



SENATE MINUTES

Monday April 11, 2022, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Senate & Board Chamber, Waterloo Campus

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), M. Ahmed, R. Ame, D. Antonowicz, G. Ashoughian, G. Brockett, M. Brolley, P. Bryden, R. Buehler, S. Cameron, M. Cantalini-Williams, J. Casey, L. Chu, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, A. Dang, D. Deutschman, S. Ensign, S. Ghamat, B. Glencross, A. Herman, K. Hogarth, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, I. Joseph, M. Kelly, S. Lachapelle, D. Law, H. LeBlanc, L. Luccisano, K. Lund, D. Maoz, B. McKay, P. McLaren, L. McLeod, J. McMurray, K. Menon, J. Newman, A. Ngo, A. Noriega, L. Noronha, L. Notten, A. Parker, J. Popham, S. Ramsay, M. Reesor, J. Reid, C. Smith, D. Treleaven, B. Vale, A. Vannelli, M. Walton-Roberts, K. Werbin, M. Wilson, M. Woodford, K. Yri, G. Yun, J. Zhan.

Regrets: J. Empey, C. Eni-McLean, A. Essaji, L. Hawton Kitamura, V. Kitaev, E. Mercier, C. Miyata, J. Schwieter, K. Shankardass.

Absent: N. Amanullah, S. Chamberlain, C. Francis, J. Hennebry, L. King, J. Smith, K. Zhu.

Secretariat: A. Juhik, S. Kelly, A. Kornobis.

A. Introduction

1. **Call to Order**, D. MacLatchy

a. Approval of the Consent Agenda

MOTION (S. Ramsay/K. Werbin) that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item C.1. Carried.

2. **Leadership Update**

a. Report of the President, D. MacLatchy

Mask and vaccine mandates were to be lifted as of May 1, 2022, however, were contingent on community covid levels. It was communicated to the University community that vaccination and masking mandates could be reinstated on short term notice. At the time of the meeting, 99% of the University community was vaccinated with two vaccines. It was encouraged that everyone remain up to date on their vaccinations.

Approximately 4000 students took part in unsanctioned street gatherings on St. Patrick's Day which was a significantly smaller crowd from past years. There were significantly fewer charges and emergency hospitalizations than years past. The University engaged in a multi-channel communications campaign in collaboration with the City of Waterloo, Waterloo Regional Police Services, Public Health and the

University of Waterloo. Messaging was co-created with students to better target other students. Overall media response from the day was neutral, with concerns from community members calling on students and the University to manage costs associated with the day.

The federal government tabled its 2022-23 budget which had modest commitments made to training and skills development, innovation, research, infrastructure, and EDI & Indigeneity. The government and community relations team continued to identify funding opportunities.

The provincial government announced support for Ukrainian refugees including a \$1.9M Ontario-Ukraine Solidarity Scholarship to support persons who had been admitted to Canada on an emergency basis to study at Ontario's colleges and universities.

The provincial government announced the extension of the tuition freeze for the 2022-2023 academic year. There would be flexibility to increase tuition by up to 5% for students from other provinces, however due to Laurier's limited student population from outside the province this would not have a significant financial impact. The University would continue to advocate for tuition flexibility as the June provincial election approached. The University also continued advocacy with the provincial government in regard to program approvals and corridor allocations specific to Laurier. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities announced the expansion of publicly assisted colleges' mandates to offer three-year applied bachelor degrees as part of their Red Tape Bill.

b. Report of the Provost & VP Academic, A. Vannelli

The annual operating and ancillary budget was to be brought forward to Senate later in the meeting, a thank you went out to all of those involved. Milton program development was underway for various programs and would carry through the appropriate governance processes.

Enrollment services were working to convert applications to enrollments. Open houses were being held throughout the month for prospective students with virtual options also being provided. Enrollment services continued recruitment efforts as the deadline for all non-Ontario applicants direct from high school was April 1, 2022.

Interviews for the Inclusive Excellence initiative continued with one candidate at the offer stage. Advertising and outreach efforts continued.

The search process for the Dean of the Lazaridis School of Business and Economic was unsuccessful and would continue. The Search Committee for the AVP Academic reviewed a long list of candidates.

Senators discussed: if benchmarks could be established for Service Laurier response times to report back to governing bodies; concerns surrounding wait times at the wellness centre and limited operating hours.

- c. Question Period: Written or Verbal
Issues were flagged regarding the technology utilized for faculty annual reports of activities, and if there were alternative solutions for this.

3. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**, D. MacLatchy
None.

