

## **The Senate of York University**

### **Synopsis**

**of the 609th Meeting of Senate held on  
Thursday, December 11, 2014**

#### **Remarks**

In the absence of the Chair of Senate, the Vice-Chair, Professor George Comninel greeted Senators at the end of the Fall Term and the run up to the year-end break. Professor Ian Roberge served as the Acting Vice-Chair for the meeting.

President Mamdouh Shoukri reported on a positive visit to Turkey as part of a mission led by the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities to explore opportunities for research and teaching partnerships in that country. He also indicated that senior government officials have intensified their review of the funding formula for universities, and Dr Shoukri continues working to ensure that York is properly understood in this context as a comprehensive, research-focused institution. Looking back on a memorable and significant year, the President pointed to numerous accomplishments and milestones.

#### **Reports**

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.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor George Turlakis, presented COU's November Issues Update and in doing so drew special attention to a new curriculum approval regime created by MTCU whereby "non-contentious" proposals could receive expedited clearance under certain conditions but might also be subjected to more rigorous scrutiny, including evidence of consultations with other institutions.

Vice-President Research and Innovation Robert Haché presented his autumn report on research performance and major initiatives. External funding amounts have increased markedly in recent years and rankings demonstrate a growing recognition of the quality and impact of York research. Even so, research intensity has not reached the levels called for in the University Academic Plan and Strategic Research Plan and steps are being taken to promote a broad dialogue leading to concrete measures to boost intensification.

#### **Accommodation for Students on March 11, 2015**

Senate approved a motion declaring March 11, 2015 a day of academic accommodation and asking the Deans and Principal to advise course directors that they should:

- avoid scheduling exams, tests, presentations or other work on that date
- establish reasonable extensions of deadlines for other graded work due that date

provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who choose to attend the March 11, 2015 Day of Action, including reasonable alternative access to materials covered during their absence.

## **Approvals**

On recommendations made by the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved

- the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree program in Psychology, Glendon
- the closure of the Master in Public Administration Program, Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Senate Committee Information Items**

The Executive Committee provided a rationale for holding a meeting of Senate in December (to deal with business arising from the November meeting and to deal with other time-sensitive matters).

Academic Policy, Planning and Research shared a report from its Sub-Committee on Organized Research Units, urged Senators to participate in consultations conducted by the Task Force on Sustainability Research, and reported that it had approved the discontinuation of the York Ad Hoc Research Fund and the transfer of funding to the Faculties. In a resumed discussion of its November report, Senators discussed report of the Academic Task Force issued through the Academic and Administrative Program Review process and the development of an Institutional Strategic Directions document (along with Senate's role in its development and implementation).

By way of a correction to its previous report, Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy confirmed that it had agreed to a change in rubric for interdisciplinary Fine Arts courses from INFA to PANF. The Committee also reported that it had approved a series of minor modifications as follows:

Glendon

- a minor change to degree requirements for BA programs in Drama Studies, Arts, Media, Performance and Design

Faculty of Graduate Studies

- de-listing of the Diploma in Justice System Administration and the Diploma in Democratic Administration from the MPA program [diplomas will continue to be offered by the Masters in Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program and the graduate program in Political Science respectively]

Health

- a minor change to degree requirements for the BA and BSc programs in Global Health

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

University Secretariat: extension 55310.

Senate's 610th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.  
on Thursday, January 22, 2015

**in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus.**