

*University of Waterloo
SENATE*

Minutes of the Monday, February 27, 2006 Meeting

Present: David Johnston (Chair), Lois Claxton (Secretary), John Andersen, Jean Andrey, Ranjana Bird, Graham Brown, Steve Brown, Amit Chakma, John Crossley, Antero Da Silva, Caustan De Riggs, George Dixon, Adam Felix, Jonathan Fishbein, James Gollnick, Mariela Gutiérrez, Mark Haslett, Keith Hipel, Dennis Huber, Tim Kenyon, Bob Kerton, Scott Kline, Ken Lavigne, Robert Le Roy, Paul Lehmann, Wing-Ki Liu, Harriet Lyons, Robert Mann, Roger Mannell, Atefeh Mashatan, Bruce Mitchell, Henry Paetkau, Jim Pankratz, Bill Power, Manoj Sachdev, Deep Saini, Paul Schellenberg, Gerry Schneider, James Skidmore, Craig Sloss, Douglas Stebila, Donna Strickland, Jay Thomson, Frank Zorzitto

Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Catharine Scott, Laura Talbot-Allan, Bob Truman, Bud Walker

Absent: Tanveer Ali, Matthew Austin, Rebecca Baxter*, Claire Bazley, Stephen Birkett, Kieran Bonner, Brian Capstick, Tom Coleman*, Sherry Dupuis, Pierre Filion, Peter Forsyth, Roydon Fraser, Alan George*, Simon Guthrie, Mary Hardy, Jeff Henry, Michael Higgins*, Janice Husted*, Ed Jernigan*, Paul Koenderman*, George Labahn, Mike Lazaridis*, Michael Makahnouk*, Christine McWebb, Tracy Peressini*, Catherine Rosenberg, Adel Sedra*, Ralph Smith*, Michael Stone, Myroslaw Tataryn*, Scott Taylor, Geoff Wall, Ross Willard, Johnny Wong

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

Consent Agenda

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

Chakma and Le Roy.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 16, 2006 minutes were approved as distributed.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received this report for information.

3. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate agreed to recommend to the Board of Governors for approval that the name of the Department of Physics be changed to the Department of Physics & Astronomy.

The remaining items in these reports were received for information.

[***Secretary's Note:*** The above department name change will be effective May 1, 2006.]

4. OTHER BUSINESS

COU Report. Senate received this report for information.

Undergraduate Council Appointment. Senate approved the appointment of Adam Felix (Combinatorics & Optimization), replacing Mariano DeMarinis, as the Mathematics undergraduate student representative, term to April 30, 2006.

The motion carried.

Regular Agenda

5. PRESENTATIONS

Enrolment Plans [powerpoint slides: <http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/enrolment.feb27.pdf>]. The Registrar reported on the status of first-year enrolment: the target of ~5400 remains relatively unchanged from last year; first choice OSS applications are up by 11.6 percent over last year, with all applications up by 7 percent; similarly, first choice non-OSS applications are up by 14.3 percent and overall by 10.7 percent; early offers of admission are running at ~5000 compared to ~3500 last year, with Mathematics making many more early offers; and entrance scholarship offers have risen sharply, standing at ~3300 compared to ~900 in 2005. In all, auguring well for September 2006.

Renison College [<http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/renison.feb27.pdf>]. Speaking to the four missions (residential community, academic programs for helping and service professions, international understanding and tolerance, and service to the Anglican community) of Renison College, the Principal elaborated on how Renison's programs flow from each mission. He noted, in particular: the breath of Renison's Social Development Studies curriculum; the status and plans for the Social Work program; the focus on East Asian Studies, English as a Second Language and study abroad opportunities in the fulfilment of the "international understanding and tolerance" mission; and on the kinds of services to the Anglican community Renison provides, including a new Renison University Act, anticipated in 2006, which will give degree-granting powers to Renison in areas of theology/ministry – part of its goal of new programming.

Senators heard: a suggestion that Renison may wish to investigate cooperating with WLU re: WLU's initiative for a Faculty of Education and a combined BA/BEEd degree; that teaching languages (e.g., Hindi) beyond the three already taught was not being considered; and that admitting college graduates to the BSW program was not under consideration.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Sixth Decade Plan. The Provost reminded Senate that while the Long Range Planning Committee was doing a detailed review of the plan and plan text, it was Senate's role to look at and discuss the broad recommendations. To that end, the Provost proposed placing the main recommendations before Senate, one by one, allowing Senate to discuss as time allowed.

"Size" and "High Quality Students" were addressed as follows. Discussions on recommendations will continue at the March meeting of Senate and it was suggested discussion re: "benchmarking" would be facilitated if UW's current status were set out.

