The Senate of York University

**Synopsis**

of the 590th Meeting of Senate

Thursday, January 24, 2013

**Remarks**

The Chair of Senate, Professor William van Wijngaarden welcomed Interim Dean Ron Owston (Education) and the newly elected Chair of the Senate Appeals Committee, Professor Anne MacLennan, and confirmed that communications received in November had been forwarded to the appropriate committees.

President Mamdouh Shoukri commented on the following matters:

• the public policy context for postsecondary education at a time of political uncertainty

• the status of a review of Strategic Mandate Agreement submissions by the Higher Education

Quality Council of Ontario

• the likelihood of budget cuts to postsecondary institutions following on the last provincial budget

• options under consideration by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for the expansion of on-line delivery in Ontario and the University’s desire to participate in relevant discussions with the government and the Council of Ontario Universities

• York’s standing on Key Performance Indicators and efforts to improve them

• the timing of an announcement from Queen’s Park of a new tuition fee framework

• enhanced safety measures and ongoing engagement with the University community, adjacent residents, and Toronto Police Services

• recent major accomplishments by faculty members and students

**Notice of Statutory Motion (Establishment of Lassonde Departments)**

The Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee gave notice of its intention to recommend that Senate approve a statutory motion to establish the departments of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Chemical in the Lassonde School of Engineering as of May 1, 2013.

**Vice-Presidents’ Reports**

Provost Rhonda Lenton provided Senate with information on Winter 2013 enrolments and described plans to enhance recruitment as a result of lower applications from direct entry students (preliminary data point to increased numbers of international and non-secondary school applicants).

**Communications**

A synopsis of the December meeting of the Board of Governors was included with the agenda.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor Paul Axelrod, briefed Senate on a report issued by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario on productivity which included a pilot study of faculty member workloads.

**Approvals**

Senate approved recommendations of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to

• establish a United States Studies Program in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

• establish a Certificate in Managing International Trade and Investment, Schulich School of

Business

• close the Certificate in Business Fundamentals, School of Administrative Studies, Faculty of

Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

• and close the Joint JD/JD and JD/LLM Programs between York University and New York

University (NYU), Osgoode Hall Law School

**Committee Information Items**

Senate Executive’s report included information on

• the addition of six individuals recommended by the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and

Ceremonials to the pool of prospective Honorary Degree Recipients

• the general approach adopted by the Working Group on External Partnerships in finalizing a report due no later than the end of March following the granting of a six-week extension by Senate Executive

• the development of a work plan by the Sub-Committee on Equity, which will discuss academic accommodations for students with disabilities

• current committee vacancies

Academic Policy, Planning and Research informed Senate about

• the approval process that applies to a proposal to establish York Research Chairs

• the disposition of recent inquiries about tenure and promotions procedures and the November

2012 report to Senate by the Vice-President Finance and Administration

• the most recent report of the Sub-Committee on ORUs

• an agreement that documents, including slide decks, would be provided in advance of all meetings

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy reported its approval of minor changes in degree requirements for the following:

• Bachelor of Public Administration program, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

• the Software Development Stream of both the BA and BASc Programs in Computer Science, Science and Engineering

• the Biomedical Science Stream of the BSc in Biology, Science and Engineering

In joint report, Academic Policy, Planning and Research and Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy advised that members of both committees had participated in a workshop as part of consultations on E-Learning strategies, and shared a report from the Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (which stressed the necessity of submitting notice of intentions to develop curriculum and major modification proposals before they are developed, using the appropriate templates available from on the Quality Assurance Website, and ensuring that degree level expectations are addressed in all submissions).

The Senate Appeals Committee’s report contained the annual statistical report on Faculty- and Senate- level adjudications along with information on other matters.

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

**Senate’s 591st meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2013.**

**University Secretariat extension 55310**