

*University of Waterloo  
SENATE  
Minutes of the Monday, October 18, 2004 Meeting*

**Present:** David Johnston (Chair), Lois Claxton (Secretary), Tanveer Ali, Jean Andrey, Emma Bardon, Ranjana Bird, Kieran Bonner, Graham Brown, Steve Brown, Nadir Budhwani, Amit Chakma, Antero Da Silva, Hsiao D'Ailly, George Dixon, Marlene Epp, Roydon Fraser, Alan George, Jill Tomasson Goodwin, Paul Guild, Simon Guthrie, Mark Haslett, Michael Higgins, Keith Hipel, Dennis Huber, Janice Husted, Ed Jernigan, Katherine Johnston, Bob Kerton, George Labahn, Ken Lavigne, Robert Le Roy, Ellsworth LeDrew, Paul Lehmann, Wing-Ki Liu, Harriet Lyons, Robert Mann, Bruce Mitchell, Heather Murray, Albert O'Connor, Bill Power, Steve Prentice, Paul Schellenberg, Gerry Schneider, Adel Sedra, Thomas Seeborn, Mike Sharratt, James Skidmore, Craig Sloss, Ralph Smith, Donna Strickland, Giuseppe Tenti, Tony Vannelli, Ed Vrscay, Paul Wesson, Ian Williams, Frank Zorzitto

Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Keith Kenning, Hulene Montgomery, Catharine Scott, Laura Talbot-Allan, Bob Truman, Bud Walker

**Absent:** Rebecca Baxter\*, Christopher Burris, John Crossley, Ray Digby\*, Christian Dufournaud\*, James Gollnick\*, Mariela Gutiérrez\*, Bob Harding\*, Conrad Hewitt\*, Amy Jack\*, Mike Lazaridis\*, David Matthews, Liam McHugh-Russell, Ray McLenaghan\*, Arokia Nathan, Joseph Novak\*, Henry Paetkau, Manoj Sachdev, Ross Willard, Becky Wroe

\*regrets

**OPEN SESSION**

**Consent Agenda**

Senate heard an omnibus motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 1-4 [below].

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 20, 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.

**2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

**Recognition & Commendation.** Senate received this report for information.

**3. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES AND ST. PAUL'S UNITED COLLEGE**

Senate received these reports for information.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Appointment to the University Committee on Student Appeals.** Senate approved the appointment of Lloyd Pinsent (Political Science) as a graduate student representative, term to August 31, 2005.

**Approval of Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates** [lists of graduands available at Senate]. Senate

approved the following motion:

That Senate approve the lists of candidates for degrees/diplomas/certificates as recommended by the Faculty Councils, the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Academic Board for Independent Studies, and that Senate authorize the Chair, the Registrar and the Dean of Graduate Studies to add to or change the lists of candidates for degrees/diplomas/certificates as approved at the meeting on October 18, 2004.

Chakma & Lavigne. Carried.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **5. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON THE RAE REVIEW**

The President and the Vice-President, University Relations commented [PowerPoint slides available at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/raereview.pdf> and <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/couresponse.pdf>] on this item. Senators were encouraged to contribute their ideas by attending the November 25 Town Hall meeting (to be held at Conestoga College), providing feedback on the discussion paper (distributed with the agenda) or completing the online workbook [<http://www.raereview.on.ca>].

The President provided a brief overview of the 10 recommendations contained in COU's draft response [<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/coubrief.pdf>] to the questions in the discussion paper, and read the full text of Recommendations 1 through 3.

In the discussion which followed, Senate heard, by topic:

*Rae Themes:* accessibility, quality (bench marking, measuring, assessing), articulation between colleges and universities, and accountability (likelihood of introduction of a buffer body).

*Buffer Body:* COU's recommendation is that it be small and comprised of highly qualified individuals; advice from those with experience on OCUA is that to be effective, the body should be non-partisan and provided with full parameters; including financial, to inform decisions/recommendations.

*Tuition Fees:* notwithstanding that the COU brief will recommend tuition increases in arts, sciences and medicine be limited to inflation and flexibility for universities to set other fees (students' financial needs will have to be addressed and the increases reasonable/responsible), UW's submission (like its July 15 letter to Rae) will propose the need for increases and flexibility as articulated in the Board-approved fee guidelines: regulated, up to 10 percent annually; deregulated, up to 15 percent annually. Issues created by rising fees and current OSAP caps/inflexibility as well as need for effective delivery of financial assistance are reasons why the Task Force on Undergraduate Student Financial Support was established and are addressed in its recommendations. On "go-now pay-later" or "pay-now pay-less," though UW does not have a detailed position, references are contained in the report of the Task Force.

*Roundtables/Town Hall Meetings:* because roundtables are tightly structured, with tables addressing assigned questions and the speaker for each table exercising considerable influence in representing

the views of the table, university representatives (UW has put together a representative group based on directions from the panel) should be well prepared; because town hall meetings have been very well attended by college representatives who are well informed and giving direction to the agenda, the President encouraged Senators to attend the November 25 Town Hall meeting (UW's brief will be available before that time).

*Integration and Specialization:* the President expressed the view that he agrees with more institutional specialization so long as there is integration among universities to ensure complete coverage of all subjects across the system; a suggestion from the President that Senate spend some time at a future date addressing the Harvard liberal arts philosophy, ensuring a broad, deep education before specialization occurs.

*Graduate Programs:* UW is prepared to support doubling graduate student enrolment over 10 years provided full funding and full support is available (and would also support acceleration given the same provisos) and will advocate for role differentiation/selectivity *re* graduate growth.

