

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the April 7, 2025 Meeting**  
**[in agenda order]**

**Present:** Hassan Baaj, Steven Bednarski, Sue Ann Campbell, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean (co-chair), Robert de Loe, Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Alison Hitchens, Abhishesh Homagain, Brian Ingalls, Julie Joza, Brian Laird, Ian Milligan, Carlee Ann Montgomery, Marina Mourtzakis, Nicholas Pellegrino, Marianne Simm, Siva Sivoththaman, Shirley Tang, Alfred Yu

**Resources/Guests:** Angela Christelis, Ashley Day, Maysah Eid, Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, Sarah Hadley, Justin Wan

**Absent:** Mrittika Dreesha, Neela Hassan, Joseph Meleshko, Martin Ross, Clarence Woudsma

**Organization of Meeting:** Charmaine Dean took the chair and Mike Grivicic acted as secretary. The secretary advised that quorum was present. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

**1. Conflict of Interest**

Campbell declared a conflict of interest regarding item 9 on the agenda and indicated that she would recuse herself from both the discussion and decision on the matter.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Sivoththaman and Pellegrino. Carried

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

**3. Graduate Awards and Scholarships**

Council approved all new scholarships as presented.

**4. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS**

Council approved items 4.1 through 4.4 on behalf of Senate.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

The chair observed that item 7 on this meeting's agenda carries over from the work and discussion from the previous meeting.

**6. Co-Chair's Remarks**

No remarks offered.

**7. Continuation of Discussion - Draft Terms of Reference for SGRC Restructuring**

Members reviewed the revised draft terms of reference. For the membership on the new councils, allowing up to four additional members with faculty appointments provides a mechanism to address perceived gaps. Plans for an in-depth review of the new councils after one year will critically assess operations and the adequacy of the terms of reference. A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the restructuring of the Senate Graduate & Research Council into two separate councils of Senate – the Senate Graduate Council and the Senate Research and Innovation Council – as described in this report and effective September 1, 2025. Campbell and Hitchens. Carried.

**8. Task Force Reports**

Sarah Hadley and Ian Milligan provide a slide presentation. An overview of the work, mandate, findings, key principles, and recommendations of the two task forces was provided. They highlighted action items identified for completion through the end of 2025, including the socialization of findings with the partnerships community and service providers, the development of policies and processes, and the importance of consistent communication with the community.

## **Senate Graduate and Research Council April 7, 2025 Minutes**

Members discussed the report, ascertaining details and obtaining clarifications where necessary. Waterloo's investments in its pension and endowment funds are managed by investment managers, with the University providing priority factors for the managers to execute in their work. Measurement of social factors around investments is less mature than that of environmental factors. The intent is to provide annual disclosures and related commentary on investment activities in these areas. Regarding current research partnerships, it is expected that most will be compliant, though there may be edge cases requiring engagement. The focus is on individual partnerships and their attributes, rather than the country in which the partnership is located. The University is providing resources to ensure strong communication throughout. There may be cases where a partnership is strong in many dimensions but falters in others; the steering committee will navigate these situations, though some facets, such as compliance with Canadian law, are non-negotiable. Processes will be in place to ensure new partnerships are compliant as they are formed, while a mechanism will be needed to trigger reviews for the thousands of existing partnerships. A pre-review stage for partnerships may prove valuable. This council may support communications on partnerships, alongside other campus expertise. For units with a strong interest in this topic, visits can be organized to present and engage with the campus community. For issues and concerns around responsible investment, the two committees of the Board of Governors concerned with investment will examine mechanisms to commence reviews during their May meeting cycle.

### **9. Renewal of Centres & Institutes**

#### **9.1 Questions to Consider for Centre/Institute Renewals**

This item was received for information. For any questions, members may connect with Duncker.

#### **9.2 Centre for Theoretical Neuroscience Report**

Dean spoke to the report, and members discussed the centre and its achievements during the reporting period. With the advent of the Global Futures Networks (GFN) and changes to the model for supporting this type of work, the centre's funding is now secured. The broader GFN approach to supporting existing centres aims to ensure diversity and maintain a balanced portfolio. A motion was heard to approve the renewal of the Centre for Theoretical Neuroscience for an additional five-year term. Mourtzakis and Ferrer. Carried.

### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**10.1 Annual Senate Survey.** Members were reminded that the annual Senate survey will be forthcoming and that the feedback gleaned from the survey has helped bring about substantial changes, including for this council.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon in NH 3318

April 29, 2025

Mike Grivicic  
Associate University Secretary