

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday 20 September 2021 Meeting

Present: John Abraham, Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir, Sheila Ager, Jean Andrey, Mike Ashmore, Sandra Banks, Michael Beauchemin, Anne Bordeleau, Carmen Bruni, Jeff Casello, Trevor Charles, Joan Coutu, Neil Craik, Lori Curtis, Kristine Dalton, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Catherine Dong, Benjamin Easton, Paul Fieguth, Wendy Fletcher, Cindy Forbes, George Freeman, Carol Ann MacGregor, Mark Giesbrecht, Moira Glerum, Kelly Grindrod, David Ha, Vivek Goel (chair), Kevin Hare, Dennis Huber, Natalie Hutchings, Karen Jack (secretary), Martin Karsten, Achim Kempf, Jennifer Kieffer, Veronica Kitchen, Alysia Kolentzis, Christiane Lemieux, Robert Lemieux, Xianguo Li, Lili Liu, Kristina Llewellyn, Ellen MacEachen, Blake Madill, Peter Meehan, Samantha Meyer, Ian Milligan, Zoran Miskovic, Richard Myers, Beth Namachchivaya, Cathy Newell Kelly, Erin O’Connell, Daniel O’Connor, Troy Osborne, Luke Potwarka, William Power, Neil Randall, James Rush, Matthew Schwarze, Marcus Shantz, Joanne Shoveller, Siv Sivaloganathan, Siva Sivoththaman, Chao Tan, Bruno Tremblay, Sharon Tucker, Graeme Turner, Diana Vangelisti, Johanna Wandel, Paul Ward, Mary Wells, Stan Woo, Nancy Worth, Clarence Woudsma, En-Hui Yang,

Guests: Suman Armitage, Jean Becker, Kathy Becker, Bruno Campbell, Aldo Caputo, Pam Charbonneau, Robert Craig, Adrienne Dwyer, Donna Ellis, Barbara Forrest, Brian Forrest, Amanda Garcia, Diana Goncalves, Ross Johnston, Andrea Kelman, Nick Manning, Norah McRae, Bessma Momani, Fayaz Noormohamed, Alice Raynard, Chris Read, Ian Rowlands, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Nasim Shojayi, Allan Starr, Kerry Stryker, Brandon Sweet, Mathew Thijssen, Marilyn Thompson

Absent: Dominic Barton, Lisa Bauer-Leahy, Dan Brown, Robyn Clarke, Martha George, Onurcan Gokkaya*, Zabeen Khamisa*, Graham Murphy*, Oudy Noweir, Naima Samuel*, Samer Zu’Mot

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The chair welcomed Senators to the first meeting of the fall. He spoke of his pleasure at being at Waterloo, and of his positive impression in his initial few months at the University, particularly as the campus has come back to life recently.

Consent Agenda

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

Randall and Ward.

1. MINUTES OF THE 21 JUNE 2021 MEETING

Senate approved the minutes of the meeting.

2. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Executive Committee. Senate received the report for information.

Motion: To approve on behalf of Senate the addition of Sunday, October 24 as a date for convocation ceremonies for the Fall 2021 term. [Secretary’s note: circumstances in the province changed since the committee approved the extra date which is no longer needed.]

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

Call for Nominations. Senate received the report for information.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received the reports for information.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Senate heard a motion to approve the following appointments:

University Committee on Student Appeals: Sarina Nathoo (undergraduate student) as the Faculty of Health student representative, term to 30 April 2023 and Nicholas Palaschuk (graduate student) as the Faculty of Environment student representative, term to 30 April 2023.

Senate Executive Committee: Zabeen Khamisa as a graduate student representative, term to 30 April 2022.

The question was called and carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Executive Committee

Senate heard a call for further nominations from the floor for an undergraduate student representative to the Board of Governors. In the absence of further nominations, Senate heard a motion to approve the appointment of Catherine Dong as undergraduate student representative, term to 30 April 2022. Easton and Forbes. It was noted that Dong abstained from the vote, and the motion carried otherwise unanimously.

9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The president walked Senators through his presentation, highlighting: the Strategic Plan; some pandemic contributions from the Waterloo Community and from Waterloo faculty; the vaccine site at the Health Sciences Campus in Kitchener; the opening of the SLC/PAC; the cluster hiring initiative; an update on the Innovation Arena; recent op-eds he wrote regarding his vision for the post-pandemic University, the importance of an on-campus experience, and the role of universities generally in the pandemic response; some reflections on his initial days as president and the unique opportunities for the University in the future.

10. Q&A WITH THE PRESIDENT

There were no questions.

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

Rush reported on this year's student orientation activities; the support available to international students; some of the on-campus activities occurring this fall; enrollment figures; an overview of the proof of vaccination response; supports available to the academic community; and the return to work on campus initiative and its priorities and next steps. In response to a question, Senate heard that the pre-pandemic number of students on campus in the fall term was typically approximately 30,000 compared to this year's expectation of around 16,800 students. Senate also heard about the approaches that will be taken over the coming weeks to ensure all individuals coming to campus provide proof of vaccination or are otherwise accommodated, in the rare instances where this is necessary.

Fall Reading Week

Following an introduction from DeVidi, Nasim Shojayi of the Student Success Office walked Senators through a presentation about the Fall Reading Week Pilot Project, including an overview of the context, survey results over the course of the pilot, groups and committees that have been engaged, and final recommendations.

Senate heard a motion to adopt a Fall Reading Week, extending from the Saturday before, to the Sunday after the Thanksgiving Day public holiday in October as an ongoing part of its calendar of academic dates.

Rush and Ward.

In discussion: some of the challenges of fixing a firm University-wide rule regarding assignments due the day immediately following the break; an overview of what other universities have in place; how feedback from students and faculty has been incorporated.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Following an update from Dean about the federal government's National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships, Senate received the report distributed with the agenda for information.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to an inquiry about the work of the Policy 76/77 Development Committee, Rush confirmed that the committee had provided a report to the Faculty Relations Committee at the end of August as expected, and advised that the Faculty Relations Committee will discuss it soon per usual practice for "F" class policies.

Senate convened in confidential session.

24 September 2021

Karen Jack
University Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

. The confidential minutes have been removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

24 September 2021

Karen Jack
University Secretary