

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 627th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, June 16, 2016

Remembering Orlando

The Chair of Senate and the President reflected on the horrific acts of violence perpetrated in Orlando, Florida on June 11. In doing so they stressed the community's profound sorrow and united rejection of the hatred and intolerance represented by the shootings. Pride Month Toronto is a reminder of the need to promote and celebrate diversity while ensuring that York's campuses are welcoming and safe for all.

A statement to the community by the President, Provost and Vice-President Finance and Administration can be accessed from the Y-File archives at

<http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2016/06/13/statement-from-president-shoukri-provost-lenton-vice-president-brewer-we-stand-with-orlando/>

Remarks

At the outset of the final Senate meeting of 2015-2016, the Chair, Professor George Comninel, expressed heartfelt appreciation to Senators, committee chairs and members, and Faculty Council members and staff for their contributions to governance during the year. He urged Senators to participate in Convocation ceremonies and noted that the city's many cultural festivities can be an ideal way to enrich summer breaks.

York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, applauded Senators for their hard work and successes, extolled recipients of major research awards (including an impressive total of three of this year's fifteen Trudeau Fellows), and congratulated Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer who had been recognized for excellence by the Canadian Association of University Business Officers. The fundraising campaign continues to gain momentum, and the most recent major gifts continue to align well with the University Academic Plan while demonstrating the confidence reposed in the University by its many supporters. National Aboriginal Day, June 21, will be marked with the unveiling of an Inuit sculpture *Ahqahizu* and the awarding of an honorary degree to Jeannette Corbiere Lavell. President Shoukri also commented on the following:

- the naming of Deputy Premier Deborah Matthews to head the re-named Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development
- the status of a task force recommendation to establish a French-only university in Toronto, and the efforts the University will exert to ensure that any decision by Queen's Park will be fully and properly informed, and not detract from York's unique bilingual mandate at Glendon

The President's monthly Kudos Report was posted online with the agenda package.

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Major Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC) Provost Rhonda Lenton and Vice-President Finance reported on academic planning accomplishments and priorities as well as the budget context for academic planning. Their reports were posted online with the Senate the agenda package.

Approvals

On a recommendation of APPRC, Senate approved the chartering of the Centre for Automotive Research for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2016.

Professor Vivian Saridakis was acclaimed as a member of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee.

Senate approved recommendations of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) to:

- establish an Honours (120 credit) Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree option and revise requirements for the Bachelor of Environmental Studies program effective 2017-2018
- effect changes to the York University – Humber College Joint Program in International Project Management, the York University – Seneca Dual Credential Program in Urban Sustainability and the York University – Fleming College Dual Credential Program in Ecosystem Management Technology (all of them housed in the Faculty of Environmental Studies) effective 2017-2018

Notice of Statutory Motion

Senate Executive gave notice of its intention to recommend approval by statutory motion of an increase in the number of elected faculty members on the Appeals Committee from eight to nine.

Revised Student Appeals Procedures

The Appeals Committee submitted revised appeals procedures. Committee members and staff who have responsibilities in the domain of student appeals and petitions are asked to take special note of the revisions as summarized in the text of the report.

Committee Information Reports

Senate Executive advised that it continues to welcome expressions of interest or suggestion as it seeks to finalize the spring round of nominations and elections, and announced the results of a ballot to elect members of the Senate Appeals Committee. The Committee also informed Senate of the following:

- the addition of six individuals to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients as recommended by the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials

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- Senate attendance in 2015-2016 and the outcome of an Executive Committee discussion on ways to promote engagement
- approval of the Faculty Council membership lists for Environmental Studies, Glendon and Graduate Studies
- progress made by APPRC, ASCP and the Executive on priorities for 2015-2016 they established in the autumn
- a consolidated report on actions taken by Senate in 2015-2016
- a positive review of changes to the Faculty of Education Council's committee structures and mandates resulting in agreement that they were consistent with principles of collegial governance and practices elsewhere in the University

APPRC submitted a report entitled "Perspectives on Planning" based on discussions with the Deans, Principal and University Librarian in March and April. The document focused on approaches to planning that appeared especially promising as aids to the implementation of University Academic Plan objectives and to "making the UAP matter." The Committee also:

- provided an update on planning for the Markham Centre Campus
- transmitted annual reports Animal Care Sub-Committee, Biosafety Sub-Committee and Human Participants Review Committee
- reported that it had accepted advice from the SSHRC Travel and Small Grants Sub-Committee concerning modifications to the Grant in Aid of Travel Program (renamed the SSHRC Conference Opportunity Grant) and the SSHRC Small Grants Program (renamed the SSHRC Research Opportunity Grant Program)
- advised on the status of the Plan for the Intensification and Enhancement of Research and confirmed that a final version of the document would be shared with Senate in September

ASCP reported that it had approved:

- changes to the requirements of the PhD program in Theatre and Performance Studies (comprehensive exam structure)
- a new course rubric of "PACC" for the Diploma in Professional Accounting (Type 3).

Senators joined the Awards Committee in congratulating the following individuals chosen to receive prestigious awards for graduating students:

Governor-General's Gold Medals: Jennifer Sarah Rabin (Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology) and Leva Rouhani (Graduate Program in Sociology)

Governor-General's Silver Medals: Catherine Maria Spagnuolo (BSc Honours, Faculty of Science, First Class Standing with Distinction); Youssef Maged Kodsy (BA, Special Honours, Political Science, Liberal Arts and Professional

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Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*); Jesse Adrian Thistle (BA, Special Honours, History, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*)

The Murray G. Ross Award: Sayjon Ariyaratnam (BA Honours, Double Major in Criminology and Human Rights and Equity Studies, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies) *Summa Cum Laude*

The final reports for 2015-2016 of the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance were conveyed by APPRC and ASCP. Documentation included Final Assessment Reports for recently completed Cyclical Program Reviews (which will also be communicated to the Board of Governors and Faculty Councils) along with a summary of recommendations and suggestions made by Quality Council auditors and the development of an internal action plan by the Office of the Vice-Provost Academic and University Secretariat emerging from a pan-University retreat.

Summer Authority

The authority to act on behalf of Senate between the regular meetings of June and September is vested in the Executive Committee.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the June 16, 2016 meeting for details about these items.

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/senate/meeting-agendas-and-synopses/>

Next Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, September 22, 2016.**