The Senate of York University

Synopsis

of the 605th Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, June 26, 2014

This was the final meeting of Senate for the Vice-Chair, Amir Asif, who has been named Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science at Concordia University, and for Harriet Lewis, University Secretary and General Counsel since 1998. Both were warmly applauded and expressed heartfelt appreciation to Senators. Maureen Armstrong was welcomed as the new University Secretary and General Counsel.

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, thanked those who attended and organized Convocation ceremonies, which were presided over with dignity and enthusiasm by the new Chancellor, the Honourable Greg Sorbara. She also saluted Senators, committee chairs and members, Faculty Councils, and staff of the Secretariat for a positive, productive year in collegial governance.

Dr Shoukri commented on the York in York Region campus bid process that has resulted in the selection of the Markham Centre as the University’s preferred site. The next step is to submit a proposal to the province for creation of the new campus. He also provided an overview of memorable, inspiring and well-attended Spring 2014 Convocation ceremonies.

Provost Lenton provided preliminary graduate and undergraduate enrolment data, and in doing so emphasized the importance of efforts to convert applications into registrations.

Reports

Senators on the Board of Governors, Professors Angelo Belcastro and Marty Lockshin (who was thanked as his term ended) presented a synopsis of the Board meeting of June 23, 2014.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor Paul Axelrod, highlighted major initiatives at COU based on the May Issues Update. Professor Axelrod was congratulated for his contributions during his term.

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer presented a budget update for 2014/15 which was posted online with the meeting agenda at


Approvals

Senate approved recommendations of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee to charter the following as Organized Research Units:

The City Institute
The Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies
Institute for Research on Digital Learning (IRDLT formerly IRLT)
Senate approved recommendations of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to

- amend the Senate Policy on Sessional Dates and Scheduling of Examinations
- establish an Environmental Management and Technology Dual Credential Program between the Faculty of Environmental Studies and Seneca College
- formalize the Transition Year Program
- change the degree requirements of the Social Anthropology degree, Graduate Program in Anthropology, Faculty of Graduate Studies

**Elections**

Senate acclaimed nominees for membership on the Awards, Appeals and Tenure and Promotions committees.

**Prestigious Awards for Graduating Students**

Members of Senate joined the Awards Committee in congratulating the following recipients of prestigious awards for graduating students:

**Governor General’s Gold Medal:** Jacqueline Beaudry, PhD, Kinesiology and Health Science and Aidan Moir, MA, Communications and Culture

**Governor General’s Silver Medal:** Jeffrey Kay, BSc, Applied Math, Science (*First class with distinction*); Rebecca Atkins, BA, Psychology, Health (*With distinction*) Christina Marie Ransom, Faculty of Health, BA, Honours Psychology (*Summa cum laude*)

**Murray G. Ross Award:** Roshan Udit, BA, Honours Double Major in Criminology & Human Rights and Equity Studies, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (*Summa cum laude*)

**Committee Information Items**

Senate Executive reported on the following matters:

- the nomination of Professor David Leyton-Brown, Political Science, LA&PS, to the Board of Governors (subsequently appointed by the Board on June 23)
- remaining vacancies on Senate committees
- affirmation that the Committee is vested with summer authority between the June and September meetings of Senate
- a consolidated report on actions taken by Senate in 2013-2014
- progress made by APPRC and ASCP on priorities set for the year
• Senate attendance between September and May

The Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee reported on its response to questions about the chartering process arising from an ORU application submitted by the Institute on Research and Innovation in Sustainability, progress made on achieving priorities and its review of a draft mandate for a new Task Force on Sustainability Research sponsored by the Vice-President Research and Innovation.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research and Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy presented a report from their Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy reported on

• the Quality Council's approval of programs approved by Senate
• its approval of changes to requirements for admission to the BSc program in Global Health and a clarification regarding the fulfillment of degree requirements for the BEng program in Software Engineering.

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

University Secretariat extension -55310.

Senate’s 606th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2014.