

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 629th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, October 27, 2016

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor George Comninel commented on the inspiring round of ceremonies held during Fall Convocation, and thanked Senators who attended to celebrate with graduates, their families and friends.

York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, updated Senate on a number of public policy initiatives including the development of new Strategic Mandate Agreements, the finalization of a university tuition fee framework, and the culmination of an intensive review of funding formulae. In recent meetings with federal ministers, and conferences at home and abroad, President Shoukri has taken every opportunity to extol the job-ready, transferable and critical skills of York's graduates, including those primarily educated in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The University must continue to broadly educate all of its students and help them prepare for careers that will undoubtedly evolve but invariably require the enduring attributes of university students.

It was noted that misinformation has been circulating in the community regarding a student day of action on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was clarified that classes are not cancelled on November 2 as the result of Senate's approval in September of academic accommodations for students on that date.

### Approvals

On a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Senate elected Franck van Breugel as the Vice-Chair-designate. Professor van Breugel begins his term on February 1, 2017. He is slated to become the first Chair of Senate from the Lassonde School of Engineering in 2018. Senate also extended the terms of the incumbent Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate by one month, and elected Professor Anoop Madhok of Schulich to the Tenure and Promotions of Committee.

Senate approved changes to the structure of the Master of Leadership and Community Engagement Program such that it will be pegged at five terms in length rather than four (effective September 2017).

### Notice of Motion: Changes to the Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee gave notice of its intention to add the requirement that a basic course syllabus be available to students no later than two weeks prior to the commencement of classes in an academic term, to take effect in all undergraduate Faculties by 1 July 2018. Senators provided the Chair of ASCP, Professor Lisa Farley, with timely feedback and advice.

### Institutional Integrated Resource Plan Reports and Recommendations

Following on two successful forums sponsored by the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Provost Lenton and Vice-President Finance and Administration Brewer engaged Senators in a discussion of IIRP working group reports and

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recommendations. As they embark on further consultations focusing on Faculty Councils, the Provost and Vice-President are especially hopeful of strong collegial input into priorities, opportunities, timelines and processes.

### **Academic Colleague's Report**

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor David Leyton-Brown, reported on recent meetings of COU, with special attention to discussion of the "Report of the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel, Building The Workforce Of Tomorrow" as well as the goals and nature of COU's own Conversation for a Better Future, a public consultation featuring an online survey open to any citizen of the province. Senators were encouraged to participate in the survey.

### **Sessional Dates for Summer 2017 and Fall-Winter 2017-2018**

ASCP advised that it had reviewed proposed sessional dates for Summer 2017 and Fall-Winter 2017-2018 and confirmed that they were consistent with Senate policy. The dates were posted online with the agenda.

### **Committee Information Reports**

Senate Executive reported on

- its approval of members of Senate committees nominated by Faculty Councils and student Senators
- the membership and work plan of the Equity Sub-Committee
- Senate committee priorities for 2016-2017
- plans to spotlight one of the seven priority areas of the University Academic Plan at Senate meetings in 2016-2017

Academic Policy, Planning and Research shared the most recent written report on planning for the Markham Centre campus along with a preliminary schedule for highlighting UAP priority areas at meetings of Senate.

In its report ASCP confirmed approval of the following minor modifications:

- changes to requirements of the PhD program in Sociology
- changes to requirements of the PhD program in Science & Technology Studies
- changes to requirements of the PhD program in Psychology
- establishment of COMS as a rubric for the new BA program in Communications, Glendon

### **Additional Information about this Meeting**

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the October 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, November 24, 2016.**