

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the 10 June 2024 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Nasser Abukhdeir, Sheila Ager, Bilal Ahmed, Avery Akkerman, Marc Aucoin, Veronica Austen, Aubrey Basdeo, Jordan Bauman, Jean Becker, Jeff Casello, Judy Castaneda, Andrew Chang, Martin Cooke, Cecilia Cotton, Kim Cuddington, Laura Deakin, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Teresa Fortney, Bruce Frayne, Murray Gamble, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour (Secretary), Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel (Chair), Mike Grivicic (Associate Secretary), Vikas Gupta, David Ha, Peter Hall, Neela Hassan, Chris Houser, Natalie Hutchings, Narveen Jandu, Acey Kaspar, Achim Kempf, Veronica Kitchen, Scott Kline, Sachin Kotecha, Christiane Lemieux, Ondrej Lhotak, Brad Lushman, Jennifer Lynes Murray, Shana MacDonald, Carol Ann MacGregor, Colleen Maxwell, Peter Meehan, Kirsten Muller, Richard Myers, Cathy Newell Kelly, Christopher Nielsen, James Nugent, Troy Osborne, Everett Patterson, Nicholas Pellegrino, Nicholas Pfeifle, David Porreca, Neil Randall, Jacinda Reitsma, Mary Robinson, James Rush, John Saabas, Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, Rida Sayed, Mark Seasons, Marcus Shantz, Siva Sivoththaman, James Skidmore, Katie Traynor, Sharon Tucker, Diana Vangelisti, Johanna Wandel, Mary Wells, Stanley Woo, Changbao Wu, En-Hui Yang

Guests: Aldo Caputo, Nenone Donaldson, Bernard Duncker, Melanie Figueiredo, Jenny Flagler-George, Barbara Forrest, Anne Galang, Goldi Gill, Diana Goncalves, Diane Johnston, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Nick Manning, Jon Mason, Eleanor McMahon, Christine McWebb, Bessma Momani, Fayaz Noormohamed, Chris Read, Gerry Schneider, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Kerry Stryker, Brandon Sweet, Nickola Voegelin, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Sarah Willey-Thomas

Regrets: John Abraham, Catherine Dong, Mark Ferro, Rob Gorbet, Nadine Ibrahim, Lili Liu, Stephanie Maaz, Ellen MacEachen, Blake Madill, Kristiina Montero, Asher Scaini, Sivabal Sivaloganathan, Anita Taylor, Clarence Woudsma

Goel provided opening remarks and acknowledgements:

- June is Pride Month and is National Indigenous History Month
- The University will recognize and mark the anniversary of the Hagey Hall attack on June 28
- Work is underway on the Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space
- Recognition of outgoing Senators: Sheila Ager, Jeff Casello, Wendy Fletcher, and Anita Taylor
- Mark Jerry, Alexie Tcheuyap will join the University as well as Senate on July 1; Clarence Woudsma's appointment to this body will shift to that of the Interim Co-Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bruce Frayne offered a territorial acknowledgement along with a personal reflection.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Item 17 was moved to the regular agenda. A motion was heard to approve the agenda and the consent agenda, as amended. Abukhdeir and Porreca.

A member noted a communication that was distributed directly to some Senators separately from the meeting agenda and not through the Secretariat. A motion was heard to amend the agenda to add an item discuss the accompanying motion to the separate communique:

The Senate recommends to the Board of Governors to ask the university president and/or the vice-president, academic and provost:

1. Rescind the “formal notice to end encampment and remove all structures” issued on May 20th, 2024;
2. Negotiate with the students in good faith; and
3. Uphold the core principles of freedom of expression on which our Universities depend

Nugent and Abukhdeir.

Members discussed: the same motion was published in an open letter; students have received threats of violence and discussing this will be a positive step in mitigating escalations; FAUW undertook to have a debate on these motions which was attended by hundreds of faculty and which had a vote of 40% in favour and 60% opposed; during the FAUW process, there were reports of threatening communications.

The chair called the question on the amendment, and the motion was defeated.

The chair called the question on the main motion, and the agenda was approved with the amendment to move item 17 from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2024 MEETING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as presented. Patterson and Casello. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The chair observed that items 8(b) and 9(a) were held over from the April and May meetings, respectively.

