

University of Waterloo
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the March 25, 2024 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Joan Coutu, Laura Deakin, Jack deGooyer, Catherine Dong, Vivek Goel (chair), Mike Grivicic (secretary), Christiane Lemieux, Rory Norris, David Porreca, Mary Robinson, James Rush, Sharon Tucker, Clarence Woudsma

Guests: David DeVidi, Jenny Flagler-George, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour, Diana Goncalves, Andrea Kelman, Tim Weber-Kraljevski

Regrets: Jeff Casello, Carol Ann MacGregor, Luke Potwarka

1. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Deakin and Porreca. Carried. There was no business arising.

2. NOMINATIONS TO SENATE COMMITTEES/COUNCILS AND TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The committee heard that these reports were still in progress and awaiting a number of nominations, and by consensus agreed that the reports be brought forward directly to Senate on behalf of the committee. A motion was heard to recommend that Senate acclaim the membership of Senate committees and councils and the Board of Governors as provided on the list of nominees to approve, and to recommend that Senate delegate approval to the Senate Executive Committee for any vacancies which remain. Porreca and Dong. Carried. The Secretariat is undertaking to review the process for gathering these nominations to foster maximum transparency and will also assess how to time these processes to flow smoothly to Senate.

3. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ROSTER OF GRADUANDS

The chair spoke to the report and recommendation, noting that this approach was developed in 2023 to facilitate the process for approval of thousands of graduands and allows greater flexibility in securing last minute approvals. A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the delegation of 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 to recommend that Senate direct that a report on the complete roster of graduands be presented for information to the Senate meeting following the relevant convocation. Deakin and Dong. Carried.

4. GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS TO SENATE MEETINGS

Gauthier-Chalifour pointed to applicable provisions in the Senate bylaws and in University policies and indicated that guidelines would provide practical guidance on good practices for Senate in approving representations, registration of delegations etc.; a parallel process is also underway for the Board of Governors and could glean from established practices at comparator universities. By consensus, members agreed with the proposed approach.

5. GUIDELINES FOR MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The chair recalled a recent Senate meeting where the drafting of the minutes arose as a point of discussion, and observed that developing such guidelines was under consideration prior to that. Prospective guidelines would help to set expectations and could be posted publicly. Members noted that a considerable range of acceptable practice exists in this space, and that the while current practices have generally been satisfactory it would be beneficial to reflect the variability of the discussion without inviting dilatory debate.

6. SENATE SELF-EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

The survey has been issued and closes later today; once closed, the Secretariat will proceed to prepare a report at the aggregate level which would be transitory to a summative report to Senate. The aim of this approach would be to provide some of the available data before terms expire for outgoing Senators, and to do a deeper dive into the data at a future meeting of Senate Executive Committee. [Note: the survey data was not forwarded to Senate for the April cycle, and a report will be brought to the committee for the next meeting]

7. DRAFT APRIL 8, 2024 SENATE AGENDA

Members discussed the draft agenda and highlighted: plan to invite teaching award recipients to speak at Senate on their experiences and what they enjoy about teaching; significant portion of the meeting is likely to be allocated to discussion of the draft operating budget; the report re: ADDS status will be switched from the consent agenda to the

regular agenda. A motion was heard to approve the April 8, 2024 Senate agenda as amended. Lemieux and Porreca. Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Coutu suggested that Senate would benefit from a discussion of what accessibility accommodations are generally considered to be reasonable, and this might include an overview from staff who routinely work in this space. DeVidi observed that the Accessible Education Project is examining guidelines pertaining to accessibility for students with the aim to provide clarity for these questions. By consensus, members agreed to arrange for a presentation on the Accessible Education Project at an upcoming Senate meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING – Monday April 22, 2024 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

April 9, 2024

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary