

University of Waterloo

SENATE

Minutes of the Monday, January 16, 2006 Meeting

Present: David Johnston (Chair), Lois Claxton (Secretary), Tanveer Ali, John Andersen, Claire Bazley, Ranjana Bird, Stephen Birkett, Kieran Bonner, Brian Capstick, Amit Chakma, Tom Coleman, John Crossley, Caustan De Riggs, Sherry Dupuis, Adam Felix, Jonathan Fishbein, Peter Forsyth, Alan George, Simon Guthrie, Mary Hardy, Mark Haslett, Jeff Henry, Michael Higgins, Keith Hipel, Dennis Huber, Janice Husted, Ed Jernigan, Bob Kerton, Scott Kline, George Labahn, Ken Lavigne, Robert Le Roy, Paul Lehmann, Wing-Ki Liu, Harriet Lyons, Michael Makahnouk, Roger Mannell, Atefeh Mashatan, Christine McWebb, Bruce Mitchell, Henry Paetkau, Bill Power, Manoj Sachdev, Deep Saini, Gerry Schneider, Adel Sedra, James Skidmore, Craig Sloss, Ralph Smith, Donna Strickland, Myroslaw Tataryn, Scott Taylor, Jay Thomson, Geoff Wall, Johnny Wong, Frank Zorzitto

Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Lynn Judge, Sally Jurica, Catharine Scott, Laura Talbot-Allan, Bob Truman, Bud Walker

Absent: Jean Andrey*, Matthew Austin, Rebecca Baxter, Graham Brown, Steve Brown, Antero Da Silva, George Dixon*, Pierre Fillion, Roydon Fraser, James Gollnick, Mariela Gutierrez*, Tim Kenyon*, Paul Koenderman*, Mike Lazaridis*, Robert Mann, Jim Pankratz, Tracy Peressini, Catherine Rosenberg, Paul Schellenberg, Douglas Stebila*, Michael Stone, Ross Willard

*regrets

The Chair opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to the following individuals who were attending their first meeting of Senate in their new roles: Alan George, Vice-President, University Research, and Deep Saini, Dean of Environmental Studies. Also, to the following new faculty Senators: Jim Pankratz (Conrad Grebel University College) and Jay Thomson (Applied Health Sciences).

OPEN SESSION

Consent Agenda

Senate heard an omnibus motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 1-5 [below].

Lavigne and Zorzitto.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 21, 2005 minutes were approved as distributed.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received this report for information.

3. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES AND RENISON COLLEGE

Senate received these reports for information.

4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senate received this report for information.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee and Council Appointments. Senate approved the following appointments: Finance and Honorary Degrees Committees – Jay Thomson (Kinesiology), replacing Steve Prentice, as the Applied Health Sciences faculty representative, term to April 30, 2006; Undergraduate Council – Scott Barnett (Political Science), replacing Anitta Satkunarajah, as the Arts undergraduate student representative, term to April 30, 2006.

The motion carried.

Regular Agenda

6. PRESENTATIONS

Academic Program Reviews. The Associate Vice-President, Academic reported that the review teams carried out a thorough and rigorous examination of two programs (Recreation & Leisure Studies and Management Sciences). Both teams commented on UW's leadership in establishing distinctive and innovative academic programs, and the contributions the departments are making to interdisciplinary teaching and "cutting edge" research. However, the reviews identified institutional issues (some recurrent) requiring attention and action including maintenance and enhancement of quality, more effective publicizing of existing academic programs, maintenance and expansion of DE offerings, improving quantity and quality of co-op work placements, and more effective use of alumni to support academic programs. The Deans of Applied Health Sciences and Engineering briefly commented on the "high quality" of their respective programs.

In response to questions, Senate heard with respect to Management Sciences: the "uniqueness" of positioning it in Engineering and plans to "grow" and "market" it; the strategic plan to increase TA support which should assist new assistant professors to reduce the "time to publication" gap; the possibility of starting a Management of Engineering program (modern version of Industrial Engineering); and the department will be included in Professor Peter Wood's (Mathematics) review of all "business" courses across campus.

Graduate Studies [<http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/Presentations/ReportsandPresentations.asp>]. The Dean of Graduate Studies provided an overview of key components of a research intensive university, an update on Graduate Studies including programs, admissions, enrolment, completion times and funding, and concluded by commenting on the goals and future directions and challenges of Graduate Studies at Waterloo including that graduate expansion must be a shared vision, UW's research reputation is critical, and graduate programs should be bold and innovative.

In response to questions, Senate heard: the number of OGS award holders (trending down, possibly because recipients received and opted for concurrent awards) is likely to start trending up, the result of UW's new incentive funding; UW's annual support for graduate students averages \$20,000, the result of UW's infusion of operating dollars; UW's success in becoming "the leader" (a "lofty" stretch) can be fostered by recognition of graduate supervisors and development of appropriate indicators; and concerns *re* tuition fee policy conflicting with recruitment of excellent Visa students will be taken under advisement by Deans' Council.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Maclean's Rankings [<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/macleans.jan16.pdf>]. The Provost briefly focussed on two areas requiring attention (Waterloo has slipped in the *Maclean's* rankings):

the quality of its students, as measured by entrance grades, and research intensity (some progress but not significant relative to other universities). He concluded on the positive note that, in terms of its operating budget, UW is closing the gap (ranked 34th in 2002 and 20th in 2005). Waterloo's ability to invest in graduate students and scholarships depends on this trend continuing.

Senate heard that various reasons may account for good students "drifting away" from UW including: the effect of SERP on research; UW's decision not to spend operating funds on scholarships; and some reluctance to make early admission offers. However, where UW has been creative with its curriculum (e.g., mechatronics) it has attracted excellent students.

Sixth Decade Plan. With respect to process, the Provost advised that, because Senate is too large a body for line-by-line reading of the document, discussion at Senate will be at a high level and urged Senators to send specific comments on the University document to the Senate Long Range Planning Committee. Further, Faculty documents will be presented to Senate for information, following review by SLRP. He then briefly outlined the guiding principles and objectives [see powerpoint slides: <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/sixthdecade.jan16.pdf>] of the plan as follows:

- *Size . . .* : modest growth in undergraduate enrollment; more than doubling of graduate enrollment.
- *Attract high quality students . . .* : be in the top three in Canada in attracting first-year students with 90% plus grades (14th in 2005 but 3rd in 2002); provide research opportunities to undergraduate students by expanding the Undergraduate Research Initiative and Co-op Research Internships (50 in 2003 and 225 in 2005).
- *Integration of teaching and research . . .* : all undergraduate students will participate in a "research" or equivalent "inquiry-based learning" project; all undergraduate programs will offer options for an accelerated Master's program.
- *Research . . .* : at least six research centres/institutes supported by institutional funding of \$1 million per centre/institute, recognized by peer evaluation to be among the several best in the world; a UW Research Fund worth 1% of UW's research revenue to support new large research initiatives with external support; an internal research fund to support research and scholarly work in the humanities and social sciences.
- *Internationalization . . .* : all undergraduate students will have oral and written command of a second language; the international undergraduate student population will be increased to 20% of the total (currently ~6.7%).
- *Resource Reallocation . . .* : 2% of the budget will be reallocated on an ongoing basis; a pool of FTE faculty positions will be allocated selectively to programs/areas achieving their academic excellence goals.

He concluded by repeating his encouragement to Senators to forward feedback on these "fundamental choice issues" and others, as appropriate, directly to SLRP [Emily Barnes, Secretary: ebarnes@uwaterloo.ca] for consideration.

8. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Federal Election 2006 [<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/election.jan16.pdf>]. The Chair provided an overview of AUCC/UW activities including sharing key messages about higher learning and research with candidates from all parties, writing to candidates in four area ridings and meeting

with as many of the candidates as possible to update them about the priorities of UW. He concluded by informing Senators they would be receiving, by email, the background material AUCC/UW have been providing to candidates, the party leaders' response to AUCC's survey on higher education priorities and, should Senators wish to speak with or email candidates in their riding about these issues before election day, contact information, as appropriate.

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

The Vice-President did not report.

10 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**

Graduate & Research Council. Senate heard a motion to approve the removal of the Centre for Applied Health Research from the Senate-approved list.

George and Mannell. Carried.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

Scholarships & Student Aid Committee. Having heard: UW is working aggressively to spend all the funds from the current "set-aside" and anticipates starting to use some of the previous surplus moving to a steady state in expending that surplus; from the Provost, that UW needs to "get the message out" *re* its enhanced scholarship program amounting to \$5,000 for those with 90%+; and with a clarification between UW's "guarantee" and "aspiration" with respect to student financial support [*Final Report of the Provost's Task Force on Undergraduate Student Financial Support at UW*, September 2004], Senate received this report for information.

[*Note:* The Registrar offered to take under advisement and consult as appropriate how the Affiliated University & Federated Colleges' offerings may be included in this report.]

Undergraduate Council. Senate heard a motion to approve the new plans (Bachelor of Science – Honours Bioinformatics, Regular; Bachelor of Science – Honours Biology & Bioinformatics, Regular; Bachelor of Computer Science – Honours Bioinformatics Option, Regular), modifications to existing plans (Bachelor of Science – Honours Bioinformatics, Co-op; Bachelor of Science – Honours Biology & Bioinformatics, Co-op; Bachelor of Computer Science – Honours Bioinformatics Option, Co-op), plan name changes (Earth Sciences – Environmental Hydrogeology Specialization and Geography Specialization), inactivated plan (Honours Science – Earth Sciences Specialization), change in degree requirements and regulations (Honours Bachelor of Mathematics, Regular and Co-op), modifications to the examination regulations and related matters (effective September 2006), and modifications to academic regulations and requirements (effective September 2006) as listed in the report.

Lavigne and Power.

In discussion, Senate heard: with respect to concerns expressed about expectations created and time consumed *re* informal reviews of final examinations, that such exams need only be retained for one year from the date they were written and wordsmithing (Senate agreed to delegate the responsibility to the Registrar) would improve the clarity of the first sentence beginning "The instructor may informally . . ." [p. A46]; and, with respect to submission of assignments, the wisdom is to have all assignments completed by the end of classes.

The motion carried.

The remaining item in the report was received for information.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Electronic Grade Submission. The Registrar reported that 80% of grades, across all Faculties, for the fall term's courses were submitted electronically.

Presidents' Colloquium on Teaching and Learning. The Chair reminded Senators that George Kuh, Chancellor's Professor and Director of the Centre for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University, would be on campus on January 17 to deliver this colloquium from 4:00-5:15 p.m. in the Humanities Theatre.

Senate convened in confidential session.

LC:tad
January 18, 2006

Lois Claxton
Secretary of the University