B. Discussion

1. **Update on International Students Overcoming War (ISOW)**, G. Brockett / R. Singh

A presentation was brought forward detailing the International Students Overcoming War (ISOW) program. ISOW is a student-led and student funded initiative which provides scholarship funding for students who are displaced, seeking asylum or are refugees. An outline of funding structures and ISOW scholar graduate employment was provided. It was noted that ISOW scholars were from Lebanon, Gaza, Egypt, Syria, Myanmar, Somalia, Turkey and Brazil.

Senators discussed: how different programs align and if there is any confusion and how the WUSC model aligns with this program; how the University could receive donations for this.

2. **Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees**
 - a. **Senate Executive and Finance Committee**, D. MacLatchy
 - i. 2022-2023 Non-Tuition Fee Report, Z. Danis

The Non-Tuition Fee Report has gone through the necessary approval process by the Non-Tuition Fee Protocol Committee which is made up of representatives from the University, Students' Union and Graduate Student Association. All non-tuition fees must adhere by guidelines set out by the government. Fee increases averaged between 2-3%. Overall, there were no major differences in the report from the previous year.

MOTION (J. Newman/J. Casey) that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, Senate recommend the Board of

Governors approve the 2022-2023 Non-Tuition Fee Report, as presented. Carried.

- ii. 2022-2023 Budget Report, A. Vannelli / L. Noronha
A surplus budget was brought forward despite previous intentions to bring forward a balanced budget. The proposed surplus was \$2 million and the University would allocate \$1 million to operating reserves and the remaining to other reserves. Expenses or revenues for Milton were not included in this budget.

Some of the largest items impacting the budget included international student growth, increased revenue, inflation, ICT infrastructure and salary costs. Direct teaching expenses were projected to rise in order to accommodate increased enrollment. The University was assigned budget targets of 2%, however final targets averaged out to 1% across the University.

A reserve forecast was brought forward as reserves had been down over the last few years. It was noted that the reserves were needed in order to bring forward strategic initiatives in the future.

Multi-year forecasting was brought forward to provide an overview of where the University hoped to be, noting a much more sustainable track record than where the University was a year prior. The forecast worked to help meet the sector benchmark for the net income/loss ratio. The ancillary budget was projected as a surplus budget. Furthermore, a strategy to recover ancillary funds due to revenue loss from the pandemic was project to recover by the 2024-25 or 2025-26 fiscal year.

The capital budget was not brought forward for approval as expenses at the time did not exceed \$5 million.

Senators discussed: why money was being invested in high flex technology as it had not been an approved modality; expenses for Milton and how current expenses were being reflected; who receives the recovery fee for international student enrollment; how the projected international student growth was forecasted.

MOTION (J. Newman/L. McLeod) that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2022-2023 Budget Report. Carried.

b. **Senate Governance Committee, S. Ramsay**

i. Ex-Officio Membership on Senate, A. Vannelli

A motion was being brought forward to add the Associate Vice-President Academic, Associate Vice-President Equity Diversity & Inclusion and the Associate Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives as ex officio members of Senate. In order to make these changes, the by-laws needed to be amended to note the membership.

Senators discussed: at what point Senate would become too large; concerns surrounding the student voice becoming more diluted.

MOTION (S. Ramsay/G. Brockett) that on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, Senate approve three ex-officio members to Senate as follows:

- **Associate Vice-President of Indigenous Initiatives**
- **Associate Vice-President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**
- **Associate Vice-President, Academic. Carried.**

MOTION (S. Ramsay/G. Brockett) that on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, Senate approve the Senate By-Laws as revised. Carried.

ii. Faculty Apportionment of Senate, A. Kornobis

In response to the new ex-officio members being approved to Senate, apportionment of faculty members needed to take place, to ensure Senate was made up of more than 50% faculty. The proposed changes would increase Senate from 77 members to 83 members.

MOTION (S. Ramsay/A. Clarke) that on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, Senate approve the Faculty apportionment of Senate for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, as presented. Carried.

3. **Matters from the Consent Section of the agenda**

None.

4. **Other Business**

None.

5. **Adjournment**

C. Consent Items

The following items were provided for approval or information. The items noted for approval will be approved by consent unless otherwise highlighted during item A.1.a.

1. **Items for Approval**

- a. Agenda
- b. Minutes, Senate, March 8, 2022
- c. Senate Governance Committee Terms of Reference
MOTION that on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, Senate approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Senate Governance Committee.
- d. Policy 2.8, Honorary Degree and Order of Wilfrid Laurier University
MOTION that on the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee, Senate approve Policy 2.8, Honorary Degree and Order of Wilfrid Laurier University.

2. **Items for Information**

- a. Report of the Senior Executives
- b. COU Academic Colleague Report
- c. 2021-2022 Annual Report of Undergraduate and Graduate Cyclical Program Reviews