



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Notice of Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

at 3:00pm - 4:30pm

306 Lumbers

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Minutes of January 13, 2015 meeting
4. Business Arising
5. Dean's Report to Council
 - **The Dean intends to report on the FSc submission to the Institutional Strategic Directions document: for Discussion and Input**
6. Associate Deans' and Bethune Master's Remarks
7. Reports from Science Representatives on Senate Committees
8. Reports from Standing Committees of Council
 - Executive Committee
 - Executive Committee's Vacancies Report on Senate and FSc Committees (item for information)
9. Inquiries and Communications
 - Senate Synopsis: Meeting of Senate: November 27, December 11, 2014 and January 22, 2015
10. Any Other Business
 - The RA Jarrell Book Prize in Science and Technology Studies' (item for information)



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

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**Tuesday, January 13, 2015
at 3:00pm - 4:30pm
306 Lumbers**

Minutes

Attendance: A. Mills, R. Jayawardhana, P. Cribb, E. J. Janse van Rensburg, M. Bayfield, B. L. Taylor, I. Garbouz, W. Tholen, D. Golemi-Kotra, J. Dumitrescu, R. Tsushima, D. Wilson, P. Wilson, J. Kreller-Vanderkooy, R. McLaren, B. Woodley, J. Deghani, E. Hamm, A. Rafieian-Karpacei, P. Moroz, W. Booth, D. Hastie, K. Maltman, W. Taylor, V. Tsoukanova, S. Siyakatshana (Assistant Secretary)

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair of Council, Dr. Alex Mills, called the meeting to order and the Agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Chair's Remarks

Dr. Mills welcomed Council members to the meeting and wished members well in 2015.

3. Minutes of December 9, 2014 meeting

A motion was moved, seconded and moved to approve Minutes of December 9, 2014.

4. Business Arising

There was no Business Arising from the Minutes.

5. Dean's Report to Council

Dean Jayawardhana updated Council that the call had gone out for the President's Teaching Awards with a deadline in early February. He encouraged Faculty to nominate their colleagues for this award. He also announced the new appointment of Almira Mun, Assistant Dean, Strategic Enrolment Management and Science Engagement Programs who joined Science effective January 15, 2015. Prior to joining York, she held the role of Marketing Director at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies, and before that she worked at York's Faculty of Environmental Studies and at UofT's Rotman School of Management.

He updated Council that the York Research Chair competition results would be announced later this week. The Dean was

hopeful that the Science faculty would have some good news to share on the competition. There will be another competition later on during the year.

The Dean added that the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Faculty of Science are well underway. The Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry have already held two events, one each. STS had also confirmed two events coming up and a couple of high profile events were planned in the coming months. The Departments of Mathematics and Biology were also working on additional events as well targeted at effectively reaching out to high school students and their teachers. Details on the Gala celebration to be held on May 1st, would be announced in due course.

Dean Jayawardhana announced that the Faculty of Science and the Toronto Public Library are planning a joint high profile public event at the Toronto Reference Library on May 6th. This event is expected to feature five faculty members from Science with one representing each department. In addition, there will be an external speaker for the evening event and this was anticipated to draw a large crowd. More details to follow.

6. Associate Deans' and Bethune Master's Remarks

Associate Dean Janse van Rensburg informed faculty members that the anomaly exercise had now been completed. He requested faculty who had not been contacted by now with feedback to follow up with his office. In addition, faculty members who had not yet submitted their CVs were reminded to do so by the new deadline of February 1, 2014. He also encouraged members to volunteer and fill up outstanding vacancies on the Standing Committees of Council.

Associate Dean Tsushima updated Council on the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. The \$1.3 billion program targets very high research teams who are at the fore front of their research and have an international presence. The first deadline is March 2, 2015. The Centre for Vision Research has been invited to go forward. There will be a second competition with the deadline of October 30, 2015. A number of research teams have been invited by the VPRI Office, including the one led by Derek Wilson, to submit applications for consideration for the second competition. The total fund available for the first round is \$350 million; the second is \$950 million, both being spread over seven years.

NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Awards – Council was informed that the university received forty-one awards, and the

deadline for students to submit applications is Friday January 23rd. Results will be announced in early March. NSERC has announced the call for the prestigious prizes (Steacie Fellowship, Herzberg Medal, Polyani Polanyi Award) and the deadline is March 1st. Faculty members were encouraged to send their applications for this award.

Associate Dean Cribb reminded faculty members about the Academic Innovation Fund Competition that had a deadline of February 6th. With respect to the response to the AAPR Task Force he informed Council that he would be meeting with undergraduate as well as graduate students in order to discuss and determine how their input can be incorporated into the FSC response to the Task Force.

He referred to an anonymous advertising email that had been received university-wide indicating to students that they can have their assignments written by contacting a provided website address. He requested faculty to remind all their students about academic honesty. He also hoped that student course outlines had a link directing students to the Senate policy on academic integrity. He encouraged faculty to discourage their students from breaching academic honesty. Students, Faculty and Staff were requested to pull down any advertisements offering to complete student assignments.

7. Reports from Science Representatives on Senate Committees

There were no reports.

8. Reports from Standing Committees of Council

Executive Committee’s Vacancies Report on Senate and FSc Committees

Council noted the outstanding vacancies and members were encouraged to volunteer on Standing Committees of Council.

Committee on Teaching and Learning

Council Approval on The RA Jarrell Book Prize in Science and Technology Studies.

Council noted the update on the the RA Jarrell Book Prize in Science and Technology Studies.

9. Inquiries and Communications

9.1 Presentation by Nick Ruest, Digital Assets Librarian on the Library’s Research Data Management Offerings

Nick Ruest informed Council members about his role and how he could support faculty members. He explored the library website and illustrated to faculty how they can access and utilize the site. He encouraged faculty members to contact him well ahead of time if they needed support with their research management proposal for grant applications or projects.

9.2 Senate Synopsis: 608th Meeting of Senate: November 27, 2014

Council noted the 608th Senate Synopsis.

10. Any Other Business

There was no any other business.

Chair of Council, A. Mills

Assistant Secretary of Council, S. Siyakatshana

2014 - 2015 Executive Committee Report of Vacancies on Senate and FSc Committees

Vacancies still outstanding as of February 6, 2015

Science Curriculum Committee

1 vacancy for an elected member

Committee on Examinations and Academic Standards

- 1 alternate vacancy for Chemistry
- 1 alternate vacancy for Student Representative

Appeals Committee

1 vacancy for STS

Committee on Teaching and Learning

- 1 vacancy for STS
- 1 vacancy for Physics & Astronomy
- 1 vacancy for a graduate student

Please note that for the **Committee on Research and Awards**

- G. Audette replaced J. Chen who is on Maternity Leave

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

**of the 608th Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, November 27, 2014**

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, welcomed Senators to Glendon and advised that Senate Executive would announce shortly whether or not the December meeting would be held as scheduled.

President Mamdouh Shoukri reported that a committee composed of deputy ministers and the President of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario would soon begin evaluating applications for funding under the Major Capital Expansion framework. The University's York in York Region campus bid is one of thirteen proposals deemed eligible for the competition. Dr Shoukri also commented on the provincial government's consideration of possible revisions to the funding formula for universities.

Major Reports

Senate finalized its discussion of Provost Rhonda Lenton's October report on enrolments, complement and major planning contexts and initiatives.

Senate received and discussed the autumn report of Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer on the budget context for academic planning.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor Turlakis, transmitted a record of the most recent Colleagues' meeting.

Approvals

On a recommendation by the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved the establishment of a Graduate Diploma in Quantitative Methods.

Senate Committee Information Items

Senate Executive confirmed that amendments to the rules and procedures of the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Faculty Council it had reviewed were consistent with principles of collegial governance and practices elsewhere at the University (but that it had asked that Council adopt the terminology of "contract faculty member" and "teaching assistant" in describing certain categories of members). It was also reported that the chairs and secretaries of Senate committees had convened for their autumn meeting.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy reported that it had approved the following:

School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design

- a change in the rubric for the interdisciplinary Fine Arts courses from INFA to AMPD

Faculty of Graduate Studies:

- minor change to the requirements for the Master of Disaster & Emergency Management program (classifying the existing MRP requirement as a 6 credit course; adding three new courses to the list of elective credits)

- a minor change to the requirements for the MA and PhD programs Psychology (splitting the existing requirement of two 3-credits research methods courses in the PhD program to one 3-credit research methods course in each of the MA and PhD programs).

