

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the 12 June 2023 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Steve Bednarski, Ramona Bobocel, Jeff Casello, Charmaine Dean, Rob de Loe, Peter Deadman, Bernie Duncker, Anna Esselment, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Alison Hitchens, Julie Joza, Brian Laird, Joseph Meleshko, Ian Milligan, Liz Nilsen, Martin Ross, Manoj Sachdev, Marianne Simm, Mike Szarka, Shirley Tang, Richard Wikkerink

Resources: Trevor Clews, Carrie MacKinnon-Molson

Guests: Leslie Copp, Melanie Will (12)

Regrets: Sue Ann Campbell, Aiman Fatima, Bertrand Guenin, Neela Hassan, Ryan Johnson, Zerihun Kinate, William McIlroy, Siva Sivoththaman

Organization of Meeting: Jeff Casello, co-chair of the council, took the chair, and Mike Grivicic acted as secretary. The secretary advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda as well as parts of item 8 as described in the minutes. Hitchens and Guenin. Carried.

1. MINUTES OF 8 MAY 2023

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

2. RESEARCH ETHICS

Council approved the membership extensions as distributed.

3. GRADUATE AWARDS

Council approved items (a)-(c) as presented.

4. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council approved item 4(a) as presented.

Council approved all items from '8. Curricular Submissions', except for Arts item D(b) and Engineering items 2(a) and 2(b).

REGULAR AGENDA

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

6. CO-CHAIRS' REMARKS

Dean thanked members for attending the recent facilitated discussions on the structure of the council. She remarked: recent announcement of Ontario strategy to attract large-scale biomanufacturing; Research Security town hall event will be held later today; Duncker (with Susan Elliott) recently consulted with all Faculties regarding the Awards Committee, and this may be a topic for strategic discussion in the fall term.

Casello remarked: students now have the option of choosing their pronouns in Quest, which was a collaborative project between his office and the Registrar's Office as well as the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism Office; recent PhD dinner with 175 attendees (students and supervisors); doctoral graduates are now placed first in

convocation ceremonies, and in the fall term there may potentially be doctoral graduates to address convocation as those ceremonies have no valedictorians; encouragement to faculty colleagues/graduate supervisors to attend convocation; regarding the vision for graduate studies considered by the council, the provost has asked for recommendations to be prepared to Deans' Council, and Casello will share draft recommendations with SGRC for reaction; the findings of the Task Force on Graduate Student Supervision appeared to show no specific impact of EDI factors on the quality of graduate supervision.

Casello observed that Clarence Woudsma has been appointed as assistant vice-president in GSPA; he further recognized that the term of Liz Nilsen is ending, with this meeting of SGRC being her last, and extended sincere thanks for her service.

7. EXTENSIONS FOR CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

Dean noted the upcoming review of interdisciplinary activities and indicated that extension of the terms of the centres and institutes (C&Is) would allow the review to be completed ahead of the next round of renewals, while also providing time and space to develop a new C&I framework. She observed that one current C&I is not included in the recommendation as the intent is for it to be wound down. Members discussed: any conversation on interdisciplinary activities ought to include the funding of C&Is; review of C&I framework would include examination of best practices at Waterloo and externally; it is likely that SGRC will revise dates for C&I review/renewal as the 31 December 2024 date is meant to be a placeholder to allow an 8-9 month process to develop a framework; important to delineate between academic units (departments, schools) and C&Is. A motion was heard that the Waterloo Centres and Institutes listed in the report be given revised mandate end dates of December 31, 2024, as presented in the report. Dean and Bobocel. Carried.

8. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Esselment provided an overview of item D(b) from the Arts submission. A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve updating the MA in Psychology degree requirements to include a "Developmental Psychology" graduate research field as presented. Esselment and Nilsen. Carried.

Sachdev gave an overview of items 2(a) and (b) in the Engineering submission. A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the addition of Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Applied Science programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering – Aeronautics, as presented. Sachdev and Szarka. Carried.

9. GRADUATE STUDIES & POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS – CLASS DELIVERY MODES

Simm spoke to the report and recommendation and noted that the definitions would apply to online and synchronous courses. A motion was heard to adopt the definitions for the graduate calendar (glossary of terms) and to recommend that Senate adopt the delivery mode definitions for In-Person, Blended and Online as detailed in the report. Simm and Hitchens. Carried.

10. GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR (GSAC) CHANGES

Nilsen gave an overview of the report and recommendation re: changes to the calendar for graduate work-integrated learning activities. Members expressed thanks to Nilsen, Wikkerkink and all involved for their efforts in bringing forward this item. A motion was heard to update and expand the co-operative education section of the graduate calendar to include Graduate Work-integrated Learning definitions and content, and to add a new Community and Industry Research Projects (CIR) course component to the GSAC and Quest glossary of terms. Nilsen and Simm. Carried.

11. CREATES

Copp provided a PowerPoint presentation: overview of CREATES, which promote training via funding of student stipends; significant effort to apply for CREATES, and a significant load on PIs follows after approval; focus on developing technical and professional skills; aim is to develop training programs that eventually will be self-sustaining.

Members discussed: training programs needs to be grounded in the views of department chairs and graduate chairs; would be helpful to examine what groups of academic units see as key training needs; with others focused on research, the teams need individuals focused on training; regarding intellectual property, some instructors are connected to WatCo following their involvement in CREATEs; other potential opportunities in the National Cybersecurity Consortium and the National Research Council, and to leverage existing relations with co-op employers; Waterloo would benefit from gleaning best practices from institutions that have had notable success with CREATEs. Casello indicated that SGRC will discuss draft recommendations in the fall term.

12. SGRC FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS – FOLLOW UP

Melanie Will spoke to the process of the facilitated discussions and some of the findings: support for consent agenda; inclined to devote more time to updates from the co-chairs and strategic/institutional priorities; potential to move operational curricular changes to a subcommittee. Members discussed: can add research content/discussions to agendas, in consultation with associate deans, research; could devote one meeting per term to research strategic directions; the current volume of curricular approvals crowds out bandwidth that could be devoted to strategic topics. Casello will connect with Meleshko on the student perspective, and a copy of Will's consultation notes will be circulated to members following the meeting. It is anticipated that Council will continue these discussions in the fall term.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 18 September 2023 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in NH 3318.

22 June 2023

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary