

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday, June 15, 2009 Meeting

Present: David Johnston (chair), Lois Claxton (secretary), Mohamed Abdel-Razek, Muhammad Ali Akbar, Samuel Andrey, Allan Babor, David Barton, Dan Brown, Jeff Casello, Amit Chakma, Tom Coleman, Shannon Dea, Diana Denton, David DeVidi, Brent Doberstein, Peter Douglas, Tom Duever, Fraser Easton, John Flanagan, Shannon Freeman, Peter Frick, Alan George, Mark Haslett, Geoffrey Hayes, Keith Hipel, John Honek, Dennis Huber, Ajnu Jacob, Reemah Khalid, Kevin Lamb, Brendon Larson, Kate Larson, Ken Lavigne, John Lawrence, John Lewis, Heather Mair, Paul McDonald, Brian McNamara, Elizabeth Meiring, Bruce Mitchell, Wayne Oldford, Jim Pankratz, Rashid Rehan, Metin Renksizbulut, Leo Rothenburg, Manoj Sachdev, Jay Shah, Alan Shonfield, Dave Smith, Peter Van Beek, Robert Jan Van Pelt, Richard Wells, Susan Wismer, Frank Zorzitto

Peggy Jarvie, Linda Kieswetter, Geoff McBoyle, Bud Walker

Absent: Carol Acton, Sheila Ager*, Aswin Alexander, Jonathan Aycan*, Graham Brown, Jane Buyers, Kevin Cai, Sujeet Chaudhuri, Ken Coates*, Tara Collington, Tristanne Connolly, George Dixon*, Bob Harding*, Beth Jewkes*, Bob Kapur, Whitney Lackenbauer, Roger Mannell*, Ron Mathies, Terry McMahan*, Stephen Murphy*, John North, David Perrin*, Bob Rosehart, Deep Saini*, Matthew Schumacher*, Dermot Sweeny*, Prem Watsa*, Beth Weckman, Michael Worswick

*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 May 19, 2009 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

Conferral of Degrees. Senate received this report for information.

COU Report. Senate received this report for information.

Dea and Smith. Carried.

Regular Agenda

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Transitions. The chair expressed gratitude to Alan George and David DeVidi, attending their last meeting of Senate as interim associate provost, graduate studies and president of FAUW,

respectively, and especially to Amit Chakma, vice-president, academic & provost, who will become president of the University of Western Ontario on July 1.

Undergraduate Admissions [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20090615admissions.pdf]. The registrar's brief summary: new student confirmations are at 111 percent of target (similar to 2008) and are likely to 'shrink' by November to bring UW in at ~104-105 percent of target for 2009-10; visa confirmations are at 147 percent of target with shrinkage expected; President's and Merit Scholarships are at 61 percent.

Convocation. A great event, with Chancellor Watsa a natural in the role. Kudos to the registrar and his staff for making all run so smoothly.

Environmental Scan [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20090615es.pdf]

- **National.** Knowledge Infrastructure Program: \$185.4 million was awarded to projects in the region (CIGI, Conestoga College and UW). UW received \$50 million (\$25 million federal, \$25 million provincial, about 60 percent of the funding anticipated) to support two projects, engineering and mathematics expansions (coupled as one project) and environment expansion and renovation. Colleges and the smaller universities fared far better than the larger universities. KIP projects must be 'in the ground' by August 31, 2009 and substantially completed by March 31, 2011. A combined design / build process, where contractor and architect work together on the specs established by the deans, will ensure high quality results.

The Council of Canadian Academics' *Innovation and Business Strategy: Why Canada Falls Short* sets out that Canada's business sector productivity has fallen from 90 percent of the U.S. level in 1984 to 76 percent in 2006; average labour productivity growth ranked 15th out of 18 OECD comparator countries; business R&D as a percentage of GDP declined by 20 percent between 2001 and 2007; investment per worker is only 60 percent of the U.S. level; Canada has the highest proportion of workers who have completed PSE in the OECD (46 percent in 2005); and "The Waterloo region stands out in the Canadian innovation system as an area that has developed a cluster of successful startup firms with a particular focus on information technologies."

The 2009 Composite Learning Index, issued by the Canadian Council of Learning Resources, registers the first decline since 2006; Waterloo, however, scores above the national average.

- **Provincial.** University completion rates in Ontario have increased from 74 percent to 78 percent in five years; UW's graduation rates have risen from 77.7 percent in 2002 to 81.1 percent in 2006.

The additional 100 new first-year spaces at four medical schools over three years means there will be seven new students at the Waterloo Regional Campus of the DeGroote School of Medicine and \$2.1 million for additional classrooms, training, etc., to be directed to the campus.

- **Local.** Canada 3.0: Defining Canada's Digital Future, organized by Tom Jenkins and Ken Coates under the aegis of the Stratford Institute, has as its goal to develop a national digital media action plan to ensure Canada can not only compete but also lead the world in the new digital economy.

The President's Specific Priorities, 2009-2010 address excellence, income diversification and strengthening community.

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

Changes to Policy 76, Faculty Appointments. Senate heard a motion to approve recommended

changes to Policy 76, Faculty Appointments.

Chakma and DeVidi. Carried.

2009-10 Executive Council Priorities [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20090615priorities.pdf]. The priorities which move UW towards realizing its 6th decade aspirations are: income diversification; international undergraduate student recruitment and international experience for domestic students; support for major research initiatives; career-focused master's programs; emphasis on generation of jobs for co-op students; implementation of the jointly-prepared faculty merit review; and government initiatives.

