

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the meeting held September 11, 2024**  
**[in agenda order]**

**Present:** Nasser Abukhdeir, Paul Fieguth, Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Ondrej Lhotak, Lili Liu, Shana MacDonald, Kristiina Montero, Kirsten Muller, Everett Patterson, Jacinda Reitsma, James Rush (chair), Siva Sivoththaman, Alexie Tcheuyap, Diana Vangelisti, Johanna Wandel, Mary Wells, Clarence Woudsma

**Absent:** Charmaine Dean, Catherine Dong, Rob Gorbet, Chris Houser, Katie Traynor

**Resources/Guests:** Jean Becker, Melissa Benjamin, Ashley Day, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour, Andrea Kelman, Beth Namachchivaya, Fayaz Noormohamed

**Organization of Meeting:** James Rush 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. The chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **2. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024 MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING**

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Carried by consensus.

### **3. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Rush welcomed new members of the committee, and provided remarks: directions received from the province through Bill 166, Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, 2024 directives, including the student mental health directive, anti-racism and anti-hate directive, and cost of educational materials directive; these provincial directives will impact the University both operationally and organizationally, and may precipitate issues that are brought forward to this committee and to Senate; anticipate bringing matters related to SMA 4 through SLRP; this committee will continue to hear about cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary initiatives in line with its coordinating role.

### **4. CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES—BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION**

**a. Global Futures Capstone Experience / iCapstone.** Mary Wells provided a presentation: genesis and development of this capstone experience, and specific intent to align with the identified global futures; the Future Cities Institute played an important role in liaising with external stakeholders; launch in Fall 2024 with the theme of "Building Healthy, Prosperous, and Sustainable Cities", with 120 students and a diversity of partners; one aim is to learn iteratively as these offerings progress with time, and to align with other global futures themes; acknowledgement and thanks for seed funding from the interdisciplinary initiatives fund. Members discussed: significant enthusiasm for this offering is seen amongst students, and student are keen for the opportunity to interact with students in other Faculties; learning to navigate barriers to success e.g. scheduling; for future iterations, potential to scale outward and add partners, but currently focused on nurturing this offering to maturity.

**b. Futures Cities.** Leia Minaker provided a presentation: rapid urbanization and increased growth are bringing multiple interconnected challenges to cities; importance of embracing complexity and humility in approaching these challenges, and to have the courage to have difficult conversations in tackling challenges head-on; overview of the Future Cities Institute, and three major areas of focus for the institute are (1) training and capacity building, (2) research, and (3) knowledge mobilization; aim to catalyze the institute's priority research areas in alignment with the five global futures. Members discussed: the new hospital will provide a natural opportunity for research and to drum up interest in the institute; potential to leverage experiential education toward the concept of a "teaching city", similar to the concept of a teaching hospital; metrics for success for the institute would include successful connections and application of knowledge, policy impact, and engagement with other research clusters.

### **5. PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING CYCLE OF SLRP**

Following discussion from the previous meeting, the committee discussed: importance of the coordinating role and of fostering information sharing to adopt innovative approaches; alignment with work being done on integrated planning and budgeting; the greatest driver (and threat, simultaneously) to the University's growth prospects as an institution is enrollment trends; the committee will require fluency in certain technical topics

to discuss certain key issues e.g. SMA 4; it will be important to define what long-term is intended to mean e.g. 5, 10, 15 years; any of the memo topics can be considered, along with deferred maintenance and the impact on research and teaching.

Rush indicated that in advance of the next meeting, he and Goel will map out prospective items based on their importance and timing, to be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business and the committee moved into confidential session. The minutes of the confidential session on June 3, 2024 were approved by consensus.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday November 13, 2024 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

October 18, 2024

Mike Grivicic  
Associate University Secretary