

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the 16 November 2020 Meeting

Present: Sheila Ager, Jean Andrey, Sandra Banks, Lisa Bauer-Leahy, Michael Beauchemin, Kankar Bhattacharya, David Billedeau, Anne Bordeleau, Dan Brown, Carmen Bruni, Kofi Campbell, Jeff Casello, Robyn Clarke, David Clausi, Joan Coutu, Neil Craik, Eric Croiset, Lori Curtis, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Catherine Dong, Aiman Fatima, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes, George Freeman, Martha George, Mark Giesbrecht, Robert Gorbet, Julia Goyal, Kelly Grindrod, David Ha, John Haddock, Feridun Hamdullahpur (chair), Dennis Huber, Natalie Hutchings, Karen Jack (secretary), Martin Karsten, Achim Kempf, Sabrina Khandakar, Jennifer Kieffer, Veronica Kitchen, Christiane Lemieux, Robert Lemieux, Lili Liu, Kesen Ma, Ellen MacEachen, Blake Madill, Sara Marsh, Peter Meehan, Samantha Meyer, Ian Milligan, Zoran Miskovic, Barb Moffatt, Graham Murphy, Richard Myers, Beth Namachchivaya, Cathy Newell Kelly, Erin O’Connell, Daniel O’Connor, Troy Osborne, David Perrin, William Power, Neil Randall, Sam Rubin, James Rush, Max Salman, Emma Schuster, Marcus Shantz, Joanne Shoveller, Abbie Simpson, Sivabal Sivaloganathan, Siva Sivoththaman, Richard Staines, Bruno Tremblay, Sharon Tucker, Twesh Upadhyaya, Cristina Vanin, Johanna Wandel, Paul Ward, Mary Wells, Stanley Woo, Nancy Worth, Clarence Woudsma, En-Hui Yang

Guests: Katherine Acheson, Jean Becker, Kathy Becker, Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Yufei Du, Donna Ellis, Barbara Forrest, Sanjeev Gill, Christine Gillis Bilton, Mike Grivicic, Candace Harrington, Ross Johnston, Andrea Kelman, Drew Knight, Nick Manning, Norah McRae, Christine McWebb, Bessma Momani, Mary Power, Chris Read, Emily Schroeder, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Sherri Sutherland, Mat Thijssen, Chris Wilson-Smith, Kathy Winter

Absent: Mike Ashmore, Dominic Barton*, Fraser Easton*, Teferi Mergo, Samer Zu’Mot

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

The chair welcomed Senators to the meeting and offered congratulations to St. Paul’s University College on its recent appointment of Michaëlle Jean as chancellor.

Consent Agenda

Senate heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda.

O’Connor and Simpson.

1. MINUTES OF THE 19 OCTOBER 2020 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Joint Report – Graduate & Research Council and Undergraduate Council. Senate heard a motion to approve the preferred name guideline, effective 1 September 2021.

Graduate & Research Council. Senate received the report for information.

Undergraduate Council

Faculty of Engineering; Options, Specializations, and Electives

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the grade regulations for options, specializations, and electives, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Mathematics, Upgrading a General Degree to Honours Degree

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the regulation regarding upgrading a general degree to an honours degree, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Mathematics, Update Communications Skills List 2

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the communications skills list 2, effective 1 September 2021.

The remaining items were received for information.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

4. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. RESEARCH PRESENTATION – CHARMAINE DEAN, VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL

Dean addressed Senate re: “Research, Innovation and Commercialization at Waterloo”. Speaking to her presentation, she informed senators about excellence in disciplinary and interdisciplinary research (including: recent members and fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, other fellowships and awards); details about sponsored research and industry funding, startups, the “AC Jumpstart” program and information about a specific researcher, Boxin Zhao; equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigenous initiatives (including: the READI Council, progress on the Equity Action Plan); international research partnerships (including: projects, grants, and success stories); impact and profile; research post-COVID (including the return to research, tri-agency assistance, the CanCOVID Network and Sue Horton’s selection as a theme lead, highlights of research being done by Mark Servos); a brief overview of the Waterloo Research Strategic Plan implementation.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Joint Report – Graduate & Research Council and Undergraduate Council. Senate heard a motion to approve the 2021-2022 academic calendar dates and calendar guidelines for establishing academic dates as presented in Attachment #1.

DeVidi and Newell Kelly. Carried unanimously.

Graduate & Research Council

Graduate Studies – Academic Calendar Changes

Senate heard a motion to approve new Qualifying Examination Regulations (under Minimum Requirements for the PhD Degree), effective 1 January 2021, as presented at Attachment 1.