ASCP also advised that it is pursuing a number of key policy initiatives, including possible conversion of the undergraduate grade scale from 9 points to four, adoption of “Withdrew from Course” into the common grading scheme for undergraduate Faculties, and guidelines for mid-term examinations held outside of class time.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research provided a summary of the November 13 planning forum it sponsored on the topic of “Academic Priorities: Contexts, Planning and Implementation,” stimulating a discussion of recommendations contained in the AAPR Academic Task Force report.

For information on these items please refer to the full Senate agenda posted online.

University Secretariat extension 55310.

Subject to confirmation, Senate’s 609th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.
on Thursday, December 11, 2014
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus.

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

**of the 609th Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, December 11, 2014**

Remarks

In the absence of the Chair of Senate, the Vice-Chair, Professor George Comninel greeted Senators at the end of the Fall Term and the run up to the year-end break. Professor Ian Roberge served as the Acting Vice-Chair for the meeting.

President Mamdouh Shoukri reported on a positive visit to Turkey as part of a mission led by the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities to explore opportunities for research and teaching partnerships in that country. He also indicated that senior government officials have intensified their review of the funding formula for universities, and Dr Shoukri continues working to ensure that York is properly understood in this context as a comprehensive, research-focused institution. Looking back on a memorable and significant year, the President pointed to numerous accomplishments and milestones.

Reports

Senate received a synopsis of the Board of Governors meeting of October 6, 2014 conveyed by Senators on the Board, Professors Angelo Belcastro and David Leyton-Brown.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor George Turlakis, presented COU's November Issues Update and in doing so drew special attention to a new curriculum approval regime created by MTCU whereby "non-contentious" proposals could receive expedited clearance under certain conditions but might also be subjected to more rigorous scrutiny, including evidence of consultations with other institutions.

Vice-President Research and Innovation Robert Haché presented his autumn report on research performance and major initiatives. External funding amounts have increased markedly in recent years and rankings demonstrate a growing recognition of the quality and impact of York research. Even so, research intensity has not reached the levels called for in the University Academic Plan and Strategic Research Plan and steps are being taken to promote a broad dialogue leading to concrete measures to boost intensification.

Accommodation for Students on March 11, 2015

Senate approved a motion declaring March 11, 2015 a day of academic accommodation and asking the Deans and Principal to advise course directors that they should:

- avoid scheduling exams, tests, presentations or other work on that date
- establish reasonable extensions of deadlines for other graded work due that date

provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who choose to attend the March 11, 2015 Day of Action, including reasonable alternative access to materials covered during their absence.

Approvals

On recommendations made by the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved

- the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree program in Psychology, Glendon
- the closure of the Master in Public Administration Program, Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies

Senate Committee Information Items

The Executive Committee provided a rationale for holding a meeting of Senate in December (to deal with business arising from the November meeting and to deal with other time-sensitive matters).

Academic Policy, Planning and Research shared a report from its Sub-Committee on Organized Research Units, urged Senators to participate in consultations conducted by the Task Force on Sustainability Research, and reported that it had approved the discontinuation of the York Ad Hoc Research Fund and the transfer of funding to the Faculties. In a resumed discussion of its November report, Senators discussed report of the Academic Task Force issued through the Academic and Administrative Program Review process and the development of an Institutional Strategic Directions document (along with Senate's role in its development and implementation).

By way of a correction to its previous report, Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy confirmed that it had agreed to a change in rubric for interdisciplinary Fine Arts courses from INFA to PANF. The Committee also reported that it had approved a series of minor modifications as follows:

Glendon

- a minor change to degree requirements for BA programs in Drama Studies, Arts, Media, Performance and Design

Faculty of Graduate Studies

- de-listing of the Diploma in Justice System Administration and the Diploma in Democratic Administration from the MPA program [diplomas will continue to be offered by the Masters in Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program and the graduate program in Political Science respectively]

Health

- a minor change to degree requirements for the BA and BSc programs in Global Health

For information on these items please refer to the full Senate agenda posted online.