Senators heard from the associate provost, IST that the report of the IT Task Force has been circulated for discussion, particularly among those units affected by the recommendations, and, subsequently, a report would be prepared for discussion at Senate.

8. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The associate vice-president, principal gifts and campaigns briefly spoke to her handout and reported that UW had passed the 'half billion dollar mark' and that the campaign will continue under the president's leadership. Kudos to all.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS

Graduate & Research

- **Waterloo Research Institute in Insurance, Securities and Quantitative Finance.** Senate heard a motion to approve the establishment of this institute as detailed in the report.

George and Coleman. Carried.

- **MASc, MSc and PhD Programs in Nanotechnology.** Senate heard a motion to approve the establishment of these collaborative MASc, MSc and PhD programs as outlined in the report.

George and Hipel. Carried.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

Undergraduate

- **Updated Undergraduate Admission Requirements for 2010.** Senate heard a motion to approve the updated requirements for 2010 as detailed in the report.

Dea and Babor. Carried.

- **Business Administration and Computer Science Double Degree.** Senate heard a motion to approve this new plan as described in the report.

Coleman and Dea. Carried.

- **Honours Bioinformatics.** Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed curriculum revision to this plan.

Coleman and George. Carried.

- **Environmental Science (Ecology Specialization) (Regular and Co-op).** Senate heard a motion

to approve the proposed requirement revisions to this plan.

Dea and Babor. Carried.

- **Honours Co-operative Chemistry (Medicinal Chemistry Specialization).** Senate heard a motion to approve the name change and curriculum revisions as detailed in the report.

Dea and Babor. Carried.

- **Earth Sciences (Environmental Specialization).** Senate heard a motion to approve the name change and curriculum revisions as outlined in the report.

Dea and Babor. Carried.

- **Biology and Environment & Resource Studies (Regular), Biology & Geography (Regular), Biology (Ecology & Environmental Biology Specialization) (Regular).** Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed deletion of these plans.

Dea and Babor. Carried.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Delegation of Authority. Senate heard a motion to approve delegating its authority re: consideration of the report of the Honorary Degrees Committee to its Executive Committee.

Renksizbulut and Smith. Carried.

Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties. Senate received these guidelines for information.

Use of Saturdays for Term Tests. In his opening remarks, the registrar made clear that the amendment related solely to the administration of exams and was necessitated by needed flexibility for Friday evening and Saturday scheduling. He emphasized that these would be scheduling times of last resort, starting with Friday evening. Further, that WLU's business school, with UW students registered in its courses, uses Saturdays as has, on occasion, UW's engineering faculty.

Senate heard a motion to approve that, effective fall 2009, the section "Other Tests and Examinations" in *Examination Regulations and Related Matters* be amended as follows: "No student shall be required to sit for a test or examination outside the time period 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Monday through **Saturday** inclusive. An instructor who chooses to schedule a test or examination outside that time period must provide suitable alternative time arrangements within the Monday to **Saturday** time period for any students who request such an alternative time. Any unresolved disputes between an instructor and student regarding the 'legitimacy' of conflicts or the 'suitability' of alternative time arrangements will be decided by the appropriate Associate Dean(s). In such cases, any regularly scheduled University academic activity will be given precedence in the resolution of a conflict with a test or examination in another course."

Lavigne and Rothenburg.

In the discussion that followed, senators heard concerns and suggestions expressed: this recommendation serves to inform faculty's growing concern that they have less and less control over their time and, further, the hidden costs related to the harm a long work week can do to health and well-being; root causes of the problem include insufficient classroom space (from the provost, a

shared concern and his steps over the past several years to ‘buy classroom space’ with university funds in new facilities including the Schools of Optometry and Pharmacy) and too many mid-terms (an exhortation to faculty to ‘cut back’ and limit mid-terms to one per course); opposition from students (a poll of students found them 75 to 80 percent against the idea) based on work-life balance, concerns for students holding part-time jobs, probable curtailment of extracurricular activities, incursion into family time, interference with faith-based practices (it was noted that religious accommodation has been made for both TAs and faculty members [see below for student accommodation]) and lack of services (e.g., disability) available during the week. Suggestions for alternative facilities / locations included the PAC (already investigated and not viable), an examination centre (~1000 seats), and rental of facilities (e.g., RIM, WCI, churches / church halls). Given concerns about academic integrity and exams being held in venues conducive to supporting academic integrity, senators heard a suggestion that while further options were explored, UW should experiment with what is being proposed.

Senate heard an **amendment** to the motion that, effective fall 2009, **for a two-year trial period**, the section “Other Tests and Examinations” in *Examination Regulations and Related Matters* be amended as follows:

DeVidi and Chakma. Defeated (yeas: 23; nays: 27).

The view was expressed that an ‘ad hoc’ solution to this problem is not appropriate and that a full cost analysis, including financial, social and personal, needs to be carried out and inform a proposed solution.

Senate heard a motion to call the question.

Renksizbulut and Chakma. Carried.

The main motion was called and was defeated.

[**Note:** see www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf, Religious Holidays / Examination Scheduling.]

Class Sizes. In response to the president of FAUW’s serving notice that the matter of class sizes [see provost’s memo of March 9, 2009] should be put on Senate’s September agenda (his reasons included that the direction given in the memo undermines Policy 40 and the chairs’ authority to determine workload; some courses / programs are organized with large first and second-year classes to enable small upper-year classes, preparatory for graduate school), the president agreed that notice of discussion of the matter would be included on the Executive Committee’s September agenda.

Senate convened in confidential session.