

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 19 April 2021 Meeting

Present: Sheila Ager, Sandra Banks, Lisa Bauer-Leahy, 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, Fraser Easton, 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, Martin Karsten, Achim Kempf, Sabrina Khandakar, Veronica Kitchen, Karen Jack (secretary), Brendan Larson (for Jean Andrey), Christiane Lemieux, Robert Lemieux, Lili Liu, Kesen Ma, Blake Madill, Peter Meehan, 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, Samuel 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, Stan Woo, Nancy Worth, Clarence Woudsma, En-Hui Yang, Samer Zu’Mot

Guests: Agata Antkiewicz, Veronica Austen, Jean Becker, Kathy Becker, Bruce Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Benjamin Easton, Donna Ellis, Barbara Forrest, Andrea Kelman, Meagan Lai, Nick Manning, Norah McRae, Graham Murphy, Mohammed Nasser, Alice Raynard, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Emily Schroeder, Gerry Schneider, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Allan Starr, Kerry Stryker, Brandon Sweet, Sean Thomas, Marilyn Thompson, Chris Wilson-Smith, Kate Windsor, Kathy Winter

Absent: Jean Andrey*, Mike Ashmore, Dominic Barton, Michael Beauchemin*, Jennifer Kieffer, Ellen MacEachen, Sara Marsh*, Teferi Mergo*, Samantha Meyer*

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The chair thanked departing members for their service: Kankar Bhattacharya, Kofi Campbell, David Clausi, Eric Croiset, Peter Deadman, Fraser Easton, Aiman Fatima, Rob Gorbet, Julia Goyal, John Haddock, Sabrina Khandakar, Kesen Ma, Sara Marsh, Teferi Mergo, Barb Moffatt, David Perrin, Sam Rubin, Abbie Simpson, and Richard Staines. A round of applause followed.

With regard to the agenda, the chair reminded senators of new item 18 in confidential session, Report of the Nominating Committee for Honorary Degrees, and the report that was emailed to senators earlier in the day.

Consent Agenda

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

George and Milligan.

1. MINUTES OF THE 22 MARCH 2021 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

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

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received the report for information.

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

University Professor Designation. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. WATERLOO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARD

At the chair's invitation, Abbie Simpson, WUSA president, acknowledged the winners of the WUSA Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards, and a round of applause followed:

- Veronica Austen, 2019 Teaching Year (English Language and Literature/ St. Jerome's University)
- Zack Cramer, 2020 Teaching Year (Mathematics Undergraduate Office)
- Mark Dolson, 2020 Teaching Year (School of Public Health Sciences/Anthropology)
- Mohammed Nasser, 2019 Teaching Year (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

8. PRESENTATIONS

David Billedeau, Graduate Student Association President. Billedeau provided senators with an update on the Graduate Student Association. He spoke to his presentation, highlighting: key accomplishments over 2020-21, key issues having an impact on the graduate student experience, observations about what lies ahead.

Abbie Simpson, WUSA President. Simpson highlighted: WUSA's role, key initiatives like the universal bus pass, entertainment through clubs and events, advocacy activities (particularly over the last year), key concerns for students in the coming months and years. Simpson closed with announcing WUSA's Leadership Award winners and offered thanks to critical WUSA staff.

Following their remarks, the president expressed thanks from Senate for their efforts on behalf of students and for their adept management of key responsibilities over the past challenging year. A round of applause followed.

9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Executive Committee. Senate heard that the deans, the chair of the heads of the affiliated and federated institutions of Waterloo, and the presidents of the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association and Graduate Student Association have recommended names of nominees as provided on the list of nominees.

Senate heard a motion to acclaim the membership of Senate committees and councils and the Board of Governors as provided on the list of nominees.

The chair asked for further nominations from the floor. No nominations were received.

The chair notified senators that there would be an electronic election subsequent to the meeting for positions with more recommendations than required: graduate student representatives on the Board of Governors, and faculty representatives on the Board of Governors.

Casello and Staines. Carried unanimously.

Senate heard a motion to delegate approval to the Executive Committee any vacancies which exist.

O'Connor and Casello. Carried unanimously.

Graduate & Research Council. Senate heard the following motions:

New Program, Faculty of Engineering

Senate heard a motion to approve a new GDip in Data Analytics (Direct Entry) in Management Sciences, effective 1 September 2021, as presented at Attachment 1.

Casello and Freeman. Carried unanimously.

Program Changes, Faculty of Environment

Senate heard a motion to approve additions to the Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Environmental Studies (MES) in planning, effective 1 May 2021, as presented at Attachment 2.

Casello and Larson. Carried unanimously.

University Appointments Review Committee. Senate received the report for information.

Gerry Schneider, chair of the committee, spoke to his presentation, highlighting data about the proposals reviewed by the committee in 2019-20; he then responded to some questions about trends.

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The president provided an overview of recent activities, issues, and priorities, including: an update on ongoing safety measures; recent provincial announcements, and how we are complying with regulations; the federal budget. With respect to the last matter, the president invited Kate Windsor, director of the Safety Office to provide an update on the pandemic response. In discussion: there were no changes to research activity with the recent provincial lock-down due to robust safety plans already in place; rules are in place and are being followed very well to ensure critical activities continue to operate; work continues in the Faculties with respect to spring and fall term offerings; ensuring good communication is top of mind.

In further discussion: expressions both of concern and optimism about the potential conditions in the fall; agreement that safety is paramount; advice that the University consults with experts and follows public health guidance; that facilitation of as much in-person teaching and research activity as is safe is being worked on; the ways in-person activities will occur as we transition out of the pandemic will not be homogeneous; key details are being worked on by the Faculties.

The president invited Kelly Grindrod, associate professor in the School of Pharmacy and Ontario College of Pharmacists Professor in Pharmacy Innovation to provide an update on the School of Pharmacy vaccination clinic. In discussion: details about the clinic's operation; some observations about vaccines and their rollout; some considerations for the fall and beyond. Senators heard that a Town Hall regarding the Fall Term will be held in May.

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

The provost acknowledged the 2021 University Chair recipients as mentioned in his consent report:

Jennifer Clapp (School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability) and Weihua Zhang (electrical and computer engineering).

12. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL

Senate received the report for information and Dean provided senators with a brief update on the President's Anti-Racism Taskforce (PART).

13. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

29 April 2021

Karen Jack
University Secretary