Casello and Andrey. Carried unanimously.

Senate heard a motion to approve changes to University Responsibilities regarding Supervisory Relationships, effective 1 January 2021, as presented at Attachment 1.

Casello and Billedeau. Carried unanimously.

Undergraduate Council

DeVidi requested to move motions 1, 5, and 6 as one omnibus motion.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences; Addictions, Mental Health, and Policy Minor

Senate heard a motion to approve the new Addictions, Mental Health, and Policy Minor, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences; Bachelor of Science, Honours Health Studies

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Science, Honours Health Studies, effective 1 September 2022.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences; Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology, effective 1 September 2022.

DeVidi and Liu. Carried unanimously.

Faculty of Arts – St. Paul’s University College, Indigenous Entrepreneurship

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed Indigenous entrepreneurship minor and diploma in Indigenous entrepreneurship as outline below, effective 1 September 2021.

DeVidi and Myers. Carried unanimously.

Faculty of Engineering; Mathematics Option, Water Resources Option, Computer Engineering Option

Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of these options, effective 1 September 2020.

DeVidi and Freeman. Carried unanimously.

DeVidi requested to move motions 3, 4, and 7 as one omnibus motion.

Faculty of Engineering, Computing Option

Senate heard a motion to approve the new computing option, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Engineering, Computer Engineering Option

Senate heard a motion to approve the new computer engineering option, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Engineering, Software Engineering Option

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the software engineering option, effective 1 September 2021.

DeVidi and Wells. Carried unanimously.

Faculty of Environment, Geography and Environmental Management

Senate heard a motion to approve the admission, progression and other academic requirements outlined in the 2+2 agreement with Shandong University of Economics and Finance (SDUFE), China, effective as of the effective date of the agreement, as presented at Attachment 1.

DeVidi and Andrey. Carried unanimously.

DeVidi requested to move motions 9, 10, 11, and 12 as one omnibus motion.

Faculty of Mathematics, Computing and Financial Management

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Computing and Financial Management (CFM) plan, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Mathematics, Mathematics/Chartered Professional Accountancy (Math/CPA)

Senate heard a motion to approve the following changes to the Math/CPA plan, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Mathematics, Mathematics/Chartered Professional Accountancy – Finance Specialization

Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Math/CPA – Finance Specialization, effective 1 September 2021.

Faculty of Mathematics, Pure Mathematics

Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of the pure mathematics/teaching plan, effective 1 September 2021.

DeVidi and Giesbrecht. Carried unanimously.

University Committee on Student Appeals. Casello spoke to the report distributed with the agenda. Senators heard some of the reasons for the way the data is presented this year, and about academic integrity challenges as a result of the pandemic. Casello spoke to good work being done in the Faculties to address these challenges. In discussion: the increase in opportunistic cheating and Faculty responses, the benefits of increased education about academic integrity generally, ways to reduce the opportunity for such misbehaviour.

8. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The president offered brief commentary on four key matters: a COVID-19 update; the University's investment decision making process and a commitment to keep this conversation going; supporting the University community's mental health and wellbeing over the course of the pandemic; the financial forecast in light of the recent provincial budget and the pending tuition announcement.

In discussion: a brief review of the conversation at the recent Board meeting about investments; an observation about the value of keeping a broad perspective with respect to responsible investing.

Academic Affairs Working Group Update. The president invited Rush to provide an update on this group. Senators heard about: the disruption to the University due to the pandemic; ways the University responds to disruption generally and the operational response now; what's coming in the future to find the right functional mix based on what we have learned; the strength of the University's strategic plan commitments. From DeVidi, Senate heard about work being done by the action teams, both in terms of responses to immediate problems, and longer-term considerations and benefits. Aldo Caputo, director, centre for extended learning spoke about the "Keep Learning" team and the pivot to remote teaching; lessons learned; ways to support the digital future.

In discussion: conversations about course offerings are occurring at the department and school level; future opportunities; good news stories about cooperation and leveraging resources; that teaching support resources are needed no matter how courses are offered.

9. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST

Senate heard a motion to approve the revised dates for Winter Term 2021 as presented in the report.

Rush and Lemieux.

In discussion: appreciation for the initiative; confirmation that the final examination period is reduced as a result but is expected to be manageable.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Senators heard that the Senate Executive Committee will consider whether there is enough business to warrant a meeting in December later in the month and senators will be informed at that time.

Senate convened in confidential session.

4 December 2020

Karen Jack
University Secretary