



The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 616th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, May 28, 2015

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, encouraged Senators to participate in Spring Convocation ceremonies and to invite colleagues to join in the celebration of the University's graduates. Commenting on a meeting of Senate committee chairs, she conveyed the participants' strong, positive feelings about York's future, and their pride in collegial governance.

The President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, addressed a number of important developments with special emphasis on the provincial government's selection of York – alone among nineteen competitive bids -- for a new campus. This demonstrated Queens Park's confidence in the University with its potential to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural fabric of Markham and York Region while serving a growing population. Consultations will be wide and thorough as the process leading to a final plan unfolds, and Senate's input will be especially valuable.

The University continues to seek assurances from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities that any changes in the funding formula resulting from a review headed by Susan Herbert will neither harm nor hamstring universities. York has fallen back somewhat in certain international university rankings, but continues to be recognized for its strengths. Together these phenomena reinforce the need to renew the tenure-stream in the cause of excellence in research and teaching.

Reports

The Senators on the Board of Governors, Professor Angelo Belcastro and Professor David Leyton-Brown, presented a synopsis of the Board's meeting of April 27, 2015.

Approvals

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

- a Senate Policy and Guidelines on Advance Credit Programs for Ontario Secondary School Students
- an Advanced Credit Program in Music, Department of Music, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design

Notice of Statutory Motion re Senate Membership

The Executive Committee submitted notice of its intention to recommend a statutory motion setting the membership of Senate for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

Facilitated Discussion on the Grading Scheme

Under the auspices of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Registrar Don Hunt facilitated a discussion of proposed changes to undergraduate and graduate grade scales such that course results would be expressed in standardized letters, percentages and the “numerical” or 4-point system commonly utilized by other North American universities.

Nominations and Elections

Senate acclaimed members of a number of Senate committees and authorized an e-vote to elect one of the two Senators on the Board of Governors as well as a member of the Appeals Committee.

Committee Information Reports

Senate Executive reported that it had approved the membership of Professor Craig Heron (History) as the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies member of the Committee, and also informed Senate about the following:

- the addition of 5 individuals to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients based on recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials
- proposed changes to the convocation ceremony to be more inclusive of Indigenous peoples.
- postponement until the autumn of the annual gathering with members of the Board Executive Committee
- an updated work plan for the Equity Sub-Committee as it reviews the Senate *Policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*

Senators joined the Chair of the Awards Committee in celebrating the recipients of 2015 University Professorships: Richard Hornsey, Lassonde School of Engineering; Suzanne Macdonald, Faculty of Health; and Adrian Shubert, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research presented an overview of discussions with the Deans, Principal and University Librarian.” It also advised Senate of major milestones and timelines leading to the approval of a new University Academic Plan in February 2016, reported on its consultation with the Chair of the Task Force on Sustainability Research, and announced that Professor Rebecca Pillai Riddell will serve a second term as Chair

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy advised that it had approved minor modifications to degree requirements for the MSc and PhD programs in Biology and a change in the name of the LLM program’s Specialization in Alternative Dispute Resolution to Dispute Resolution.

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

In a joint report, APPRC and ASCP conveyed the May 2015 report of the Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance which included Final Assessment Reports for recently completed Cyclical Program Reviews.

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

University Secretariat: extension 55310

**Senate's 617th meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m.
on Thursday, June 24, 2015
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus**