

University of Waterloo
SENATE
Minutes of the Monday, October 17, 2011 Meeting

Present: Feridun Hamdullahpur (chair), Erin Windibank (secretary), Jean Andrey, Joshua Armstrong, David Barton, William Bobier, Graham Brown, Jeffrey Bunn, Lutz-Alexander Busch, Glenn Cartwright, Joseph Cheriyan, Jonathan Cluett, Matthew Colphon, Carol Cressman, Rick Culham, David DeVidi, George Dixon, Michael Drescher, Tom Duever, Paul Eagles, Fraser Easton, Susan Elliott, Peter Forsyth, James Frank, George Freeman, Mariam Gill, Tadeusz Górecki, Ian Goulden, Paul Guild, Bruce Hellinga, Keith Hipel, Sue Horton, Dennis Huber, Ryan Jacobs, Whitney Lackenbauer, Ken Lavigne, Kate Lawson, Susan Leat, Jonathan Li, Michael Makahnouk, Krista Mathias, Geoff McBoyle, Jesse McGinnis, Terry McMahan, Bruce Mitchell, Michele Mosca, Hassan Nasir, Jim Pankratz, Diana Parry, Douglas Peers, Tracy Peressini, David Perrin, David Porreca, Metin Renksizbulut, André Roy, Manoj Sachdev, Adel Sedra, Benjamin Selby, Robert Shipley, Alana Vandervoort, Jordan Vandjelovic, Barbara Veale, Olaf Weber, Richard Wells, Andrew Williams

Alan George, Sean Hunt, Tim Jackson, Mary Jane Jennings, Cathy Newell Kelly, Jennifer Kieffer, Janet Passmore, Ellen Réthoré, Susan Routliffe, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, James Skidmore, Bud Walker

Absent: Sheila Ager, Dan Brown*, Tara Collington*, Brian Dixon*, Brent Doberstein, Peter Frick, Bob Harding*, Mark Haslett*, Geoffrey Hayes*, Reemah Khalid*, Stephen McColl, Brian McNamara, Tracy Penny Light*, Feisal Rahman, Susan Schultz Huxman*, Barry Warner, Prem Watsa*, Beth Weckman

*regrets

OPEN SESSION

Consent Agenda

Senate heard an omnibus motion to approve or receive for information by consent items 1-4 below, subject to the following correction to the report from Undergraduate Council: self-study completed July 23, 2010 not 2008 (p.43, Department of History Academic Program Review).

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. REPORTS FROM THE COUNCILS

Graduate & Research. Senate received this report for information.

Undergraduate. Senate received this report for information.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Recognition and Commendation. Senate received this report for information.

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

Call for “University Professor” Nominations. Senate received this call for nominations for information.

5. REPORTS FROM THE FACULTIES

Senate received these reports for information.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Undergraduate Council Appointment. Senate approved the appointment of Cindy Tsang (vice-president, education, AHSUM) as the applied health sciences undergraduate student representative, term to December 31, 2011.

Hamdullahpur and Porreca. Carried.

Regular Agenda

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UW-ACE/D2L and Fee Arrangements. The registrar advised that productive meetings were held with Feds executive officers, the Faculty Relations Committee and the Undergraduate Student Relations Committee. It was observed that Waterloo's practices re: accepting promissory notes and allowing payment on a per term basis are more student-friendly than many other universities. He indicated that consultation is ongoing, particularly with faculty members; however, the effort has already resulted in a decision to move to a single fee arrangement due date that will provide a two-week period in which no action is taken before the start of classes.

8. PRESENTATIONS

Research [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20111017ria.pdf]. Speaking to his PowerPoint presentation, Professor Hughson, who holds the Schlegel research chair in vascular aging and brain health, described his research laboratory's programs around how the cardiovascular system changes with aging, exercise and space travel. Members heard that the research has implications for maintaining astronaut health in space, understanding blood vessel health as it relates to aging and preservation of cognitive function, and understanding cardiovascular factors that may contribute to falls in the elderly.

2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences ("Congress"). James Skidmore, academic co-convenor, reported progress in planning for Congress, an annual gathering of more than 8,000 people that serves as an umbrella for meetings of Canadian scholarly associations across the humanities and social sciences. Senate heard that Congress will be jointly hosted by Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, with the latter providing space for the bulk of activities, from May 26 to June 2, 2012. Skidmore summarized Waterloo's goals for the event, including: providing hospitality, demonstrating the relevance of humanities and social science research in making sense of our changing society, and enhancing the profile of humanities and social sciences at Waterloo.

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senate heard a first reading of the proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 2, which would formalize the tradition of the FAUW president serving as the "One other *ex officio* member of Senate appointed by Senate" on the Senate Executive Committee.

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT [www.secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/20111017pr.pdf]

He focused his remarks on the following matters:

- **Ontario Election, October 6, 2011.** The Liberal Party has formed a minority government with cabinet to be introduced on October 20. Election promises included 60,000 new post-secondary spaces and three satellite campuses by 2015, and a 30% undergraduate tuition cut. The province is faced with a \$16 billion budget deficit, with the next budget expected in March 2012. Movement toward some form of differentiation is expected to be introduced at that time. Waterloo will maintain engagement with all political parties, and prioritize connections with MPPs.
- **International Rankings.** Waterloo ranked in the 201-225 category of the Times Higher

Education 2011-2012 World University Rankings (same as last year). Institutional Analysis and Planning is investigating data sources behind the rankings, based on what appear to be some significant discrepancies in how Waterloo compares to other Canadian universities.

- **Mid-cycle Review Update.** 27 of 42 consultation sessions have been completed to date and an online survey will be sent to all students, faculty, staff and 67,000 alumni.
- **2011 Performance Indicators.** Highlights include: tuition and other fees have risen to 46.1% of operating revenue, a trend that is expected to continue as governments try to “bend the cost curve”; sponsored research is steadily increasing with growth in CFI, CERC and provincial funding, and potential to grow income from industry; percentage female faculty members has remained consistent at 25% since 2007 and requires more focused attention; percentage graduate enrolment has remained steady as undergraduate enrolment has increased; sixth decade target has been met for international students as a percentage of the graduate population, but undergraduate international population is at half of target; student to faculty ratio is 29.1 (second worst in Ontario; however, some institutions may include teaching and/or untenured faculty in their calculations); students reporting an excellent first year experience on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) are well above the Ontario average.

11. Q & A PERIOD WITH THE PRESIDENT

In discussion, the following issues were raised:

- **Performance Indicators.** Senators expressed interest in additional data re: class sizes from a student perspective. Concern was raised re: effects of large classes on teaching and learning, with the suggestion that limits be placed on class sizes and a commitment made to TA support on a per student basis. The president agreed that the area merits attention, but suggested that more information is needed re: quality of student experience as it relates to class size, and that it would be undesirable to address the issue through hiring of sessional and part-time instructors. A student senator suggested that quality of classroom space is important for large classes, including sufficient lighting and room for students, citing the Humanities Theatre as problematic. Senators acknowledged that student-faculty ratio is only one way of considering educational quality, and that large classes may be more appropriate to some programs and/or learning models than others. With regard to female faculty, a member of FAUW’s Status of Women and Equity Committee expressed appreciation for the consultation that took place this year and asked that it continue in future. In response to a question about plans for specific action, the president indicated that these would be forthcoming pending appointment of a new secretary of the university.
- **Mid-cycle Review Update.** In response to a question about the role of the Senate Long Range Planning Committee (SLRP), the vice-president, academic and provost indicated that he has formed a committee, including several members of SLRP plus a senior staff member, to review and identify areas of focus in the consultation results, and that it will present results to SLRP in the winter term.

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

Approval of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates [“Fall 2011, Summary of Degrees” at senators’ places]. Senate heard a motion to approve the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as recommended by the Faculty Councils and the associate provost, graduate studies, and that Senate authorize the chair, the registrar and the associate provost, graduate studies to add to or change the lists of candidates for degrees, diplomas and certificates as approved at the meeting on October 17, 2011.

Lavigne and Horton. Carried.

By way of a motion, Senate expressed its appreciation for the contributions of faculty and staff in supporting graduates' success.

Hamdullahpur and Freeman. Carried.

13. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The VPER reported that director of development positions within the faculties have been filled with the exception of the Faculty of Arts (underway) and that joint task forces have been formed to address administrative issues, service level standards, and coordination between central development and the faculties. He also highlighted two recent gifts to schools: \$250,000 to create a student investment fund within the School of Accounting and Finance, and \$600,000 from the Ontario College of Pharmacists to support a professorship in the School of Pharmacy; and indicated that a workshop will be organized in collaboration with FAUW to enhance media representation of female faculty.

14. REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

The VPUR encouraged faculty to consider opportunities re: the NSERC Engage grant program (seed funding to develop collaborative initiatives with new industrial partners; Waterloo represents approx. 10% of national applications) and the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Awards (Waterloo was quite successful in the last round; a large proportion of past funding has gone to faculties of engineering; this year there is a special competition for social sciences and humanities).

He also noted that the report of the expert panel to Industry Canada reviewing federal support to research and development, entitled "Innovation Canada: A Call to Action" [available at: http://rd-review.ca/eic/site/033.nsf/eng/h_00287.html], was released today, and that its recommendations will have significant implications for universities if adopted, particularly with regard to transformation of the National Research Council.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Senate convened in confidential session.

November 16, 2011

Erin Windibank
Associate University Secretary