

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

of the 607th Meeting of Senate held on
Thursday, October 23, 2014

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, reflected on an inspiring and joyful round of Autumn Convocation ceremonies, and thanked those who attended and supported events. She expressed condolences on the passing of Malcolm Ransom, Secretary of the University from 1973-1998, and former Senator and Bethune College Master Griff Cunningham. Senators were reminded that the November 27 meeting will be held in Room A100, Glendon Centre of Excellence.

In his remarks, President Shoukri shared his profound sadness about the tragic events that had occurred on Parliament Hill on October 22, and emphasized the University community's unshakeable resolve to uphold the values of respect, inclusivity and democracy. Dr Shoukri also commented on the following matters:

- uplifting messages delivered at Convocation by recipients of honorary degrees at Convocation
- a highly successful visit to India coinciding with the official opening of the Schulich School of Business campus in Hyderabad, an event that was attended by local, state and national dignitaries and attracted wide, positive media coverage for the University
- York's impressive and steady rise in the *Times* Higher Education World University Rankings whereby the University was pegged at 234 of 400 overall and placed in the top 100 for the Social Sciences and Humanities
- ongoing efforts to secure government funding for international graduate students together with continuing concerns about the growing share of education costs borne by all students through their tuition fees

Major Reports*

The Interim University Librarian, Catherine Davidson, provided an overview of York University Library initiatives of interest to faculty members and students.

Senate received a synopsis of the Board of Governors meeting of October 6, 2014 conveyed by Senators on the Board, Professors Angelo Belcastro and David Leyton-Brown.

Provost Lenton presented her autumn report on enrolments and complement.

Senate deferred consideration of the autumn report of the Vice-President Finance and Administration on the budget context for academic planning to the November meeting.

* All of these reports were made available in advance with the Senate agenda package.

Approvals

On a recommendation of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee Senate approved the transfer of the Division of Continuing Education from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies to the Division of the Vice-President Academic and Provost where it will be housed with the York University English Language Institute in a renamed School of Continuing Studies.

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

- a minor change to the Diploma in Asian Studies (Type II) such that the requirement for a graduate diploma committee be eliminated
- changes to the requirements of the MSc program in Physics & Astronomy effective Fall-Winter 2015-2016
- changes to the requirements of the PhD program in Physics & Astronomy effective Fall-Winter 2015-2016

Senate Committee Annual Reports

The Tenure and Promotions Committee and Tenure and Promotion Appeals Committee filed their annual reports for 2013-2014. In remarks at the meeting, the Chair of Tenure and Promotions drew attention to practices that would enhance and expedite processes, namely by ensuring that referees were at arm's length and obtaining commentaries from collaborators. It was also imperative that adjudicative committees link recommendations to evidence.

Senate Committee Information Items

Senate Executive informed Senate of its approval of individuals nominated by student Senators to serve on Senate committees. It also reported on Senate committee priorities for 2014-2015, remaining vacancies on Senate Committees and the membership of the Sub-Committee on Equity.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy transmitted sessional dates for summer 2015 terms and for Fall-Winter 2015-2016. Adjustments to the summer 2015 class schedule were necessitated by a concentration of Pan American games events over a four-day period that argued in favour of a full pause of course meetings during that span. It was confirmed that a group is undertaking a comprehensive planning exercise and that the University is closely involved in preparations that include security measures. Senate and the community will receive fuller details about planning in the months ahead.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research reported on

- its priorities for 2014-2015
- the date, time, location and focus of an open forum following on the release of Academic and Administrative Program Review Task Force reports
- its receipt of a September posting to the Senate listserv on the matter of AAPR
- the planning cycle for 2014-2015 and beyond
- an updated list of sub-committee members

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

University Secretariat extension 55310.

Important Scheduling Note

Senate's 608th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 27, 2014

Room A100, Centre of Excellence, Glendon.