

**University of Waterloo  
SENATE**

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**Minutes of the Monday, February 22, 2010 Meeting**

**Present:** David Johnston (chair), Lois Claxton (secretary), Sheila Ager, Aswin Alexander, Samuel Andrey, Jonathan Aycan, Allan Babor, David Barton, Graham Brown, Kevin Cai, Glenn Cartwright, Jeff Casello, Ken Coates, Tom Coleman, Tara Collington, Tristanne Connolly, Carol Cressman, Shannon Dea, George Dixon, Fraser Easton, John Flanagan, George Freeman, Feridun Hamdullahpur, Mark Haslett, Keith Hipel, John Honek, Sue Horton, Dennis Huber, Bob Kapur, Reemah Khalid, Kevin Lamb, Brendon Larson, Kate Larson, Ken Lavigne, Heather Mair, Michael Makahnouk, Terry McMahon, Brian McNamara, Elizabeth Meiering, Bruce Mitchell, Stephen Murphy, John North, Wayne Oldford, Henry Paetkau, Jim Pankratz, David Perrin, Rashid Rehan, Metin Renksizbulut, Manoj Sachdev, Adel Sedra, Jay Shah, Dave Smith, Dermot Sweeny, Andrew Williams

Jason Coolman, Shawn Gilbertson, Mary Jane Jennings, Geoff McBoyle, Janet Passmore, Bob Truman, Bud Walker

**Absent:** Mohamed Abd-El-Razik, Carol Acton\*, Muhammad Ali Akbar, Dan Brown\*, Jane Buyers, Sujeet Chaudhuri, Diana Denton, Brent Doberstein, Peter Douglas\*, Tom Duever, Shannon Freeman, Peter Frick\*, Bob Harding\*, Geoffrey Hayes, Ajnu Jacob, Beth Jewkes\*, Whitney Lackenbauer, John Lawrence, John Lewis, Roger Mannell\*, Paul McDonald, Deep Saini\*, Alan Shonfield, Peter van Beek\*, Robert Jan van Pelt\*, Prem Watsa\*, Beth Weckman, Richard Wells, Susan Wismer\*, Michael Worswick, Frank Zorzitto

\*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 January 18, 2010 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. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Senate received this report for information.

Dea and Smith. Carried.

**Regular Agenda**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Undergraduate Admissions Update** [[www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222ua.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222ua.pdf)]. Speaking to his PowerPoint presentation, the registrar noted that the trend has been established with UW lagging the provincial numbers. He drew attention to the admissions summary and entrance scholarship

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candidates, where the 2010 results to date exceed those of 2009. He concluded by offering that work continues to understand UW's 2010 application numbers.

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

**Centre for Extended Learning** [“Annual Report 2009 – Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> Decade Goals” at senators’ places; [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222cel.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222cel.pdf)]. In her PowerPoint presentation, the director of the Centre for Extended Learning elaborated on: the design, development and delivery of online courses; the students / learners enrolled in online learning environments; student satisfaction with / reasons for taking online courses; the nature of CEL collaboration with other units on campus and organizations off campus; revenue generation (\$1 million in 2009); CEL’s strategic plan and future opportunities for CEL.

In response to questions, senators heard: the majority of credit courses are oversubscribed and would be ‘scalable up’ were more TAs available; surveys are used to inform continuous improvement; an online course is about a year in development; data is unavailable to compare the delivery cost per unit of online to on campus; the reluctance of new faculty to assume online course responsibilities as veterans retire and the methodology successfully used by the Departments of Philosophy and French Studies to address this; the need for CEL assistance / resources for development of blended courses; work continues on online courses for graduate students with the Master of Public Health as an example.

**Federation of Students** [“2009/2010 Federation of Students General Information Booklet” at senators’ places; [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222feds.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222feds.pdf)]. The president of the Federation of Students spoke to its mission, vision and values; organizational structure; fees; external affiliations; services; clubs; societies; special services; businesses; areas where students are represented, particularly in campus deliberations; areas of focus in 2009 (including the review of the campus bars lease and operations agreement, review of orientation week, and the Student Services Complex and Health Services Extension); factors driving change and developments in 2010 and beyond (including long range planning, leadership development, student space issues, and improving academic quality).

In response to questions, senators heard: students on remote campuses have representation through faculty student societies; the 23 students on UW’s Dubai campus have direct and daily access to the three UW instructors on site; salaries of Federation staff account for a sizable expenditure of income; dialogue continues through various means, including representation on various bodies, re: how to improve teaching quality.

At the conclusion of this presentation, the president thanked Allan Babor for his thoughtful leadership and his courtesy in conducting business.

**Graduate Student Association** [[www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222gsa.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222gsa.pdf)]. The president of the Graduate Student Association spoke to the purpose, people, and facilities of the GSA and its advocacy priorities which are three: funding issues (including that the guaranteed funding level for PhD students is below the cost of living and inadequate availability of needs-based funding for course-based master’s students); office space (to make a reality, the Executive and GSA Councils endorsed statement: that every academic department should strive to provide high quality space to all its graduate students); graduate student services (including various kinds of advice / workshops and child care).