University Secretariat: extension 55310.

Senate's 610th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.
on Thursday, January 22, 2015

in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus.



The Senate of York University

Synopsis

**of the 610th Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, January 22, 2015**

Remarks

The Vice-Chair, Professor George Comninel, conveyed regrets from the Chair, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, and extended Senate's condolences on her bereavement. Professor Ian Roberge served as Vice-Chair for the meeting.

President Mamdouh Shoukri extended greetings to Senators at the start of the new year. The York community is greatly saddened by the tragic losses of Radika Nankissoor, a dedicated and valued employee, and Professor Brenda Zimmerman a distinguished scholar of the Schulich School of Business. The University was wonderfully profiled during a recent episode of the CBC's Rick Mercer Report, and there have been many other notable accomplishments and milestones in recent months. The Council of Ontario Universities has expressed concern over possible changes to university funding formulae and Dr Shoukri is continuing his efforts to ensure that any adjustments reflect York's stature as a comprehensive, research-intensive university. COU has also released its pre-budget submission organized around three key recommendations: full funding for future enrolment growth, provincial government matching of federal government research grants, and equitable support for international graduate students.

Reports

Under President's Items, Vice-President Academic and Provost Rhonda Lenton briefed Senate on preliminary 2015-2016 application data released by the Ontario University Application Centre. Although the results are disappointing, efforts are underway to enhance conversion rates and there is much that faculty, staff and students can do to assist in the current cycle and over the longer term.

Under the auspices of Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Vice-Provost Academic Alice Pitt reported on the nature and implications for York of changes to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' approval regime.

Both presentations are available from the Senate Website.

Approvals

Senate approved an Executive Committee recommendation to add an annual Convocation *In Absentia*, normally in February, and a recommendation of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to authorize the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates at the February 2015 Convocation *In Absentia*.

On recommendations made by the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved

- the establishment of a BSc Program in Mathematical Biology, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science
- the establishment of a Co-Op Option for BEng and BSc Programs, Lassonde School of Engineering
- closure of the Certificate in Non-Profit Management, Department of Social Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- closure of the General Certificate in Professional Ethics, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- a change in the name of the BA Program in Portuguese Studies to the BA Program in Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

Senate Committee Information Items

The Executive Committee thanked former Senator David Cappadocia for his service to Senate and informed Senate that it had

- approved two individuals nominated for membership on Senate committees by student Senators
- established a working group to develop recommendations on the membership of Senate
- concurred with recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials as a result of which sixteen individuals previously approved have been renewed for a further term while another twelve have been added to the pool of prospective candidates
- approved ten Faculty Council membership lists for 2014-2015

Senate Executive also encouraged the nomination of worthy individuals for honorary degrees, particularly women, scientists, and, in anticipation of hosting the Pan American Games, those from throughout the Americas.

The Appeals Committee submitted its annual report on Faculty and Senate student appeals and petitions cases, outcomes and trends.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research provided information on the following matters:

- key aspects of the academic planning cycle from January to June
- the status of an Institutional Strategic Directions document and its relationship to Senate and academic plans
- the Committee's intention to refer to others or take up itself recommendations 2-33 of the AAPR Academic Task Force
- approval of the James and Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering
- its response to a suggestion about a briefing on the University's financial statements

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy reported that it had approved minor degree requirement changes for the following:

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

BA programs in German Studies

BA programs in Italian Culture

BA programs in Italian Studies

iBA programs in LA&PS (Anthropology; Communication Studies; European Studies; French Studies; Geography; German Studies; History; Humanities; Italian Studies; Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies; Political Science; Social Science; Urban Studies)

School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design

BA and BA Minor Film programs: Cinema & Media Studies stream

BFA Film program: Production stream

BFA Film program: Screenwriting stream

Honours Minor program in Computational Arts & Technology

School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design / Lassonde School of Engineering

Specialized Honours BA program in Digital Media

Faculty of Science

BSc programs in Environmental Biology

For information on these items please refer to the full Senate agenda posted online.

University Secretariat: extension 55310

Senate's 611th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.
on Thursday, February 26, 2015
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus.