projected unmitigated operating deficit of \$74.5 million in 2024/25; mitigation measures to include across the board ongoing reduction to expenses in both academic and academic support units as well as centrally controlled funds and targeted additional ongoing reductions to achieve a total target of \$42.5 m, as well as one time contributions from units and central reserves to address the remaining projected \$32 m; recent survey by COU shows that many institutions are facing similar deficits; financial challenges are likely to last for a number of years, and a multi-year, multi-modal approach with more sustainable targeted approaches to efficiencies, cost containment and revenue generation to address shortfalls aims to support Waterloo's finances.

Members discussed: more action will be needed on top of the budget mitigation measures described, and the approach described will allow time for medium and longer term mitigation plans to firm up; risk and transition funds will be drawn upon as a one-time budget measure; accessing funds from central sources will displace expenditure on long-term investments and strategies; limited detailed information was provided in the budget documentation re: expenses, and this may be an area that Senate may want more detailed information; this year's budget proposal provided additional data requested by Senators, and the University is continuing efforts to build the tools to provide more detailed data (which dovetails with the approach to integrated planning); while mitigation measures are uniform across Faculties and units, not all are equally well-positioned to manage expense reductions; it is important to assess how units support the mission of the University and deliver value, though presently there is no framework to facilitate those measurements; regarding property, it could be useful to obtain a list of long-term projects kept by the Building & Properties Committee, and the Senate Long Range Planning Committee will have a role in the new Campus Master Planning process; the budget presentation could benefit from disaggregating salaries; providing the detailed information that feeds into the building of the operating budget could overwhelm Senate's consideration of the key points.

A motion was heard that Senate recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2024/25 Operating Budget, as presented. Lynes Murray and Newell Kelly. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

12. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL. Received for information.

a. Regulation Revisions – Graduate Studies Academic Calendar

To approve the proposed academic regulation revisions to the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar (GSAC), effective May 1, 2024, as presented.

13. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

a. Regulation Revisions – Regulation Revisions, Faculty of Science

To approve the proposed academic regulation revisions to Doctor of Optometry Academic Regulations, Course Grades and Credits, and Online Courses, for the Faculty of Science, effective September 1, 2024, as presented.

14. REPORT – SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received for information.

15. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL. Received for information.

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

a. Faculty Appointments, Leaves. Received for information.

b. University Professor designation. Received for information.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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

April 11, 2024
MG/dg (amended May 13, 2024)

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary to
Senate