## 7. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

**Environmental Scan** [[www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222es.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222es.pdf)]

- **National:** AUCC’s advocacy priorities with respect to the March 4, 2010 federal budget include

university research, international student marketing, and aboriginal education. Statistics Canada January 2010 Labour Force Survey shows the overall unemployment rate down by 0.2 percentage points to 8.3 percent and youth unemployment rate down from 16 percent to 15.1 percent. An Ipsos Reid Special Mini-Report, released in January 2010, sets out the impact of co-op education programs, including: 17 percent of Canadians with post-secondary experience said they either studied or were currently enrolled in a co-op education program; Ontario is the “hot bed” of co-op education participation; 50 percent of Canadians with post-secondary experience who did not participate in a co-op education program say they wish they had.

- **Local:** The Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook projects that the Kitchener Census Metropolitan area will have the third strongest economic growth in Canada from 2011 to 2014, behind Vancouver and Toronto. Former governor, Tim Jackson, becomes the new Accelerator Centre CEO and associate vice-president, commercialization (UW) March 1.

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

**2009-10 Operating Budget Update** [[www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222ob.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222ob.pdf)]. The provost summed up the current position: \$2.5 million additional pension contribution added to the expenses; additional tuition revenue as a result of increased (321 students) first year domestic enrolment; additional unbudgeted grant revenue has been received from MTCU; an ending fund balance of \$5.212 million is anticipated; enrolment has been an important revenue driver and UW is unique in Canada with tuition income exceeding that of government grants.

In speaking to the 2010-11 budget, the provost used a histogram to show how UW spends its money (most on the academic and research mission) and set out the 6<sup>th</sup> Decade ‘demands’ that impact the budget. He noted growth trends and projections of undergraduates (modest), graduates (steeper) and faculty (a range, depending on circumstances) and outlined the key risks (operating budget and pensions – a pension update was provided), the key areas of university finances, operating pressures on the budget, the 2010-11 budget planning assumptions, the funding environment and, in conclusion, that UW is seeking efficiencies, is looking to improve revenues (e.g., course-based master’s, international enrolment), is currently engaged in salary negotiations, has recognized that a structural deficit is inevitable and that a minimum budget cut of 3 to 3.5 percent is forecast. In closing, he drew attention to the importance of student retention: a student retention rate improvement of one percent would add \$2 to \$3 million to UW’s revenue.

In response to questions, senators heard that UW intends to file its pension valuation in 2010 and will not be required to file for three years; ‘rainy day’ funds are related to the payroll pension and FUACs are responsible for establishing their own; UW’s retention rate between years one and two is at ~88 percent, compared with Queen’s at 95 percent. A task force led by the associate provost, academic & student affairs is addressing retention at UW.

#### 9. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS [report at senators’ places; [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222vper.pdf](http://www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20100222vper.pdf)]

The director of Alumni Relations spoke to his PowerPoint presentation which focused on UW’s alumni engagement strategy and acknowledged that both student experience and transition from student to alum are critical to a strong and sustainable alum relationship.

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

The VPUR announced that UW had been awarded a COU chair in environment and energy and that further exciting announcements, currently embargoed, would soon be forthcoming.

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## 11. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS

### Graduate & Research

- **Centre for Internet Information Acquisition.** Senate heard a motion to approve the establishment of this joint (Waterloo-Tsinghua) centre as detailed in the report.

Coleman and Rehan. Carried.

- **Graduate Degree Expectations.** Senate heard a motion to approve that the University of Waterloo adopt the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents graduate degree expectations as academic policy.

Hamdullahpur and Aycan. Carried.

- **Graduate Studies Calendar – English Language Proficiency Certification.** Senate heard a motion to approve the revised statement reflecting changes to the current admission regulation.

Aycan and Makahnouk. Carried.

- **Graduate Studies Calendar – Retaking Graduate Courses.** Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed statement reflecting the graduate studies practice for the retaking of graduate courses and the retention of academic history on a graduate student record.

Dea and Rehan. Carried.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

### Undergraduate

- **Honours Mathematical Economics, Honours Mathematical Economics (Arts and Business Co-op and Regular).** Senate heard a motion to approve these new plans as described in the report.

Coates and Ager. Carried.

- **Four-year General Economics.** Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed change to the requirements of this plan.

Coates and Ager.

In response to some opposition expressed against the motion as conveyed by an undergraduate senator, senators heard that the rationale is in the best interests of the students: to ensure students maintain a sufficiently high average in the early years and succeed to graduation; further, that the reasons for students lack of success would be looked into.

The motion carried.

- **Bachelor of Science, Pharmacy.** Senate heard a motion to approve the proposed changes to this plan conditional on MTCU approval.

McMahon and Dixon. Carried.

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- **Environmental Economics, International Economics, and Political Economy / Economic History Specializations.** Senate heard a motion to approve the inactivation of these plans.

Coates and Ager.

Having heard from an undergraduate student senator the view that, while students wished to pursue these options, courses have been unavailable for some time and a suggestion that partnership with WLU or Toronto might allow these specializations to continue, from the Dean of Arts, that the Department of Economics is going through a reorganization to re-establish a core that will form the base to build on.

The motion carried.

- **Chemistry Program Review.** In response to the concerns re: space and equipment identified in the report, from the Dean of Science, his hope that by the spring he would be able to announce that construction of a new facility would begin in a year.

The remaining items in the report were received for information.

## 12. OTHER BUSINESS

**Diploma Design.** Senate heard a motion to approve that the registrar and CPA collaborate to: develop diploma designs guided by the new graphic standard, incorporating the new university seal; consult widely to confirm support for a new diploma or a preference for retaining the current design; recommend a diploma design and implementation schedule to Senate.

Lavigne and Makahnouk. Carried.

Senate convened in confidential session.