

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes [Revised] of the Monday, November 17, 2008 Meeting

Present: David Johnston (chair), Lois Claxton (secretary), Samuel Andrey, Allan Babor, David Barton, Dan Brown, Steve Brown, Kevin Cai, Amit Chakma, Ken Coates, Tom Coleman, Tara Collington, Tristanne Connolly, Shannon Dea, David DeVidi, George Dixon, Tom Duever, Jean Duhamel, Fraser Easton, John Flanagan, Alan George, Mark Haslett, Geoffrey Hayes, Keith Hipel, Dennis Huber, Beth Jewkes, Richard Kelly, Kevin Lamb, Brendon Larson, Ken Lavigne, John Lawrence, John Lewis, Maria Liston, Heather Mair, Roger Mannell, Paul McDonald, Spencer McEwan, Terry McMahon, Elizabeth Meiering, Bruce Mitchell, Stephen Murphy, Wayne Oldford, Henry Paetkau, Jim Pankratz, David Perrin, Rashid Rehan, Metin Renksizbulut, Bruce Richter, Sharon Robertson, Bob Rosehart, Leo Rothenburg, Deep Saini, Matthew Schumacher, Selva Selvakumar, James Skidmore, Craig Sloss, Douglas Stebila, Nancy Theberge, Peter van Beek, Jenna Van Draanen, Robert Jan Van Pelt, Kathleen Wilkie, Justin Williams, Susan Wismer, Michael Worswick, Frank Zorzitto

Eman Al Abadleh, Geoff McBoyle, Catharine Scott, Bob Truman, Bud Walker

Absent: Carol Acton, Aswin Alexander, Graham Brown, Jane Buyers, Sujeet Chaudhuri, Peter Douglas, James Gollnick, Bob Harding*, John Honek*, Lu Jiang, Bob Kapur*, Mike Lazaridis*, Christopher Neal*, John North, Alan Shonfield*, Dermot Sweeny*, Myroslaw Tataryn*, Beth Weckman

*regrets

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 October 20, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received this report for information.

3. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received these reports for information.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

COU Report. Senate received this report for information.

December Meeting of Senate. Since there currently appears to be insufficient agenda to warrant a December meeting, the secretary will advise the Executive Committee within a week of its December meeting whether a meeting is required; Senate will also be advised as appropriate.

Undergraduate Program Review Schedule, 2008/09-2014/15. Senate received this report for information.

Kelly and Chakma. Carried.

Regular Agenda

5. MEETING TERMINATION TIME

Senate heard a motion to approve the extension of the Senate meeting past the set 6:45 p.m. open session termination time.

Kelly and Chakma. Carried.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

Senate agreed, without a formal motion, to allot more time to the discussion of the UAE initiative and to defer the graduate studies presentation and the reports of the university librarian and registrar to the next meeting of Senate. The presidents of the Federation of Students and the Graduate Student Association also offered to defer their presentations.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

8. CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATE [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20081117cmp.pdf]

Following an introduction by the provost who indicated that Joe Berridge has been the principal in all of UW's campus master plan developments, which started in the early 90s, Berridge briefly reviewed the plan development process and advised that the plan would subsequently go to the Building & Properties Committee of the Board and then to the Board of Governors for approval at its February 2009 meeting.

Speaking to his powerpoint presentation, Berridge provided the rationale for the plan update (growth pressures, reinvestment in the campus landscape, environment to be internationally competitive, surrounding city undergoing change) and the proposal (guidelines for development in the core, create strategy for growth at the edges, reimagine the campus to reflect international aspirations, prepare for transformational change). Five principles inform the plan: growth will increase outside the Ring Road; a high quality and welcoming environment is to be created; the campus will be pedestrian oriented, accessible and connected to the city; development will be informed by environmental stewardship and sustainability; the university will become an integrated part of the city. Eight key moves will follow from these principles: a north-south spine through the south campus; a network of landscapes and open spaces; new academic growth to the periphery, improving connections to the city; new campus gateways; integration of rapid transit initiatives; redevelopment of East Campus Hall lands and Phillip Street renewal into a new university mixed-use community; pedestrian and bicycle trail network; comprehensive transportation demand management program.

In response to questions, Senate heard: appreciation expressed re: the transportation demand management key move (parking needs of specific constituencies were recognized along with a suggestion to prioritize those needs within TDM) and continued emphasis on environmental stewardship; leaving aside current auto dependency, UW would score well on green stewardship and has met most of the objectives set out in the 1992 campus master plan; a suggestion that UW develop a set of environmental codes for new buildings, that new buildings be accessible, and that "old" buildings be made accessible as opportunities arise; the plan addresses improvement and revitalization of open spaces (currently divided by pathways, etc., and at a premium) in the interior of the south campus; awareness of the challenges with current Health Services facilities; and, from students, appreciation expressed for the consultative process and responses to their questions.

9. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Environmental Scan. With respect to the uncertainties of the financial situation / current recession, the chair reiterated that the reasons for UW's hiring and discretionary expenditure postponements are to preserve as much flexibility as possible, objectives that seemed well understood by those attending the recent Town Hall meeting. UW will continue to manage what's within its control and press forward on fundraising, expanding course master's and recruitment of international students. Two worthy achievements and kudos to all: in Canada's Top 50 Research Universities, UW ranked #1 in the comprehensive category; and, in *Maclean's* University Reputational Ranking, UW ranked #1 in best overall, most innovative, leaders of tomorrow and #2 in highest quality.

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

UAE Initiative [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20081117uae.pdf]. In his introductory remarks, the chair recognized and thanked Erin Windibank, Associate University Secretary, for her document: UW in the UAE, Response for Senate [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20081117uaeresponse.pdf], which responds to issues raised [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20081117uaequestions.pdf], and noted the impossibility of answering each question individually. He pointed out on p. 5 of the document two sessions which Leo Rothenburg and Magdy Salama will conduct (November 26, 4:30, NH 3001 and January 19, 3:30 to 4:30, NH 3001, respectively). The chair reminded senators that UW's Sixth Decade Plan provides explicitly for the creation of at least two international campuses and that UW's global aspirations require UW to continue to be respectful and inclusive of its own institutional values while respecting the laws, values and cultures of its international partners. He referred senators to Elena L'Pris' (Civil Engineering 2006) letter [at senators' places].

The provost, using powerpoint, provided a status report on the UAE campus, indicating the context; reasons why UW is locating in the UAE; the nature of the UW campus in the UAE; benefits that will accrue to UW, including revenues (\$22 million estimated at steady state) and their impact / near term benefits [32 new faculty positions (supervising ~160 graduate students and generating >\$5 million research revenue), eight new lecturer positions, capital expansion in engineering and mathematics]; future opportunities for UW in the faculties; benefits to Canada (establish Canada's first major overseas campus, reinforce Canada's leadership role in IT and engineering, to start with); overarching benefits to UW (help UW become a global institution, diversify income, improve UW's academic quality).

He advised that, on a confidential basis (terms are competitive), he had shared with the presidents of the FAUW, GSA and Federation of Students UW's agreement with its UAE partner.

Following disclosure of his own experience with human rights violations in his native country and subsequent opportunity to accept an academic appointment in the UAE, the provost set out his positive reaction to the UAE society / culture 17 years ago when the appointment offer was made and, more recently, when he was there on business. In concluding his opening remarks, he acknowledged that the questions posed were valid and expressed hope that Senate would focus its discussion on how UW's values can be protected in the UAE.

Senate heard a motion to endorse in principle the UAE campus initiative, as it has been described to Senate to date.

Sloss and DeVidi.

As a preface to the discussion, Senate heard from the president of the GSA and from the president of the FAUW that the questions / issues are based on principle, are not culturally specific, and concern freedoms / **human rights, in particular as relate to women, gay and lesbian members of the UW community**, fundamental to the academic enterprise.

The lengthy discussion that followed centred on a number of themes:

Process: The opinion that an initiative that so "redefines" the UW enterprise should come before Senate at an earlier stage and a request that future satellite campus initiatives should be front-ended with frank Senate discussion and a vote re: endorsement; the document: UW in the UAE, Response for Senate would have proved useful had it been made available much earlier in Senate's deliberations; a suggestion that greater effort from senior administrators to visit affected departments might have proved useful.

[Secretary's Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was clarified by the president that major new initiatives would be brought to Senate for approval in principle at a sufficiently early stage for Senate's discourse to be taken into account.]

Commenting on the suggestion for establishment of a UAE oversight committee, the provost indicated his willingness to seek advice of governors with international expertise and committed that a body would monitor this project. He offered that the Faculty Relations Committee and the Senate Long Range Planning Committee could usefully serve and expressed a strong preference to use them, in the first instance, rather than creating another body. He committed to consulting with the Faculty Relations Committee on how best to effect monitoring and to report to Senate early in the new year. **It was suggested by the seconder of the motion that 'as described to date' is reasonably interpreted as including this commitment.**

With respect to the School of Computer Science's unanimously adopted motion re: the process in the faculty and opposition to the initiative based on human rights [at senators' places], from the dean and corroborated by a colleague, a brief synopsis of the process / consultations put in place starting in fall 2006, much of which involved representatives from the school and provided many opportunities for input / raising issues, with the dean concluding by noting that in two years, he had received no communications from CS on this initiative except for programmatic matters. **While several math faculty senators confirmed the process, they noted that no approval of the initiative had been sought and expressed the view that within the faculty, the Math Faculty Council is the appropriate venue for such approval.**

The dean of applied health sciences voiced his willingness to take the UAE risk and made clear his offence at inferences that faculty would "get in trouble" with their dean by voicing opposition to this initiative. He observed that this initiative represents new territory for UW and urged senators to use this as a learning experience.

Academic Freedom: From the provost, his belief UW can maintain academic freedom and adhere to Policy 33 in the classroom; should circumstances indicate otherwise, UW would seriously consider pulling back (the costs of winding down this program are modest – a reason UW launched this initiative with a partner was to obviate the need for investing in infrastructure). In response, a challenging view of how a liberal institution can preserve academic freedom and defend its values in an illiberal social and political context.

Human Rights: Areas in the world where the provost indicated he would not be comfortable establishing a campus are those where academic freedom in the classroom was compromised, there was a requirement to teach segregated classes and where personal safety is put **in a** jeopardy in the event one ran afoul of local authority. With respect to closing down the operation should what are perceived as intolerable conditions prevail, the president provided examples of such action during his principalship at McGill.

A number of senators expressed concern that this initiative directly conflicts with Policy 33 and the Ontario Human Rights Code and precludes gay and lesbian faculty members from participating.

The dean of engineering, professionally engaged in the UAE at various times since 1998, advised that he has never sensed anti-Semitism in the UAE; also, based on his reading of the Ontario Human Rights Code, his view that the code allows for "**indirect constructive** discrimination" where an organization is acting in good faith in service of the greater good. From a senator, rejection of the view that UW would ignore human rights to generate income and, further, that UW presence in a country is not viewed as an endorsement or furthering of that country's human rights regime. In

response to concerns expressed about HCT / CERT staff providing student services (e.g., health, counselling), resulting in “safe space” classrooms but not elsewhere, the response that UW will look into sending UW staff to advise / work with HCT staff re: UW needs.

Internationalization: The dean of arts offered that it is critical that UW engage the world, as the world is changing, and that UW is doing so with the UAE initiative, conservatively in incremental steps. The dean of environment commented that UW is already doing business globally and must be prepared to accept different environments, go with an open mind, be aware of risks and take risks; further, societal and cultural norms which we must respect should be distinguished from laws (which we must also adhere to but where there is opportunity to engage and to work, over time, to change). One senator expressed his support for internationalization but not in a country where colleagues may feel at risk and voiced scepticism about “the numbers” as, in his view, the business case has not been provided.

Experiences / Making a Difference: From a number of senators, their experiences of working internationally (UAE, China, Indonesia), of the need to respect the culture one is working in, and of the positive incremental effects they have seen on former students / communities as a result of exposure to western post secondary education (it was noted that the Indian leaders opposed to the Raj were Cambridge and Oxford educated); from Eman Al Abadleh, an Emirati, master’s degree candidate in management sciences and guest at Senate of Professor Jewkes, a perspective on the liberal attitudes of the UAE and an urging not to stereotype or to generalize with respect to Middle Eastern cultures.

Senate heard a motion to table this item.

Sloss and Zorzitto. Defeated.

Senate heard a motion that voting be by secret ballot.

van Beek and Oldford.

In response, the chair replied that secret ballots in Senate were normally used only in votes involving individuals (elections to Senate committees, councils, the Board) and he would be troubled by the precedent set by using secret ballot in this instance.

The motion defeated.

The main motion carried, 10 opposed; **no count was taken of the “yeas.”**

Notes:

1. UW in the UAE, Response for Senate, p. 4: “. . . consensual sodomy, it is extremely unlikely that UW . . .” revised to “UW will not take action.”
2. voluntary: anyone not wanting to go won’t go
3. students apply to UW, possibly via OUAC; UW assesses and admits
4. per diems are still being worked on and will be similar to the UN rate: notionally ~\$300 for Abu Dhabi and possibly higher for Dubai

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Graduate & Research

- **Centre for Advanced Materials Joining.** Senate heard a motion to approve the establishment of this centre as outlined in the report.

George and Chakma. Carried.

- **Research Centres and Institutes; Administrative Centres.** Senate heard a motion to approve the following:
 1. Adoption of three categories: institute (main focus is research); research centre (main focus is research); administrative centre (primarily administrative; however, some collateral research activities may be pursued from time to time). “Research” and “administrative” do not need to appear in the name of the centre. Institutes and research centres will continue to be listed on the ORA website.
 2. On behalf of SGRC, SGRC co-chairs be responsible for determining whether a centre is a research centre or an administrative centre.
 3. Approval routes: institutes and research centres, including outside institutes and research centres where UW is a partner [friendly amendment proposed at Senate], require SGRC and Senate approval and are subject to review every five years; administrative centers are the responsibility of the university officer with financial responsibility for the center (usually the dean or deans when the center is multi-faculty, or the vice-president, academic & provost when the center is institutional).
 4. Development of guidelines (criteria) for establishing administrative centers and requiring a five-year review.

George and Chakma. Carried.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

Long Range Planning

- **Task Force on Online Learning Report.** Senate heard a motion to approve this report.

Chakma and Mannell.

Having heard concerns expressed about the costs of implementing recommendation 6, its effect on student access to online courses, particularly at Renison, and the suggestion to run models re: financial impact / student accessibility before implementing, from the provost, that he would take this recommendation as applicable to regular faculty members and give more thought re: sessionals. With respect to recommendations 4 and 5, the department chair determines when a course will be re-prepared.

Senate heard a motion to adjourn [7:38 p.m.].

Zorzitto and Lamb. Carried.