[*Note:* UW's brief will be brought back to Senate in November for information.]

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

*Non-OSS Students* [handout at Senators' places]. In response to questions at the September meeting of Senate, the Registrar provided/commented on three charts: (1) distribution, by sex, of year one confirmed applicants; (2) count of birth year of first-year students; (3) breakdown of international students by Faculty/campus.

*Effect of Increased Scholarship Funding on Confirmations.* To be brought back to Senate for information when the results of a study on this topic are available.

## 7. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

### *Environmental Scan*

- *Town Hall Meeting.* The President and Vice-President, Academic & Provost will speak at the October 20 Town Hall meeting (Humanities Theatre from 4:00-5:00 p.m.), addressing major current issues and answering questions. The Chair encouraged Senators to attend this meeting, noting that "there's no dire news" and that he would like the opportunity to meet with the campus community annually.
- *Speech from the Throne.* The President expressed his disappointment with the throne speech, a consequence of the government's election platform with healthcare being the predominant theme.
- *Research Funding.* The Chair briefly commented on the provincial government's promise to boost research funds by \$300 million – money to match future grants from CFI. Universities have been hoping for something of the kind since the province cut OIT amid concerns over its accountability.
- *Globe and Mail Ratings.* Waterloo received some high scores, including an A for "overall

educational experience,” from the self-selected sample of undergraduates who answered this year’s *Globe and Mail* University Report Card survey [overheads available at: <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/survey.pdf>]. Results of the survey were based on ratings offered by 27,811 students across Canada who volunteered to answer questions about their own universities.

Senate heard that UW conducts a variety of assessments including: class evaluations at the end of term; a review of those who declined UW’s offer of admission (principal reason is lack of scholarships); this past June, of the graduating class.

#### 8. **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST**

**School of Architecture Vote.** Faculty and staff in the School of Architecture have expressed their support for a move of the School from the Faculty of Environmental Studies to the Faculty of Engineering. When formal responses from the two Faculties have been received, the matter will be brought to Senate for endorsement. Final decision will be made by the Board of Governors, probably in February.

**University Professor Nominations.** Nomination material should be forward to the Provost before Christmas.

**Update on Operating Budget 2004-05.** Notwithstanding the enrolment shortfall, the Provost advised Senate that he expects that UW will end the current fiscal year “meeting the bottom line” as presented in the budget approved by the Board.

**Report of the Provost’s Task Force on Undergraduate Student Financial Support.** Dean Sedra paid tribute to the contributions of the Task Force members and resource people, particularly Martha Foulds who wrote the report. He commented on the background that led to the formation of the Task Force and outlined the 20 recommendations contained in the report [PowerPoint presentation available at: <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/financialsupport.pdf>]. It was noted that the report would be forwarded to the Scholarships & Student Aid Committee for comment and advice to Senate at its November meeting, and to the Board of Governors in February for approval.

In discussion, Senate heard: notwithstanding the redistribution of funds recommended in the report and that there will be no new funds to offset the proposed redistribution, it is not UW’s intent to reduce overall support available to graduate students which support UW has, in fact, increased by ~\$3 million; the report recommends [A2] that UW continue the current practice of meeting the “University-defined unmet need of qualified undergraduate students, which at a minimum must include actual tuition fees not recognized in the OSAP calculation of provincial unmet need” and UW be more proactive [A3] and “automatically [a number of mechanisms were suggested] offer all qualified undergraduate students the financial support it is prepared to provide”; although the report is silent on matching faculty/staff donations to the Senate Scholarship Fund and on Waterloo County Entrance Scholarships, the Task Force fully supports these initiatives but didn’t consider enhancing them; given the current set-aside and surplus, there appears no immediate danger of depleting the funds, however, Recommendation B1 sets the order of priority on support commitments with the “provision of bursaries to fulfil the guarantee outlined in recommendation A1” as the first priority;

UW currently does not have a scholarship grid and one Senator remarked that while it is sensible to have a scholarship/merit package, the Mathematics Faculty has found it difficult to blend them; clarification concerning out-of-province students and the nature of their support; that these accounts and programs will be monitored annually with a full review within several years.

Senate heard a motion to agree to continue meeting past the established 6:45 p.m. termination time [of the open session] of Senate meetings.

Guthrie and Seebohm. Carried.

The Chair left the meeting to attend a previously scheduled engagement and the Vice-President, Academic & Provost assumed the chair.

#### **9. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

**Update on Campaign Waterloo.** The Vice-President briefly informed Senate that UW has now raised 83 percent of its \$260 million goal and almost \$23 million for scholarships and awards.

#### **10. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

**Update on Research Intensity.** The Vice-President reported on the October 6 announcement by Premier McGuinty of \$300 million (over four years) to be used to match successful CFI awards. The announcement made reference to the Ontario Research Fund (a new program) which will provide support for research infrastructure (operating and indirect costs) and will focus on areas of "high economic priority": advanced materials and manufacturing, life sciences, information and communications technology, energy, environment, emerging technologies (e.g., nanotechnology). It was noted that the province may pre-approve submissions to CFI to ensure Ontario priorities in the CFI award process.

The Provost thanked the Vice-President for leading this initiative on UW's behalf as well as for the whole system as Chair of OCUR.

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Academic Program Reviews.** In speaking briefly to these reviews, the Dean of Arts noted that all reviews indicate that the programs are creative but lacking in funds and space. Further, that the high quality of research was remarkable given the teaching load (a challenge, therefore to make the case for more money?) and that at least one department, when faced with a similar situation, took the decision to "do less."

**COU Report.** Three-page handout at Senators' places.

Senate convened in confidential session.