

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

of the 599th Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, December 12, 2013

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Mykitiuk, greeted Senators at the end of the Fall term and noted that Senate would meet for 600th time in January 2014, an occasion that will be commemorated.

President Shoukri expressed his thanks to Senators and the community for their dedication, and provided Senate with an overview of the key issues for York and other Ontario universities – the government's Differentiation Policy Framework and the development of related Strategic Mandate Agreements. While optimistic that York's size, diverse programs and recognized excellence will stand the University in good stead, these are the most consequential public policy initiatives in many years. The President's presentation was posted online with other documentation for the meeting (for this and other reports mentioned in the synopsis, see link at the bottom of the page)

Establishment of a Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science

On a recommendation from the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senate approved a statutory motion to establish a Department of Science and Technology Studies in the Faculty of Science and to recommend approval of the Department by the Board of Governors. Subject to approval by the Board, the STS programs currently housed in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies will move to the Department.

Reports

Senators on the Board of Governors transmitted a synopsis of the Board's meeting of December 9, 2013.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities shared the most recent COU Update, and highlighted initiatives related to access, Aboriginal students, and the organization's current advocacy campaigns.

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Vice President Haché presented his annual research report with a focus on indicators of research impact and other rankings, together with a summary of major research achievements in the past year.

Approvals

Senate approved recommendations of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to establish a York University English as a Second Language Bridging Program (YUBridge) through the York University English Language Institute, and to amend *Thesis, Dissertation and Supervision Guidelines* for the Faculty of Graduate Studies to accommodate the adoption of an Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) submission platform

Committee Information Items

Senate Executive informed Senate of its facilitation of a process by which Senate will elect two Senators to serve on the Academic Sub-Committee of the Academic and Administrative Program Review Steering Committee remaining vacancies on Senate committees.

The Appeals Committee filed its annual report and in doing so advised that cases reaching the Senate level had fallen by half of in the last two years, and confirmed that the Office of the University Secretary and University Counsel will continue to conduct workshops to enhance appeals processes.

In presenting its annual report to Senate, the Awards Committee advised that recommendations for a new scholarship framework are in the final stage of consideration.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy advised that it had participated in consultations with the Experiential Education Working Group on issues of central important to the University Academic Plan's student experience objectives.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research submitted an updated chronology of its involvement in the Academic and Administrative Program Review initiative and shared the terms of reference it had endorsed for a new Major Awards Advisory Committee supported by the Vice-President Research and Innovation.

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

University Secretariat extension 55310.

Senate's 600th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2014.