

*University of Waterloo
SENATE*

Minutes of the Monday, September 15, 2003 Meeting

Present: David Johnston (Chair), Lois Claxton (Secretary), Emma Bardon, Ranjana Bird, Kieran Bonner, Jane Buyers, Avi Caplan, Amit Chakma, Adrian Chin, Hsiao d'Ailly, Antero Da Silva, George Dixon, Yolanda Dorrington, Christian Dufournaud, Marlene Epp, Alan George, James Gollnick, Bruce Greenberg, Simon Guthrie, Mariela Gutiérrez, Mark Haslett, Jesse Helmer, Rick Helmes-Hayes, Conrad Hewitt, Michael Higgins, Keith Hipel, Dennis Huber, Ed Jernigan, Bob Kerton, George Labahn, Ken Lavigne, Siyan Li, Wing-Ki Liu, Neil Malcolm, David Matthews, Geoff McBoyle, Liam McHugh-Russell, Ray McLenaghan, Bruce Mitchell, Kirsten Morris, Heather Murray, Arokia Nathan, John North, Joseph Novak, Alan Plumtree, Steve Prentice, Manoj Sachdev, Paul Schellenberg, Catherine Schryer, Adel Sedra, Thomas Seebohm, Mike Sharratt, James Skidmore, Alex Sloat, Donna Strickland, Giuseppe Tenti, Tony Vannelli, Edward Vrscay, John Wainwright, Paul Wesson, Ross Willard, Ian Williams, Johnny Wong

Barbara Bulman-Fleming, Tom Carey, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Bruce Lumsden, Catharine Scott, Bud Walker

Absent: Graham Brown*, Stephen Brown*, Christopher Burris, Jeannette Byrne*, John Crossley*, Mieke Delfgaauw, Ray Digby*, Chris Edey*, Brian Forrest, Len Guelke*, Paul Guild*, Bob Harding*, Suzanne Hubbard*, Igor Ivkovic*, Mike Lazaridis*, Robert Le Roy*, Henry Paetkau*, Bill Power*, James Sloan, Ralph Smith*

*regrets

The President welcomed all to the first meeting of Senate for the fall term and especially to those colleagues attending for the first time or in a new role, including Bruce Mitchell, newly appointed Associate Provost, Academic & Student Affairs, Ranjana Bird, the new Dean of Graduate Studies, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, the new Associate Vice-President, Academic, and Adel Sedra, new Dean of Engineering.

1. PRESENTATION

TRACE. Co-presenters Barbara Bulman-Fleming, Director of TRACE, and Tom Carey, Associate Vice-President, Learning Resources and Innovation, gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting what the TRACE unit currently does and its future directions and initiatives. Senate's input was welcomed on two new projects -- the Teaching Excellence Council and the Research-Based Teaching Group. It was noted that TRACE is available to any faculty member who wishes/needs help (though the issue remains of how to ensure that all who need help get/are encouraged to get/are required to get) as well as for good teachers who seek advice about improving teaching. A suggestion that the new faculty orientation program involve a meeting with the Vice-President, Academic & Provost so that new academics get a clearer idea about the various sources of funding and the financial pressures facing the institution, the administrative structure of the University, etc.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 16, 2003 minutes were approved as distributed.

Plumtree and Seebohm. Carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Tenure and Promotion of Faculty Members. Senate received this report for information. The Chair encouraged Senators to send a “cheery word” of congratulations to anyone they might know on the list.

“UW News”: *UW Awards Five Honorary Degrees at Fall Convocation* [copies of the news release were available at the meeting]: Pamela Wallin (LLD), prominent Canadian broadcaster and journalist, former UW Governor and currently Canada’s Consul General in New York; John Hobday (DLitt), director of the Canada Council for the Arts; Maria Klawe (DMath), a researcher, university administrator and advocate for women in the mathematical and computational sciences and currently dean of engineering and applied science at Princeton; William Milne (DEng), head of the electrical engineering department at Cambridge and leader of the Nanoscale Science and Semiconductor Research Group; Abraham Halevy (DSc), the Wolfson Family Professor of Ornamental Horticulture (Emeritus) in the faculty of agriculture at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Recognition and Commendation. The President added that the Midnight Sun team is the *only* Canadian team to race in all major North American solar car races since 1990 and is amongst only three North American teams to successfully compete in these races as well. Midnight Sun was the top Canadian team when it placed seventh in Sunrayce ‘97, and when it placed third in the 2001 and 2003 American Solar challenges. The team is currently preparing for the world solar race upcoming in Australia.

