University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the 12 April 2022 Meeting
[in agenda order]


Resources/Guests: Blair Clarance, Jennifer Coghlin, Danielle Jeanneault, Amanda McKenzie, Tanya Missere-Mihas, Carrie Morlson, Toni Serafini, Bruno Tremblay

Regrets: Veronica Austen, Brendon Larson

Organization of Meeting: Catherine Newell Kelly took the chair, and Tim Weber-Kraljevski acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present. The chair noted that item 3.f. was withdrawn from the agenda. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
MacGregor declared a conflict of interest for item 4.a and the chair indicated that MacGregor would be asked to temporarily withdraw from the meeting during the discussion and vote of the approval of the Human Sciences Final Assessment Report.

2. APPROVAL OF THE 15 FEBRUARY 2022 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 an overview of new courses, there was a motion to approve these items on behalf of Senate. Cooke, Ferries. Carried with friendly amendment to remove approval of new course CHINA 180R on pp. 6 and 7 of the agenda package from the motion. Cooke spoke to course changes. Discussion included: the rationale for cross-listing BLKST 244 as ENGL 244. There was a motion to approve the course changes on behalf of Senate. Cooke and Charbonneau. Carried with friendly amendment to remove the approval of the changes to ENGL 109, ENGL 119, ENGL 129R, and ENGL 210E on pp. 25, 26, and 27 of the agenda package from the motion. Cooke spoke to the inactivation of AFM 211, AFM 344, ENGL 310C, and CHINA 200R. There was a motion to approve the inactivation of the courses on behalf of Senate. Cooke and Barra. Carried. Cooke took members through the new academic plan proposals for Honours English – Creative and Professional Writing and Four-Year General English – Creative and Professional Writing. In response to a question, members heard that the Registrar’s Office will be introducing guiding principles and other large-scale changes with the new software which will reduce repetition within the calendar. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the new academic plans as presented. Cooke, Barra. Carried. Cooke spoke to minor plan modifications. There was a motion to approve the minor plan modifications on behalf of Senate as presented. Cooke, Ferries. Carried.

Health. Ferries took member through the course changes. There was a motion to approve the course changes on behalf of Senate. Ferries, Barra. Carried. Ferries spoke on the inactivation of the Accelerated Master's Program in the School of Public Health Sciences, and noted that it had also been brought forward to Senate Graduate & Research Council for approval. Discussion included the need of clear benefits for accelerated options. There was a motion to recommend that Senate approve the inactivation of the academic plan Ferries, Barra. Carried. [Note: The inactivation of the Accelerated Master's Program in the School of Public Health Sciences had already been approved by Senate Graduate & Research Council who had presented it as information to Senate on 18 April 2022 Senate. Therefore, the recommendation was not sent to Senate, and instead the removal of the program from...
the Undergraduate Studies Academic Calendar was sent to Senate as information.]

**Mathematics.** Charbonneau provided an overview of new course AMATH 362. There was a motion to approve the new course on behalf of Senate. Charbonneau, Barra. Carried. Charbonneau took members through the course changes and minor academic plan modifications for the Combinatorics & Optimization minor and the Mathematics/FARM plan requirements. There was a motion to approve the course changes and minor academic plan modifications on behalf of Senate. Charbonneau, Barra. Carried.

**Science.** Barra spoke to the need to correct the effective date for previous approved Pharmacy course changes and inactivation of courses. There was a motion to approve the correction of the effective date on behalf of Senate. Barra, Charbonneau. Carried.

**Renison University College.** Montero provided an overview of course changes, with the exception of changes to ENGL 129R as the changes had been removed from Faculty of Arts’ course changes motion. There was a motion to approve the course changes for SWREN 411R on behalf of Senate. Montero, Barra. Carried.

**Sustainability and Financial Management.** Cooke presented a minor plan change on behalf of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Environment. There was a motion to approve the minor plan change on behalf of Senate. Cooke, Barra. Carried.

