

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the 9 May 2022 Meeting
[in agenda order]
Microsoft Teams Meeting Videoconference

Present: Jeff Casello, Amelia Clarke, David Clausi, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Bertrand Guenin, Alison Hitchens, Aiden Huffman, Julie Joza, Brian Laird, Glaucia Melo, Ian Milligan, Bessma Momani, Liz Nilsen, Jennifer Reid, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Kankar Bhattacharya (on behalf of Siva Sivoththaman), Mike Szarka, John Thompson, Kathy Winter (secretary).

Resources: Trevor Clews, Carrie MacKinnon-Molson, Amanda McKenzie.

Guests: Sarah Burch, Suzan Ilcan, Carol Penner, Nadia Singh, Andrew Thompson

Regrets: Maureen Drysdale*, Richard Staines *, Shawn Wettig*

Organization of Meeting: Jeff Casello, co-chair of the council, took the chair, and Kathy Winter acted as secretary. The secretary advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. MINUTES OF 11 APRIL 2022 AND BUSINESS ARISING

By consensus, the minutes were approved as distributed.

3. CO-CHAIRS' REMARKS

Casello informed council that a number of interdisciplinary postdoctoral initiatives (postdoctoral appointments proposal, postdoctoral funding for equity-deserving groups) are currently underway.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING SGRC

As part of the University's Senate Governance Review (January 2022-present), Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC) discussed the structure and functioning of SGRC. Memos submitted by the Associate Deans Research (ADR) and Associate Deans Graduate (ADG) formed the basis of, as well as informed this important conversation. Council members raised a variety of subjects relating to SGRC's operations, including whether it should remain as one council or dissolve into separate research and academic councils. Council members identified that:

- SGRC (or any other University committee¹) does not serve as a mechanism for essential research content and discussions (e.g., IP, research risk, research security, grants, data management, etc.)
- SGRC business is heavily and disproportionately weighted to academic content
- SGRC is unnecessarily administrative with little time spent in fruitful, substantive, synergistic discussion—whether academic or research-related
- regardless of the future of SGRC, student membership is necessary, but resources are finite

From these discussions, a number of key foci emerged in order to improve SGRC efficacy:

- To identify key strategic research and academic matters for discussion and ensure equitable time for each
- To consider the role of new (sub)committees (e.g., curriculum committee) and/or working groups to delegate appropriate matters elsewhere and allow more time at SGRC for increased engagement on critical research and academic topics and strategic matters
- To refine and improve SGRC agendas (e.g., implement consent agenda)

Council agreed to continue discussion at 13 June 2022 SGRC:

¹ The existing Research Operations Council (ROC) is not a formal or deliberative body of the university.

5. POLICY 30 – EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Council received for input and discussion the Policy 30 draft which is in its formal review stage before finalization through the Vice-President Academic and Provost and Senate. Singh, Secretariat member of the Drafting committee, was in attendance. In discussion: support for this “well-constructed policy”; recognition of the significant value of teaching experience gained through Teaching Assistantships; that the policy has a dispute resolution process between the instructor and TA that is separate and in addition to other applicable university policies (such as [Policy 33](#)). Council raised no new or substantive issues during the meeting as part of this Policy 30 consultation process, though a minor typo was noted in Appendix B (“GPA” in last bullet point should read “GTA”). Casello invited any feedback to be received to GSPA by 16 May 2022.

6. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEWS

On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve the following, as presented:

- a. Two-Year Progress Report – Global Governance. Esselment and Nilsen. Carried.
- b. Two-Year Progress Report – Theological Studies. Esselment and Ferrer. Carried.

7. RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve the name change of Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate change (IC3) to the Waterloo Climate Institute, as presented. Momani and Hitchens. Carried.

8. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve the following Faculties joining the Collaborative Aeronautics Program (CAP), effective 1 September 2022, as presented².

- Environment: Master of Arts in Geography – Aeronautics; Master of Science in Geography – Aeronautics; Master of Environmental Studies in Geography – Aeronautics; Doctor of Philosophy in Geography – Aeronautics. Deadman and Clarke. Carried.
- Health: Master of Science in Kinesiology – Aeronautics; Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology – Aeronautics. Laird and Guenin. Carried.
- Mathematics: Master of Mathematics in Applied Mathematics – Aeronautics; Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematics – Aeronautics. Guenin and Laird. Carried

Faculty of Engineering

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve updating the MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering degree requirements to include one new Graduate Specialization in Business Leadership, effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Bhattacharya and Ferrer. Carried. Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve a direct entry Co-operative program/option to the MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering program., effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Bhattacharya and Ferrer. Carried. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve items 1b, 2, and 3, as presented. Bhattacharya and Ferrer. Carried.

Faculty of Environment

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve adding a new Master’s Research Paper with Internship study option to the Master of Environmental Studies in Social and Ecological Sustainability, effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Deadman and Clarke. Carried. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve item 2, as presented. Deadman and Clarke. Carried.

² See 11 April 2022 Senate Graduate and Research Council ([agenda item 5](#)).

Faculty of Health

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve changing the PhD and MSc program names to align with the following recent department and school name changes, effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Laird and Guenin. Carried.

- "Department of Kinesiology" to the "Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences"
- "School of Public Health and Health Systems" to the "School of Public Health Sciences"

On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve items 1, 2, 3.1.1, 4.1.1, and 5, as presented. Laird and Guenin. Carried.

Faculty of Mathematics

Council heard a motion to recommend to Senate to approve the discontinuation of the coursework study option from Master of Mathematics in Computer Science and the Co-operative Program, effective 1 September 2022, as presented. Guenin and Laird. Carried. On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve item, as presented. Guenin and Laird. Carried.

9. GRADUATE AWARDS

On behalf of Senate, council heard a motion to approve items a-b, as presented. Simm and Clarke. Carried. Council received items c-g for information.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 13 June 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon; Microsoft Teams.

26 May 2022

Kathy Winter, PhD, CPsych,
Assistant University Secretary