

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the 14 September 2021 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Katherine Acheson, Veronica Austen, Monica Barra, J.C. Blokhuis, Benoit Charbonneau, Martin Cooke, Jacob Chung, Zinnia Chung, Victoria Chu, Dan Davison, Vivian Dayeh, David DeVidi (chair), Leanne Ferries, Ariel Gans, Arnav Gupta, Joy Harris, Danielle Jeanneault (interim secretary), Carol Ann MacGregor, Catherine Newell Kelly, Jeremy Pittman, Francis Poulin, Stephanie Ye-Mowe, Chris Vigna

Guests: Janessa Vos (Science, Optometry Advanced Standing Program memo)

Resources: Angela Christelis, Blair Clarence, Jennifer Coghlin, Joy Harris, Amanda McKenzie, Angela Christelis

Regrets: Brendon Larson, Richard Wikkerink

Organization of Meeting: David DeVidi took the chair, and Danielle Jeanneault acted as interim 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. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed new members of council and reviewed protocols for discussion and voting via Teams. The chair informed members that minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting are not currently available but will be brought forward for approval at a future meeting.

3. CURRICULAR ITEMS FOR APPROVAL & INFORMATION

Arts.

- Acheson introduced several new courses. There was a motion to approve the new courses on behalf of Senate. Acheson and Barra. Carried.
- Acheson presented several course changes. There was a motion to approve the course changes as presented on behalf of Senate. Acheson and Blokhuis. Carried.
- Acheson presented REES 260 for reactivation. There was a motion to approve the reactivation of the course on behalf of Senate. Acheson and Blokhuis. Carried.
- Acheson spoke to the motion to correct the academic plan title description for the Diploma in Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the plan description change. Acheson and Davison. Carried. Secretary's Note: After the meeting, the motion to Senate was changed to refer to a "degree description" change, to more accurately represent the change.
- Acheson introduced the creation of a new minor in Canadian politics and public policy, which will replace several specializations targeted solely for political science students, allowing more students to study this field. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the proposed new plan as presented. Acheson and Ferries. Carried.
- Acheson took members through the major modification to the minor in human rights noting the additional flexibility provided by the changes, as well as the minor modifications, noting: the changes to literature requirements to several English plans, clarification of broad requirements in several existing academic plans, and the allowance for more comprehensive study in the minor of Indigenous studies. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the major and minor modifications. Acheson and MacGregor. Carried. Secretary's Note: The minor academic plan modifications were subsequently sent to Senate for information as council has the authority to approve these on behalf of Senate.

- Acheson spoke to the motion to inactivate a minor and three specializations. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the academic plan inactivations. Acheson and Ferries. Carried.

Engineering. Davison presented new courses, course changes and inactivations, and minor plan modifications, noting the three main changes to the nanotechnology engineering academic plan: work-term reports being phased out and replaced with reflections or PD courses, content from several health-related courses being amalgamated into one, and introducing biology content to formulate background in the discipline; as well as allowing Engineering students to complete the minor in entrepreneurship. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the minor plan modifications and to approve the new courses, course changes, and course inactivations on behalf of Senate. Davison and Blokhuis. Carried. Secretary's Note: The minor academic plan modifications were subsequently sent to Senate for information as council has the authority to approve these on behalf of Senate.

Science.

Barra presented the new courses, course changes, reactivations, and inactivations. There was a motion to approve the course package on behalf of Senate. Barra and Acheson. Carried. Secretary's Note: Post approval, the prerequisite for PHYS 360A was amended from "MNS 201" to "MNS 201L" as the former does not exist.

Barra spoke to the corrective memorandum for the optometry advanced standing program and explained the need to request an earlier effective date than previously approved. Barra provided some additional operational insights into the preparatory term, mainly that applicants will not be enrolled in academic courses nor will a student record be generated, fees will be paid to the School of Optometry and Vision Science directly, and that applicants will only become students upon completion of the spring term. A question was raised regarding the earlier effective date and its impact on grants and Institutional Analysis and Planning's involvement; Vos addressed and clarified to council that the matter has since been resolved and the earlier effective date is no longer an issue. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the earlier effective date. Barra and Charbonneau. Carried.

Barra took members through the minor modifications, noting several were to clarify existing academic requirements. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the minor modifications to academic plans. Barra and Acheson. Carried. Secretary's Note: The minor academic plan modifications were subsequently sent to Senate for information as council has the authority to approve these on behalf of Senate.

Barra took members through the academic regulation change regarding transfer students. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the academic regulation changes. Barra and Blokhuis. Carried.

Renison University College.

Blokhuis presented the course changes. There was a motion to approve the course changes on behalf of Senate. Blokhuis and Austen. Carried.

4. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Blended Class Definition. Newell Kelly shared the new definition with council and explained although it is already in use for the fall 2021 term, it may be redefined at a later date as more is known about how blended classes are being implemented on campus.

Undergraduate Communication Requirement. Newell Kelly shared the new overarching text that was developed as requested by Senate, to show Waterloo's commitment and academic priority. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the statement. Newell Kelly and Charbonneau. Carried.

Aegrotat (AEG) Grades. Newell Kelly explained the new definition is a culmination of collaboration with the associate deans, undergraduate and the registrar's office. The text was amended to read "...would otherwise

receive a ~~pass~~ **passing** grade”. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the grade definition. Newell Kelly and Barra. Carried.

Academic Calendar Dates. Newell Kelly and Coghlin presented the calendar dates for 2022-2023. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the academic dates for 2022-2023. Newell Kelly and Barra. Carried.

Undergraduate Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries. Newell Kelly shared a series of new scholarships and awards. A question was raised about the operational nature of how students are selected for certain awards when eligibility crosses Faculty boundaries while ensuring fair distribution. Newell Kelly suggested that the manager, undergraduate awards should attend future meetings where similar reports are shared in order to be able to comment on operational matters regarding scholarships, awards, and bursaries.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The chair reiterated that there was not to be an update at this meeting due to the number of curricular items brought forward for approval and information. The chair indicated a strategic plan retreat was recently held and that decisions for action teams are expected soon.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. via Teams.

14 September 2021

Danielle Jeanneault
Interim Secretary to Council