4. **ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEWS**

**FAR – Human Sciences.** MacGregor provided an overview of some challenges and weakness found in the review, as well as the actions taken in response to the review’s recommendations, highlighting: the appointment of an interim program director; the commitment to review and reconsider all current course offerings; the commitment to change the name of the program; and the commitment of future broad consultation. MacGregor indicated that the future of the program will be considered as part of St. Jarome’s University process of developing a new academic plan, and all options are being considered including cancelling the program. Discussion included: the importance of considering all options.

**PR English Language Studies.** Montero spoke to the two-year progress report, highlighting: the loss of a faculty position and staffing issues; the credit status being removed from the EMLS graduate courses; and the newly established Undergraduate Communication Outcomes (UCO) Group. Discussion included: the needs EMLS students; and encouraging broader collegial support and discussions across campus.

**PR English Language Institute.** Tanya Missere-Mihas joined the meeting. Missere-Mihas spoke to the two-year progress report, highlighting: an overview of the BASE and EFAS; the pivot to online; concerns with the diversity of student; and concerns with recent low number of students. Discussion included: EFAS’s ability to recruit students; and courses that are offered to non-University of Waterloo participants. Missere-Mihas left the meeting.

**PR Italian Studies.** Bruno Trembly joined the meeting. Trembly spoke to the two-year progress report, highlighting: the hiring of a tenure-track faculty member; online course offerings; the new Diploma in Italian Language; and collaborative projects with Italian Studies at the School of Languages and Literatures, University of Guelph. Discussion included: the possibility of MOUs between UW departments and departments at other institutions, and the use of informal arrangement. Trembly left the meeting.

**PR General and Honours Science.** Barra spoke to the two-year progress report, highlighting: the increased outreach initiatives, initiatives introduced to develop a community of learners and to manage student experience. It was noted that a signed version of the progress report was available and would be submitted to Senate.

MacGregor withdrew from the meeting. There was a motion to approve the Final Assessment Report for Human Sciences on behalf of Senate. Cooke, Charbonneau. Carried. MacGregor rejoined the meeting and Montero
withdraw from the meeting. There was a motion to approve the two-year progress report for English Language Studies on behalf of Senate. Barra, Ferries. Carried. Montero returned to the meeting. There was a motion to approve the two-year progress report for English Language Institute on behalf of Senate. Charbonneau, Cooke. Carried. There was a motion to approve the two-year progress report for Italian Studies on behalf of Senate. Barra, Ferries. Carried. Barra withdrew from the meeting. There was a motion to approve the two-year progress report for General and Honours Science on behalf of Senate. Ferries, Charbonneau. Carried. Barra returned to the meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS.
In response to a question, members heard explanations for how each of the faculties address the situation of students illness from COVID-19 during final examination period, with it noted that the calendar states accommodations due to illness for final examinations are not automatic and it is up to instructors to determine. It was also noted that the calendar indicates that any unresolved disputes between will be decided by the appropriate associate dean and that students have the ability to submit a grievance under Policy 70. Concerns were raised and discussion occurred around the following topics: differences in approaches between faculties and between instructors; the impact of deferred examinations, particularly for international students; the risk of current practices incentivising students to come on campus while ill; timeframes for grievances; and students’ awareness of the thresholds to be eligible for deferred examinations. There was a motion for council to urge the President and/or Senate to, for the duration of the Winter 2022 term, immediately require instructors to accommodate any students who self-declare illness on Quest or are supposed to self-isolate according to Ontario guidelines, when those students have a reasonable chance of passing the course; and that such accommodations must account for the realities students face regarding visa, employment, and feasibility issues. Macri, motion not seconded. Failed.

The chair thanked members of council whose terms were ending as of 30 April 2022 for their service.

6. NEXT MEETING
The next meeting is Tuesday 10 May 2022 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. via Teams.