Size – Having heard that undergraduate enrolment is not expected to change substantially, but graduate enrolment is expected to grow to ~8000 students within ~10 years, with 3000 of those students enrolled in course-work Master's [CWM] programs and with a targeted faculty:student ratio of 1:5 (currently 1:2.5), discussion focused largely on the rationale for the proposed growth in CWM programs.

The CWM is a response to the growing demand for “professional” Master’s degrees (the pattern is clearly established in the US and Canada will follow) which either private schools or industries will deliver if universities do not. These degrees (UW is already offering a number of professional CWM, including Accounting, Architecture, MBET, Planning, Public History and Public Health – starting September 2006) can be tailored to respond to professional requirements, are cost-effective (professionals or their employers pay), can be offered in a variety of modes (including through DE/online, in modules), and in different venues (e.g., MTax is offered in Toronto) as market demands may require. Further, that CWM programs will be developed in areas of UW’s current strengths/offers, and as they may be expanded.

With respect to funding/space needs (CWM students are unlikely to have offices), it was noted that over the next three to four years, government funding will be available for growing Canadian graduate enrolment, with UW’s CWM programs expected to be populated by Canadian students (target is to grow UW’s Canadian “research” graduate population to 30 percent of total) as UW makes best efforts to capture its “notional” share of the pot (within the last several years, UW has not met its “quota” of Master’s student enrolment, as projected to OCGS).

Finally, on the possibility of a CWM diminishing the value of a research-based Master’s, that, increasingly, the research-based Master’s will lead to a PhD, with the CWM serving those interested in professional development; and the possibility of differentiating the degree, as Engineering does, with an MEng awarded for the course-work degree and MAsC for the research degree.

As discussion concluded, one Senator remarked that the growth of graduate enrolment was a good goal and good priority; and, notwithstanding the complexities, that details would work themselves out – a comment which was not refuted.

High Quality Students – Discussion focused mainly on the proposed 75 percent admission cut-off, with the Provost positing that such cut-off should be implemented, particularly in light of UW’s “competition” and results showing that 50 percent of those admitted with averages below 75 percent (80 percent in Engineering) do not graduate (McGill and Queen’s graduation rates top the chart). Concerns were expressed that such requirement might negatively affect some units and, consequently, income, to which the Provost responded that he was confident all units could achieve the cut-off though it would require working harder and smarter.

7. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Environmental Scan [<http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/environmentalscan.feb27.pdf>]. At the federal level, the Chair reported on his attendance at “Competing for Tomorrow: A Post-Secondary Education and Skills Summit” (Council of the Federation and co-hosted by Premiers McGuinty and Charest), the themes discussed, and the main thrust which is “correcting” the current fiscal imbalance; a report, with recommendations, to the federal government will be forthcoming. As well, he noted those occupying cabinet positions, key to universities, and commented on the Conservative platform on post-secondary education, expressing concern that the momentum for research support under the Liberal government not be lost. He noted that Roger Martin’s (Chair of the Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity and Dean of Rotman School of Management) report, “Rebalancing priorities for Canada’s prosperity,” would be released in Ottawa on March 10 and the federal non-partisan acceptance of Martin’s work.

At the provincial level, the Chair commented on the mandate of the Ministry of Research and Innovation, established in June 2005, and on Ontario’s Research and Innovation Council.

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

Satellite Medical School. The Provost reported, with pleasure, McMaster's decision to locate a satellite medical school in UW's Kitchener Health Sciences Campus, paying tribute to the superb local support this initiative received from Mayor Zehr, Kitchener City Council and local MPPs. Noting that UW will now focus on matters re: funding, he commented on the possible research/learning synergies between UW and McMaster and on the positive resonance this initiative has had in the local community.

9. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Graduate & Research Council. Senate received this report for information.

University Committee on Student Appeals. The Committee Chair spoke briefly to the report, drawing Senators' attention particularly to the increase in incidents of cheating reported, as well as how Associate Deans and relevant committees are grappling with issues of non-academic misconduct.

One Senator raised concerns about the recommendation to limit use of cheating- and plagiarism-catching software, noting that some consider such instruments to be a deterrent and the invalidity of the "guilty till proved innocent" concept; further, that such instruments only provide data and it is up to the instructor to decide whether to proceed. Senators also heard: that, with respect to both process and penalty, faculty members have input through their respective Associate Deans; and concerns, particularly given UW's Co-op program, of any limitations on departments hiring students, as necessary security provisions can be put in place.

Senate received this report for information.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.