

## Synopsis

of the 587th Meeting of Senate  
Thursday, September 27, 2012

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, William van Wijngaarden, welcomed new and continuing Senators to the first meeting of the academic year. In the course of his remarks the Chair also

- previewed major initiatives for Senate in the coming year
- spoke of the rich intellectual capital at York even as all universities face financial challenges
- announced that he would attend meetings of Faculty Councils in the autumn to convey greetings from Senate
- encouraged Senators to participate in the Convocation ceremonies to be held October 10-12
- urged proponents of major initiatives to consult with the University Secretariat at an early opportunity to ensure timely consideration of proposals

The University President, Mamdouh Shoukri, expressed his enthusiasm at the start of a new academic year, and also commented on the following:

- the Strategic Mandate agreement process and the foundation provided by the Provostial White Paper and University Academic Plan in York's vision statement (see Vice-President's Reports, below)
- the public policy context for postsecondary education, challenges facing all universities, and the particular implications for York of recent developments
- progress in the development of a new academic budget model
- efforts to build a community of care and concern to enhance safety and security on the University's campuses
- recipients of honorary degrees at the autumn Convocation (music producer Bernie Finkelstein, Olympian Clara Hughes, former York Board Chair Paul Cantor, social worker Rick Tobias, and major benefactor Donald Stewart)
- notable accomplishments by student athletes and faculty members

### Approvals

Senate elected Jacqueline Choiniere (Nursing, Health) to the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, and approved:

- the re-naming of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering to the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and b) the transfer of the Department of Earth and Space Science and Engineering and the renamed Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Faculty of Science and Engineering to the Lassonde School of Engineering together with the programs of the Departments, effective May 1, 2013 (Academic Policy, Planning and Research recommendation)
- the granting of degree, diplomas, and certificates at Convocations from September 2012 to June 2013 (Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy recommendation)
- the re-naming of the General Certificate in Women's Studies to the General Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies and the Advanced Certificate in Women's Studies to the Advanced Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies )Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy recommendation

## **Notice of Motion to Establish a New Degree Type**

Senate received notice of the intention of Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy to move the establishment of a Bachelor of Engineering degree (BEng).

## **Vice-President's Reports**

The Provost, Patrick Monahan, facilitated a discussion of a draft of "Institutional Vision, Proposed Mandate Statement and Priority Objectives: A Submission to Begin the Process of Developing Strategic Mandate Agreements" and received comments and suggestions from Senators.

The Vice-President Research and Innovation, Robert Haché, provided an overview of the Strategic Research Plan process and principles, and received Senators' views on *University Academic Plan* references to research intensification and partnerships.

## **Committee Information Items**

Senate Executive reported on the following items:

- no actions taken under summer authority
- the activities of its Working Group on External Partnerships
- the results of a survey of Senators conducted in July
- its review of rule changes adopted by the Environmental Studies Council and the Osgoode Hall Law School Council
- approval of individuals nominated for membership on Faculty-designated committees

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy informed Senate of actions taken under summer authority and decisions taken by the Quality Council on program proposals submitted by the University.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research provided Senate with information on the following items:

- the Committee's review of a draft Strategic Mandate Agreement submission
- preliminary enrolment outlook
- its concurrence with recommendations to establish chairs in Financial Accounting, Operations Management, Organizational Studies, and Strategic Management, International Business and International Entrepreneurship at Schulich
- the Committee's role in the Strategic Research Plan process
- receipt of an external review of Organized Research Units deeded to the Sub-Committee on ORUs
- sub-committee memberships and external linkages for 2012-2013
- a briefing on a transformed Innovation York
- the development of priorities for 2012-2013

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

**Senate's 588<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25**

**University Secretariat Ext. 55310**