

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the 9 February 2021 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Katherine Acheson, Veronica Austen, Monica Barra, Rachel Bruce, Kofi Campbell, Benoit Charbonneau, Victoria Chu, Martin Cooke, Vivian Dayeh, Daniel Davison, David DeVidi (chair), Jaskaran Dhillon, Leeann Ferries, Ariel Gans, Brendon Larson, Bruce MacVicar, Cathy Newell Kelly, Noor Parray, Jeremy Pittman, Francis Poulin, Megan Town, Cristina Vanin, Chris Vigna, Angela Wang-Lin, Rebecca Wickens (secretary), Richard Wikkerink

Resources: Jennifer Coghlin, Danielle Jeanneault, Amanda McKenzie, Alyssa Voigt

Guests: Mike Eden

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. APPROVAL OF THE 12 JANUARY 2021 MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

The minutes were approved without formal motion. There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. CURRICULAR ITEMS FOR APPROVAL & INFORMATION

Arts. Following a brief overview, there was a motion to approve the changes on behalf of Senate. Acheson and Campbell. Carried.

Environment. Larson took members through the course changes, course inactivations and minor modifications to two diplomas. In response to a question about the course inactivations, members heard that this content will now be covered by Indigenous entrepreneurship courses offered by St. Paul's. There was a motion to approve the proposed changes in attachments 1 and 2 on behalf of Senate and to receive attachment 3 for information. Larson and Barra. Carried.

4. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Spring Grade Submission Dates. Newell Kelly reported on temporary changes required to the grade submission dates for the Spring to address potential confusion around dates for classes normally offered online and classes offered online because of the pandemic.

Undergraduate Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries. Commenting on references to the Admission Information Form in the descriptions, Acheson indicated that it might be better to leave the details re: applications and assessment out of the descriptions to allow for different processes. Newell Kelly agreed to investigate making this change.

5. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEWS

Revised Process for Approving FARs and Two-Year Reports. Members heard: drivers for the proposed changes; comparison of current to proposed process; the intent to improve efficiency but maintain quality. Members asked clarifying questions around the vetting process before the reports are presented to council. Following discussion, members heard that reports in process will be completed under the current process and future reports will go forward under the new process.

Academic Program Reviews – Status. This item was received for information.

Handling of Final Assessment Reports & Two-Year Progress Reports. This item was received for information.

Two-Year Report – Mathematics/Teaching. Vanin reported that most of the questions were related to the pandemic's impact on timelines, and the report addresses the questions appropriately. In response to a question re: the recommendation to add a second MTHEL course, members heard that resource and scheduling concerns are obstacles and alternatives are being considered. Following discussion there was a motion to approve the report on behalf of Senate. Vanin and Poulin. Carried with one abstention.

6. UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION OUTCOMES – APPROVAL PROCESS

DeVidi took members through the background and documents distributed with the agenda. Members commented on the importance of the initiative and appreciation for the work to date by those involved in providing communications courses and supporting this initiative. There was a motion to endorse 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 endorse the implementation of a process for reviewing and approving new or revised UCO curricular items, substantially as outlined in the memo distributed with the agenda. Charbonneau and Ferries. Carried. Members heard that this will go to the next meeting of Senate for endorsement.

7. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no further business.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is 9 March 2021, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. via Teams. [Note: the March meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is 13 April 2021, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.]

5 April 2021

Rebecca Wickens
Associate University Secretary