Environmental Scan:

- **Quality Assurance Fund:** Although the quality assurance fund (which this coming year stands at \$75 million increasing to \$200 million in year three) will begin to reduce student-to-faculty ratios, the Chair expressed his worry about protecting “investment” in higher education and research funding as “spending” in other public sectors like health care and elementary/secondary education may “crowd them out.” The general health of the economy is also worrisome, affecting the tax payer’s ability to pay for higher education and research, and it is widely thought that the provincial government is running a deficit; all government ministries have recently been told to reduce spending by 2 percent. Protecting the second limb of the double cohort next year and the Quality Assurance Fund money is critical.
- **Federal Government.** In these difficult and interesting times, there is hesitation to launch new initiatives.
- **Higher Education / Participation Rates.** The Canadian university participation rate for 18-24 year olds is dropping while college participation rates are rising. Unlike university education, however, the college experience does not have a research component and is a cheaper form of higher education with a shorter academic experience. Over the last decade it appears no provincial premier championed higher education, and Ontario’s current public leaders likewise display no passion. In a recent poll, ~25 percent of Ontarians value higher education compared to ~35 percent of Americans, differences also reflected in: (1) the investment (including private) in higher education in the States is almost double what it is in Ontario, and (2) investment in Ontario public institutions is only three-quarters of what is spent in the States. In Ontario, public investment in universities is the lowest on a per capita basis among the ten Canadian provinces and the ten Canadian provinces stand in the bottom 20 of 60 North American jurisdictions. This situation is not yet in the public consciousness, however the Council of Ontario Universities is attempting to address this, preparing questions concerning the university sector that the electorate can ask their local politicians during the current provincial election campaign.

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

The Michener Institute Update. [General information on TMI sent by .pdf to Senators September 11, 2003; copies were available at Senate.] Serious discussions continue, working groups continue to meet, and while good progress has been made, much work still needs to be done. A decision whether the Michener/UW integration is a “go or no go” is anticipated by the end of the calendar year. Two governance principles have been established: (1) to ensure academic integrity UW’s Senate must have ultimate control over academic activities and (2) UW’s Board of Governors will have ultimate authority over the combined operations. TMI’s former President has recently retired, an interim President has been appointed, and the new President takes office October 14. If integration moves ahead, the draft agreement will be brought to Senate and the Board of Governors for further discussion.

In discussion and in response to questions: the expectation that there will be Michener representation on UW’s Senate; TMI will not have Faculty status but will likely be an interdisciplinary institute closely aligned with the Faculties of Applied Health Sciences and Science; TMI will continue to maintain its certificate and diploma programs (under the purview of UW’s Senate) but in proposing new degree programs, TMI will work through one of UW’s Faculties; UW will honour current obligations with other TMI partner universities but as these programs come to a end they will be absorbed into programs at UW (where on-campus expertise exists) or may be continued if there is no expertise on campus; discussions regarding the status of TMI’s 60 instructors and support staff are likely to continue over the two- or three-year transition period, with individual assessments done to determine how each may best fit into UW’s structure.

2003 Enrolment Status. As of today, the University has fully met its target for full-time year one students: 5,350 students enrolled in first year (this number will continue to change); more importantly, UW has exceeded its target for admitting Ontario Secondary School students. The Faculty of Science exceeded its target by 255 registered students and is coping by offering evening and Saturday labs. Enrollment in the Faculties of Arts, Engineering and Mathematics are somewhat low, but overall the University is in “good shape.”

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that she anticipates a Fall 2003 graduate student enrolment of ~2,800 which compares to 2,491 registered students in Fall 2002. Numbers on registered international graduate students were not available.

Reappointments.

- Fred Desroches, St. Jerome’s University, has been reappointed as the Director of the Legal Studies and Criminology program, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006.
- Graham Brown, Principal of St. Paul’s College, has been reappointed as Interim Director of the Canadian Studies program, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

6. REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

a. **Graduate and Research Council.** Senate received this report for information.

b. **Undergraduate Council.** An omnibus motion:

To approve the new plans, plan changes, plan inactivations, and rules and regulations forwarded to Senate, as presented in the agenda package.

McBoyle and Lavigne.

Each item was voted on *in seriatim* as described in the Undergraduate Council report.

The motion carried.

Senate received the remainder of the report for information.

- c. **Scholarships & Student Aid Committee.** Senate received this report for information with a friendly amendment noting that the total local aid needed (\$9,320,000) is the total for *undergraduate students*.

In discussing a concern expressed by a student Senator about students' apparent general unawareness of UW's bursary programs, the Registrar noted that every applicant received information regarding the UW Entrance Bursary program including access to the application form and information about application deadlines. It was, however, noted that notwithstanding the large number of undergraduate applications and the extension of the application deadline, there was not a commensurate increase in bursary applications. The Registrar reported that his Office continues to work on improving communication re: financial aid to applicants and current undergraduate students and has increased the staff in this area. A suggestion that Senator McHugh-Russell and a small group of students act as liaison with the Registrars Office and the Associate Provost, Academic & Student Affairs to "spread" understanding concerning bursaries.

With respect to Waterloo County Scholarships funded in part by a \$100,000 *surplus* in parking fines: the result of a decision to carry forward these funds as a reserve to assist when/if endowment income didn't meet the investment return target.

7. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES, RENISON COLLEGE and ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate received these reports for information.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment. Senate heard a motion to approve the following appointment:

- **Graduate & Research Council.** Graduate student representative, Benjamin Korvemaker, Faculty of Mathematics, School of Computer Science, term to April 30, 2005.

Guthrie and McHugh-Russell. Carried.

9. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Senate convened in confidential session. Dean Kerton excused himself from the meeting.