

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the April 8, 2025 Meeting

Present: Katherine Acheson, Faisal Al-Faisal, Kareem Alfarra, Veronica Austen, Benoit Charbonneau, Victoria Chu, Ashley Day (secretary), Laura Deakin, David DeVidi (chair), Leanne Ferries, Jason Grove, Kristiina Montero, Cathy Newell Kelly, Cynthia Richard, Helena Shilomboleni, Robert Stark, Victoria Swanson, Johanna Wandel, Richard Wikkerink, Matthew Woodward, William Wong

Resources/Guests: Angela Christelis, Blair Clarence, Jennifer Coghlin, Mike Grivicic, Danielle Jeanneault, George Lamont, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Felicia Pantazi, Andrea Prier, Kyle Scholz

Absent: Avery Akkerman, Chloe Ding, Namrah Hassan, Carol Ann MacGregor, Nicholas Pfeifle, Chris Vigna

Organization of Meeting David DeVidi took the chair, and Ashley Day acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

1. 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. Charbonneau and Deakin. Carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2025 MEETING

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. NEW AND RENEWED UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Council received for information an update to the undergraduate awards.

4. UPDATE TO RULES FOR MAJOR MODIFICATIONS – PROGRAM NAME CHANGES

Council received for information an update to the rules for major modifications.

5. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council received for information item 5.1 - 5.2 and approved item 5.3 on behalf of Senate.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

At the SUC meeting on January 28th, it was agreed to conduct an e-vote on the Course Outline Requirements item led by Laura Deakin. The SUC e-vote took place from February 11-14th and passed. The item was approved at the March Senate meeting.

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed Matthew Woodward as the new Environment Society student member of SUC.

8. Teaching Innovation Incubator

Kyle Scholz, Managing Director of the Teaching Innovation Incubator, presented an overview of the incubator's work from the previous year. The goal of the Teaching Innovation Incubator is to provide project teams, faculty, and staff with funding and support in an incubator space. The new process for 2025 includes project criteria, an advisory committee and project support model. An open call was made for projects related to the theme of Global Futures. Three projects will receive the support of the incubator including virtual and physical space on campus for collaboration, safe testing, and experimentation of different educational technologies.

9. UNDERGRADUATE COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENT GROUP

George Lamont, Director, Undergraduate Communication Requirement, presented an update on the undergraduate communications requirement group. Senate had previously tasked the group with designing a process, which has now be drafted. The process was built with collaboration across 6 faculties and multiple units, and provides an approval pathway through to Senate.

Next steps will be to begin the process and reviews as soon as items are ready. This will include meetings to review changes and proposals, talking to employers, and finding ways to appeal to students and parents about preparation for the workplace.

10. CO-OPERATIVE AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION APPROACH

Wikkerink and Prier presented an update to the course content for PD 14: Technological Futures - Responsible Digital Innovation. The item is being brought back with completed action items from the last SUC meeting. Wikkerink and Prier worked closely with Deakin and Ferries to review the changes. The course description has been updated to include a reflective element and learning outcomes have been updated from the last meeting.

SUC was in consensus that this additional update has satisfied the follow-up action pertaining to learning outcomes, as requested at the January 28, 2025 meeting. Additional feedback or comments can be sent to Andrea Prier directly.

11. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS**11.2 Faculty of Science - BScFM**

Deakin presented the proposal from the Faculty of Science which has incorporated feedback from the SUC Curriculum Subcommittee. The proposed changes stem from high attrition rates and a recommendation from students to provide more options in science and business management options. The Chartered Professional Accounting (CPA) designation will soon require masters level courses. Once CPA Ontario has finalized their new requirements, the Faculty will bring forward changes to align programming.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the creation of a Bachelor of Science and Financial Management (BScFM) program with three new science and three new business specializations, and, to retire the Bachelor of Science, Biotechnology/Chartered Professional Accountancy program at the same time, effective September 1, 2026, as presented. Deakin and Ferries. Carried.

11.3 Faculty of Science - Honours Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSci)

Deakin presented an overview of the new program proposal, an Honours Bachelor of Medical Sciences. This proposal includes a partnership with St. George University for a medical school pathway which will be a new kind of revenue generation opportunity for the University. The partnership agreement designates the University of Waterloo as the North American partner for the undergraduate component of the program. Students will apply to St. George University and transfer to UW as a first-year student. Council discussed the option for students to return to Canada to practice and how students may form pathways and residencies in Canada; how to anticipate existing UW students wanting to apply to the program; intention to include the program in the academic calendar and have policies in place.

The chair introduced the expedited approval process for a Fall 2026 launch which requires Senate approval by June 2025. DeVidi walked the council through the proposed plan and information items, such as the Financial Viability Report, which have not yet been completed. Council should expect an updated proposal after the site visit for an e-vote in May 2025 for approval. SUC was in agreement on the expedited process for this program approval.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

The chair spoke to the upcoming Annual Senate Survey that will be administered by the Secretariat in the coming weeks. DeVidi encouraged all members to participate as feedback is important to ensure the council is running effectively and efficiently.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday June 16, 2025, from 1-3pm in NH 3318.

April 14, 2025
Amended June 16th

Ashley Day
Governance Officer