6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. President’s Update. The president did not provide a report.

7. REPORT – COU ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE

Scott Kline provided a presentation including an overview of the Council, and the role of the academic colleagues. Some key topics under discussion at COU include institutional financial restraint, food insecurity for students, and access to housing. Porreca observed that it would be sensible for COU and OCUFA to align advocacy efforts.

8. REPORTS - SENATE GRADUATE & RESERCH COUNCIL

a. Major Modifications – Master of Science in Physics. Casello provided an overview of the modifications, and members discussed: students in the program are supportive of the changes; integrated learning is one of many potential program improvements; co-op offerings of graduate programs are not expected to crowd out opportunities at the undergraduate level; international students are not able to pause their studies to pursue work integrated learning opportunities and so these program changes provide new opportunities to those students. A motion was heard to approve the proposed major modifications to MSc in Physics, MSc in Physics – Quantum Information, and MSc in Physics – Nanotechnology programs, effective September 1, 2024, as presented. Casello and DeVidi. Carried.

b. Regulation Revisions - Approved Doctoral Dissertation Supervisors. Casello gave an overview, including: the revised regulations are clearer and enunciate which faculty members can supervise which students; in developing these revisions, Casello met with Porreca and Peter Wood in the context of their roles as FAUW president and chair of the lecturers committee, respectively; provision for “grandfathering” status for some faculty; highlighting of provision for faculty in the teaching stream. Members noted specifics on provisions for faculty in the teaching stream, including that currently there

are disciplinary differences which can be reflected with approval at the departmental level and that not all those teaching faculty will be automatically grandfathered; the new regulations will provide consistency between Faculties. A motion was heard to approve the proposed academic regulation revisions to the approved doctoral dissertation supervisors (ADDS) section of the graduate studies academic calendar (GSAC), effective September 1, 2024, as presented. Casello and DeVidi. Carried.

9. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

a. Major Modifications – Recreation and Leisure Studies, and Recreation and Sport Business. DeVidi provided an overview of the submission and commended the department for pioneering a process to utilize data available on campus. He noted that responses have been provided for the questions raised at the previous meeting. A motion was heard to approve the proposed major modifications to Honours Recreation and Leisure Studies, and Honours Recreation and Sport Business, effective September 1, 2025, as presented. Carried.

10. REPORT – HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

a. Revisions to Guidelines for Distinguished Professor Emeritus/a.

b. Revisions to Criteria for Honorary Members of the University.

Senate took the items together and Goel spoke to the revisions, noting that both sets of revised guidelines will introduce/amend requirements that limit the window for nomination and the number of honours that are awarded annually, with provision to provide for exceptions in extraordinary circumstances. A motion was heard to approve the revisions to the Distinguished Professor Emeritus/a Guidelines, as presented, and to approve the revisions to the Criteria for Honorary Member of the University, as presented. DeVidi and Casello. Carried.

Consent Agenda

11. SENATE WORK PLAN

Received for information.

12. REPORT – SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL

Received for information.

13. REPORT – SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Received for information.

14. REPORT- SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received for information.

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

Received for information.

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

a. Faculty Appointments, Leaves. Received for information.

b. University Appointments Review Committee. Received for information.

17. REPORT - SECRETARIAT

a. Composition of the Dean of Mathematics Nominating Committee. Lemieux spoke to the request originating from the Faculty Council, highlighting that adding the extra faculty member would allow alignment with the five departments and provide a place for a member from one of the Faculty units that focus on teaching. Rush noted that the nominating committee will have representation from both graduate and undergraduate students which is not the practice at all universities, and that empirically it has been the case that nominating committees are very collegial despite differences in representation between faculty, students etc. Any concerns may be

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referred to the Faculty Relations Committee. A motion was heard to approve increasing the membership of the 2024 Nominating Committee for the Dean of Mathematics by one, to provide a total of seven (7) regular faculty members. Lemieux and Cotton. Carried.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

One member expressed concerns at the response to the encampment and encouraged Senators to review the communication that was distributed separately.

With no further business, the meeting moved into confidential session.

August 15, 2024

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary