

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the 22 March 2021 Meeting

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

Guests: Charbel Azzi, Jean Becker, Kathy Becker, Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Rollen D'Souza, Robin Duncan, Donna Ellis, Barbara Forrest, Brian Forrest, Candace Harrington, Narveen Jandu, Diane Johnston, Ross Johnston, Suzanne Kearns, Meagan Lai, Nick Manning, Laura McDonald, Norah McRae, Bessma Momani, Melanie Mungalsingh, Jen Parks, Alice Raynard, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Emily Schroeder, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Nadia Singh, Allan Starr, Sherri Sutherland, Brandon Sweet, Mathew Thijssen, Sean Thomas, Dan Wolczuk

Absent: Sheila Ager*, Mike Ashmore*, Dominic Barton, Michael Beauchemin, David Billedeau, Eric Croiset, Cindy Forbes, Blake Madill*, Sara Marsh*, Erin O'Connell*, Marcus Shantz*, Clarence Woudsma

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

The chair invited senators to begin attending meetings early for conversation and advised that they will be open early for this purpose. He congratulated incoming and returning senators following recent elections and acclamations.

Consent Agenda

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

Casello and DeVidi.

1. MINUTES OF THE 22 FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Joint Report – Graduate & Research Council and Undergraduate Council. Senate received the report for information.

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

Undergraduate Council. Senate received the report 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.

In response to a question about potential leniency for students due to the pandemic, DeVidi spoke to pending revisions to the student petitions and grievances policy which will help. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

6. REPORTS FROM TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEES

At the chair's invitation, Jeff Casello and David DeVidi acknowledged the winners of the Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student and the Distinguished Teacher Awards.

Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student Committee:

- Charbel Azzi, PhD Student, Systems Design Engineering
- Rollen D'Souza, PhD Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Melanie Mungalsingh, PhD Student, Optometry
- Quinn Worthington, MSc Student, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Distinguished Teacher Awards Committee:

- Dan Wolczuk (Faculty of Mathematics)
- Robin Duncan (Kinesiology, cross appointed with the Department of Biology)
- Suzanne Kearns (Geography and Environmental Management)
- Igor Ivkovic (Systems Design Engineering)

7. PRESENTATION – INTERNATIONALIZATION AT WATERLOO

Charmaine Dean and Bessma Momani provided a wide ranging review of Waterloo's international activity, including: safety abroad considerations and activities as a result of the pandemic; agreements; communications highlights; signature events; future risks and opportunities. Dean offered sincere thanks to Momani and Christine McWebb for their outstanding work undertaking aspects of Ian Rowlands' portfolio while he was on sabbatical in 2020.

In discussion: further kudos and thanks from the president; ways the University is engaging with the United States to encourage exchanges and other forms of study.

8. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The president provided a brief overview of recent activities including: an update on fall term planning (teaching and learning, research and travel, office work); the opening of the COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the School of Pharmacy in partnership with the Centre for Family Medicine and the Region of Waterloo; recent government announcements and the likely pending provincial budget; ongoing conversations with many levels of government with regard to our incoming international students.

In discussion: how the University follows Public Health advice to safeguard the community; ways individuals may seek accommodations through usual processes; advocacy efforts to encourage broadening of opportunity for vaccinations for instructors and for incoming students younger than 18 years of age.

Policy 14 – Pregnancy and Parental Leaves (including Adoption), and the Return to Work

The president informed Senate about the proposed revised Policy 14. In discussion: the date of implementation will be the date of Board approval; the complexities of potential implementation for those currently on leave; agreement to review this aspect of implementation again.

9. Q&A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT

There were no questions.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Finance Committee. Following introductory remarks from the chair, Senate heard a motion to recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2021-22 Operating Budget, as described in Attachment 1.

Murphy and Milligan.

Speaking to his presentation, Rush advised about: budget themes and priorities; ways the strategic plan priorities are being resourced; operating income and expense budget details.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Undergraduate Council. Senate heard the following motion: whereas in 2015 Deans' Council endorsed the proposition that all undergraduate students will have achieved communications outcomes in comprehension, conceptualization, and contextualization, ideally, at the end of their first year of study at the University of Waterloo, that Senate endorse:

1. the development of calendar language that reflects the Undergraduate Communications Outcomes (UCO) as an institutional academic priority and that such language be brought forward for approval through appropriate academic channels; and
2. the implementation of a process for reviewing and approving new or revised UCO curricular items, substantially as outlined in attachment 1.

DeVidi and Milligan.

DeVidi provided a brief history of the matter and offered some commentary on the proposed processes described in the report distributed with the agenda. In discussion: the value of considering both resources and academic quality for these activities; how courses are funded; the courses have communication outcomes, they are not about English instruction; that the central approach is only one option for fulfilling this academic priority.

The question was called and the motion carried.

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

Revised June 2021 Convocation Dates. Senate heard a motion to revise the June 2021 convocation dates as presented in the report.

Rush and Newell Kelly. Carried unanimously.

12. REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL

Senate received the report for information.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

5 April 2021

Karen Jack
University Secretary