



## **The Senate of York University**

### **Synopsis**

**of the 610th Meeting of Senate held on  
Thursday, January 22, 2015**

#### **Remarks**

The Vice-Chair, Professor George Comninel, conveyed regrets from the Chair, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, and extended Senate's condolences on her bereavement. Professor Ian Roberge served as Vice-Chair for the meeting.

President Mamdouh Shoukri extended greetings to Senators at the start of the new year. The York community is greatly saddened by the tragic losses of Radika Nankissoor, a dedicated and valued employee, and Professor Brenda Zimmerman a distinguished scholar of the Schulich School of Business. The University was wonderfully profiled during a recent episode of the CBC's Rick Mercer Report, and there have been many other notable accomplishments and milestones in recent months. The Council of Ontario Universities has expressed concern over possible changes to university funding formulae and Dr Shoukri is continuing his efforts to ensure that any adjustments reflect York's stature as a comprehensive, research-intensive university. COU has also released its pre-budget submission organized around three key recommendations: full funding for future enrolment growth, provincial government matching of federal government research grants, and equitable support for international graduate students.

#### **Reports**

Under President's Items, Vice-President Academic and Provost Rhonda Lenton briefed Senate on preliminary 2015-2016 application data released by the Ontario University Application Centre. Although the results are disappointing, efforts are underway to enhance conversion rates and there is much that faculty, staff and students can do to assist in the current cycle and over the longer term.

Under the auspices of Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Vice-Provost Academic Alice Pitt reported on the nature and implications for York of changes to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' approval regime.

Both presentations are available from the Senate Website.

#### **Approvals**

Senate approved an Executive Committee recommendation to add an annual Convocation *In Absentia*, normally in February, and a recommendation of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to authorize the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates at the February 2015 Convocation *In Absentia*.

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

- the establishment of a BSc Program in Mathematical Biology, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science
- the establishment of a Co-Op Option for BEng and BSc Programs, Lassonde School of Engineering
- closure of the Certificate in Non-Profit Management, Department of Social Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- closure of the General Certificate in Professional Ethics, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- a change in the name of the BA Program in Portuguese Studies to the BA Program in Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

### **Senate Committee Information Items**

The Executive Committee thanked former Senator David Cappadocia for his service to Senate and informed Senate that it had

- approved two individuals nominated for membership on Senate committees by student Senators
- established a working group to develop recommendations on the membership of Senate
- concurred with recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials as a result of which sixteen individuals previously approved have been renewed for a further term while another twelve have been added to the pool of prospective candidates
- approved ten Faculty Council membership lists for 2014-2015

Senate Executive also encouraged the nomination of worthy individuals for honorary degrees, particularly women, scientists, and, in anticipation of hosting the Pan American Games, those from throughout the Americas.

The Appeals Committee submitted its annual report on Faculty and Senate student appeals and petitions cases, outcomes and trends.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research provided information on the following matters:

- key aspects of the academic planning cycle from January to June
- the status of an Institutional Strategic Directions document and its relationship to Senate and academic plans
- the Committee's intention to refer to others or take up itself recommendations 2-33 of the AAPR Academic Task Force
- approval of the James and Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering
- its response to a suggestion about a briefing on the University's financial statements

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy reported that it had approved minor degree requirement changes for the following:

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

BA programs in German Studies

BA programs in Italian Culture

BA programs in Italian Studies

iBA programs in LA&PS (Anthropology; Communication Studies; European Studies; French Studies; Geography; German Studies; History; Humanities; Italian Studies; Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies; Political Science; Social Science; Urban Studies)

School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design

BA and BA Minor Film programs: Cinema & Media Studies stream

BFA Film program: Production stream

BFA Film program: Screenwriting stream

Honours Minor program in Computational Arts & Technology

School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design / Lassonde School of Engineering

Specialized Honours BA program in Digital Media

Faculty of Science

BSc programs in Environmental Biology

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

University Secretariat: extension 55310

Senate's 611th meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.  
on Thursday, February 26, 2015  
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus.