



# The Senate of York University

## Synopsis

The 617<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, June 25, 2015

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, thanked Senators, committee chairs and members, and the staff of the University Secretariat for their support during her now-concluding tenure as Chair. Commenting on the recent round of inspiring and often moving Convocation ceremonies, she encouraged Senators and colleagues to participate in the celebration of York graduates in future convocation ceremonies.

The President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, saluted the outgoing and incoming Chairs of Senate and addressed a number of significant developments including the following:

- impressive successes achieved by York researchers in recent funding competitions
- stirring Convocation ceremonies at one of which the graduation of Devon McPherson proved to be especially evocative of the University's embrace of diversity and its accommodative spirit
- community consultations on the draft Institutional Integrated Resource Plan
- opportunities associated with the Markham Centre campus, not least the chance to design for environmental sustainability
- the prioritization of academic activities when the next major fundraising campaign launches in 2016
- enrolment and funding challenges facing the postsecondary system as a whole

### 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 June 22, 2015.

Professor George Tourlakis, Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, presented the most recent COU Issues Update.

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Provost Lenton and Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer presented their spring report on the budget context for academic planning and major planning initiatives.

[All of these reports are housed with and may be accessed from the June meeting agenda pages on the Senate Website.]

### Approvals

On a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Senate approved a statutory motion establishing Senate's total membership and distribution of seats from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

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Senate approved recommendations of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee to change the name of the Department of Film in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design to the Department of Cinema and Media Arts, and to charter, for a period of five years beginning July 1, 2015, the following Organized Research Units:

Centre for Refugees Studies (CRS)  
Centre for Research in Mass Spectrometry (CRMS)  
Centre for Research on Biomolecular Interactions (CRBI)  
Centre for Research on Earth and Space Science (CRESS)  
Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC)  
Centre for Vision Research (CVR)  
Institute for Social Research (ISR)  
Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies (Robarts)  
York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR)

### **Nominations and Elections**

Senate acclaimed members of the Tenure and Promotions and Tenure and Promotions Appeals committees, and was advised of remaining vacancies.

### **Notice of Statutory Motion re Senate Membership**

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy submitted notice of its intention to recommend approval of a new degree type bearing the title of Masters of Leadership and Community Engagement or MLCE. The Committee will also recommend approval of a program by that name to be offered by the Faculty of Education / Faculty of Graduate Studies.

### **Committee Information Reports**

Senate Executive reported that it had approved the membership on the Executive Committee of Professor Lisa Philips, who was nominated by the Osgoode Hall Faculty Council for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2015. It also provided information on the following matters:

- the election of Professor Bernard Lightman as one of Senate's two nominees on the Board of Governors and Professor Natalie Coulter to membership on the Appeals Committee as the result of an e-ballot
- the spring meeting of Senate committee Chairs and Secretaries and progress made by committees on the priorities they established in the autumn
- affirmation that Summer Authority is vested in the Executive until the first regular meeting of Senate in September
- a consolidated report on actions taken by Senate in 2014-2015
- Senate Attendance from September 2014 to May 2015
- annual surveys of Senators and Senate committee members

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Senators joined the Awards Committee in applauding the following recipients of prestigious awards for graduating students:

*Governor-General's Gold Medals:* Sarah Anne Olwen D'Amour (Graduate Program in Psychology) and Dr David Moffette (Graduate Program in Sociology)

*Governor-General's Silver Medals:* Ali Helmi, Faculty of Health, BSc, Special Honours, Kinesiology & Health Science (Health & Kinesiology), *Summa cum Laude*; Nick Zabara, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, BA, Honours, Double Major, Professional Writing (Institutional Communications Stream) & Psychology, *Summa cum Laude*; and Julien Cossette, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, BA Special Honours, Anthropology, *Summa cum Laude*

*Murray G. Ross Award:* Atifa Karim, BES Honors, Environmental Studies (Environment and Culture) / Minor in Geography and BEd, Intermediate and Senior, *Summa cum Laude*

The Awards Committee also transmitted a report on graduate awards disbursement for 2013-2014.

The Senate Appeals Committee (SAC) reported that it had authorized the rescindment of a degree granted in 2010 after the conferee admitted to falsifying documents which facilitated admission to the University and advanced standing credit.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research transmitted a copy of the draft Institutional Integrated Resource Plan and its chair reminded Senators of an open forum on the document scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2015. The Committee also conveyed the annual reports of externally-mandated sub-committees that report to Senate through APPRC, commented on the status of ORU applications that did not proceed to the recommendation stage, and shared details on research successes provided by Vice-President Haché while reminding Senators that one of the key priority areas of the University Academic Plan 2010-2015 involves research intensification. A major focus for APPRC in 2015-2016 will be renewal of the UAP in a process that will engage Senate and the community before culminating in February 2016.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy updated Senate on legislative proposals under consideration:

- proposed Senate policies on *Withdrawn from Course (W)* and *Course Relief O*
- possible amendments to the Options for Repeating Passed or Failed Courses for Credit

ASCP also conveyed the outcomes of Quality Council decisions regarding new programs approved by Senate, all of which were positive.

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In a joint report, APPRC and ASCP conveyed the June 2015 report of the Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance which included Final Assessment Reports for recently completed Cyclical Program Reviews in History (Graduate Studies, Glendon and Liberal Arts and Professional Studies).

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

**University Secretariat: extension 55310**

**Senate's 618th meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m.  
on Thursday, September 24, 2015  
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus**