

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

of the 593rd Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, April 25, 2013

Remarks

The Chair of Senate greeted Senators as the Winter Term concluded and the Summer session was about to begin, thanking outgoing student Senators and wishing them success on examinations and final papers. He reported that the Vice-Provost Students had consulted him about academic accommodations for students who resided in a townhome heavily damaged in a fire, confirmed that Senate's meeting in May would begin at 2:30, and saluted Senator David Leyton-Brown on his service, now ending, as Master of Calumet College.

President Mamdouh Shoukri provided Senate with an environmental scan which covered the following external and internal items:

- the review of Strategic Mandate Agreement submissions conducted by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario and the advice HEQCO gave to the government
- the tuition free framework announced by Queen's Park for the next three years, during which time increases will be no more than 3 per cent on average
- the budget challenges facing York (and other Ontario and Canadian universities) and the need to continue investing in academic priorities
- the awarding of 4 Canada Research Chairs to York, which both illustrates research intensification and will lead to further success
- progress being made by PRASE teams and an event on May 9 that will feature AIF projects
- major donations for the Lassonde School of Engineering, the Graduate Program in Philosophy, and Greek History
- the designation of York as one of Canada's Greenest Employers

Dr Shoukri also announced the names of individuals who will receive honorary degrees at Spring Convocation ceremonies.

Approvals

Senate approved the *Strategic Research Plan 2013-2018: Building on Strengths* on a recommendation from the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee. The document was created through an intensive collegial process led by the Vice-President Research and Innovation and an Advisory Committee composed of members from across the University and the external community.

Senate approved a *Policy and Guidelines on Bridging Programs* as recommended by the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee.

Referrals

A proposal to adjust the membership of Senate to allow for the creation of the Lassonde School of Engineering was withdrawn by Senate Executive to permit further study.

Reports

Senators on the Board of Governors presented a synopsis of the Board meeting of April 22, 2013.

Committee Information Items

Senate Executive advised that it continues to welcome nominations and expressions of interest in service on Senate committees and other Senate-elected positions.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy facilitated a discussion of a draft Policy and Guidelines on Co-Registration Options with Ontario Post-Secondary Institutions and informed Senate that it had approved the following minor curriculum proposals:

Faculty of Graduate Studies

- minor change to requirements for the MSc Program in Business Analytics (increasing credit value of the MRP from 6 to 9).
- approval of a new course rubric (MSBA) for use by the MSc Program in Business Analytics
- minor change to requirements for the International MBA Program

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

- Minor changes to requirements for the BA programs in Children's Studies (edits to the list of courses from which students are required to take a defined number of credits)

Academic Policy, Planning and Research informed Senate that there would not be a traditional spring planning forum, but, through the Chair, advised that consideration is being given to an alternative, open event to discuss academic priorities in the current budget context. It also provided Senate with reports from its Sub-Committee on Organized Research Units as well as the annual reports of the three VPRI-supported sub-committees in its reporting line. APPRC announced that it supports efforts to better profile faculty members on the Web given the extensive use of University Websites by prospective graduate student applicants as they contemplate options.

The Senate Committee on Awards announced that it had selected Professor Stan Shapson and Professor Paul Wilkinson as the 2013 University Professors and that the following individuals had been chosen to receive 2013 President's University-Wide Teaching Awards:

- Dawn Bazely, Senior Full-time Faculty Member
- Peter Tsasis, Full-time Faculty Member
- Annette Bickford, Contact and Adjunct Faculty Member
- Janet Melo-Thaiss, Teaching Assistant

Congratulations were extended to all. The Awards Committee confirmed that it would consult with the Provost and others as a follow-up to the discussion at Senate in March about the low rate at which students renew entrance scholarships

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

University Secretariat extension 55310.

Senate's 594th meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013.