

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 631st Meeting of Senate  
held on Thursday, January 26, 2017

### Remarks

Presiding over his final meeting as Chair, Professor George Comninel expressed appreciation to Senators for their ongoing support during his terms as Vice-Chair and Chair. He thanked his predecessor, Roxane Mykitiuk, successor Lesley Beagrie, and University Secretary Maureen Armstrong and her University Secretariat colleagues for their assistance and guidance. He spoke of an experience that was both enlightening and rewarding, and he urged Senators to sustain and enhance collegial governance, which remains essential to the life of the University. Senators applauded Professor Comninel, who served with distinction and dedication, as he received and flourished a commemorative gavel presented to him by the Secretary. As he had on several previous occasions, Professor Ian Roberge served as Acting Vice-Chair for the meeting and the Vice-Chair-elect, Franck van Breugel, was introduced and welcomed. The Chair expressed condolences on the passing of three individuals who had contributed to Senate and its committees over the years: Dean David Bell, Professor David Logan and Professor Tim Edgar.

York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, joined in celebrating Professor Comninel and in doing so stressed an unparalleled depth of governance knowledge and experience. The President was pleased to report that applications to York from high school graduates were running well ahead of the system average and results for other GTA universities. A 5.4 per cent rise in first choice applications was especially heartening, and he praised those responsible for strategic enrolment management strategies and to all members of the community for helping to achieve an impressive boost. Applications from those not coming directly from high school were also forecast to be strong. The focus will now fall on converting applicants into registrants.

Dr Shoukri also commented on the following:

- a visit to the Keele campus by Premier Wynne and her positive encounters with students
- final confirmation of government funding for the Markham Centre Campus, a milestone that coincides with the accelerating development of academic program proposals that will inform the design of the facility
- the status of a provincial postsecondary funding review and its relationship to the pending Strategic Mandate Agreement negotiations
- the tuition fee framework announced by Queen's Park (no decision has yet been made on how the three per cent overall cap will be applied at the University)
- approval by the Board of Governors of a *Policy on Sexual Violence* and steps to its implementation
- efforts to improve the participation rate for this year's National Survey of Student Engagement

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In response to questions about risks associated with demographic trends and policy contexts, the President stressed the need for the community to rally around the vision of York as a comprehensive, research-intensive institution and to contribute to its realization.

### Reports

Senate's nominees to the Board of Governors, Professors Bernard Lightman and Lauren Sergio, presented synopses of the Board meetings of November 29 and December 14, 2016.

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor David Leyton-Brown, reported on recent facilitated discussions at colleagues' meetings devoted to quality indicators, experiential learning and student learning outcomes.

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC) Senate received and discussed Provost Rhonda Lenton's overview of the nature and implications of negotiations with the province for new Strategic Mandate Agreements

### Senate Elections

Senate approved a slate of nominees for election to Senate committees and other positions, an action that resulted in acclamations or e-votes scheduled to begin on January 30.

### Policy Amendments

Senate approved a recommendation of APPRC to amend the *Senate Policy on Organized Research Units*.

### Curriculum Approvals

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

- the establishment of a Co-Registration Option in Chemistry between York and Seneca, Faculty of Science
- a change in the name and revision of degree and admission requirements, PhD Program in Computer Science, Lassonde School of Engineering / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- the closure of the Joint York-Seneca BSc (Tech) Program in Applied Biotechnology, Faculty of Science
- changes to degree requirements, Master of Social Work, Faculty of Graduate Studies

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- changes to degree requirements, BFA Program in Visual Arts, Faculty of Arts, Media, Performance and Design
- changes to degree requirements, BDEM Program in Disaster and Emergency Management Program, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

### Committee Information Items

Senate Executive reported on the following items:

- its approval of Faculty Council nominees for membership on Senate committees
- remaining committee vacancies for 2017 – 2020 terms and the positive impact made by changes in the nominations process instituted in 2016
- timelines for the bi-annual review of Senate membership
- confirmation that changes to Faculty Council rules and procedures submitted by Graduate Studies and Science were consistent with principles of collegial governance and practices elsewhere at the University
- the establishment of a group comprised of members of the Senate and Board Executive committees to consider the re-appointment of the Chancellor, and an invitation to Senators to comment on the prospect of re-appointing Chancellor Sorbara
- timelines set by the Sub-Committee on Equity for the completion of its review of the Senate Policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

APPRC reported that it had elected Professor Les Jacobs as Chair from January to June 2017. It also provided information on the questions to be explored in upcoming meetings with the Deans, Principal and University Librarian and consultations with Faculty Councils on tracking progress on academic objectives. APPRC conveyed the most recent report of the Sub-Committee on Organized Research Units. As a centerpiece of the meeting, facilitated discussion by Senators of objectives in *University Academic Plan 2015-2020* priority number 2 (Advancing Exploration, Innovation and Achievement in Scholarship, Research and Related Creative Activities).

### Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

ASCP advised that the Registrar has agreed to adopt a three-year outlook for Sessional Dates and described an editorial amendment to the Senate Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course (W) Option. Modifications to curriculum and degree requirements approved by the Committee in December and January were the following:

Glendon

- minor changes to the Certificate in Technical and Professional Communication, School of Translation

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- establishment of LYON as a new rubric for the York-EM Lyon Dual Credential BBA – ILST program, Department of International Studies

### Health

- minor changes to the degree requirements for the Specialized Honours BA and BSc programs in Global Health

### Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

- minor changes to the degree requirements for the BSW program, School of Social Work
- minor changes to the degree requirements for the Honours BA program in Children's Studies, Department of Social Science
- minor changes to the degree requirements for the 90-credit BA in Linguistics, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics
- adoption of DEMS as a rubric for the Bachelor of Disaster & Emergency Management program (in addition to use by the graduate programs), School of Administrative Studies

### Science

- a minor change to the requirements for the Honours Minor degree option in Biology, Department of Biology

## Appeals

The Appeals Committee filed its annual report on Faculty and Senate adjudications.

## Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the January 26, 2017 meeting for details about these items.

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

## February Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 16, 2017**.

Senators and members of the community are asked to take special note of the date, which comes one week prior to normal to avoid a conflict with Reading Week.