

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 632nd Meeting of Senate  
held on Thursday, February 16, 2017

### Remarks

On the occasion of her first meeting as the Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie of the Faculty of Health lauded her predecessor, Professor George Comninel, for his mentorship and friendship. She also expressed appreciation to Senators, University Secretary Maureen Armstrong and her University Secretariat colleagues, and the new Vice-Chair, Professor Franck van Breugel of the Lassonde School of Engineering, for their support. The Chair spoke of her commitment to collegiality, and extolled an approach to governance that is inclusive, respectful and positive. The Chair expressed condolences on the passing of a former Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Joseph Greene.

The Chair advised Senators that the Executive Committee of Senate is aware that a strike by members of Unite-Here local 75 began on February 16, 2017. The strike has not resulted in a disruption of academic activities as defined by Senate policy such that they have been substantially interrupted or impeded. Certain provisions of the *Senate Policy on Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes* do apply in the event of a strike on campus. As was confirmed in response to a question, these are limited to the rights of students who elect not participate in activities while a strike is on. Members of the community may access the Policy on the Senate Website for more information at:

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-implications-of-disruptions-or-cessations-of-university-business-due-to-labour-disputes-or-other-causes-senate-policy-on-the/>

York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, joined in welcoming the new Chair and Vice-Chair. Dr Shoukri also commented on the following:

- the confusing and contested travel ban ordered in the United States, the response developed by Universities Canada and the University's offer to provide a home for displaced academics and students
- a visit to the Keele campus by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and her delight at visiting with students and touring facilities
- the status of Strategic Mandate Agreement negotiations, which included a helpful conversation with the government's lead hand, Bonnie Patterson, and the importance of collegial input through Senate and in other settings
- the striking of a planning board to further study the possibility of a French-language university in southwestern Ontario and York's commitment to seeing that Glendon's distinctive bilingual mission is protected and prospers
- the second employee engagement survey and the value of participation

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In response to questions about metrics, the President said he shared concerns about the array of indicators most commonly used, their limitations and biases. The University is pressing the government (which appears receptive) to building a narrative about research into the SMAs. He and the Vice-President Research and Innovation welcome collegial perspectives on how to expand -- and make more inclusive -- a range of indicators in order to better capture the sophistication and impact of York research.

### Reports

In a presentation on the University's mental health strategy, the Chair of Senate spoke on the important topic of "Advancing a Mentally Healthy Campus." She cited the University Academic Plan's objectives in this domain and emphasized the need for Senate and its committees to address relevant matters. Deep engagement throughout the community is also essential. Her presentation was posted with other documents following the meeting. The Mental Health and Wellness Website can be accessed from this link:

<http://mhw.info.yorku.ca/>

### Facilitated Discussion

In the second of a series of "spotlight" discussions of priority areas in the University Academic Plan sponsored by the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC), Associate Vice-President Teaching and Learning Will Gage presented on the structures, processes and key initiatives that support the constituent goals of priority area 3: *Enhanced Quality in Teaching and Student Learning*.

### Curriculum Approvals

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

- the establishment of the Cross-Disciplinary Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology (BEST) Certificate in Technology Entrepreneurship, Lassonde School of Engineering
- the establishment of a 90-credit Degree Option in and changes to degree requirements for the BA programs in Educational Studies, Faculty of Education
- changes to admission requirements for Masters Programs, Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- changes to the General Education requirements for BA Programs in the Faculty of Science
- changes to degree requirements for the MFA Program in Dance, School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- changes to the degree requirements for the iBA Degree Type, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

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- changes to the degree requirements for the BA Programs in Anthropology Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- changes to the degree requirements for the BA Programs in Professional Writing and English & Professional Writing, Writing Department, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- changes to the degree requirements for the PhD Program in Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- changes to the requirements for the Diploma in Health Psychology, Faculty of Health / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- changes to the degree requirements for the PhD Program in Social Work, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / Faculty of Graduate Studies

### Committee Information Items

Senate Executive reported on the following items:

- approval of the Osgoode Hall Faculty Council nominee for membership on the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials
- remaining vacancies (on the Tenure and Promotions Committee) for 2017 – 2020 terms
- projected timelines for the consideration of recommendations arising from the Committee's bi-annual review of Senate membership
- its concurrence with recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials and subsequent addition of six individuals to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients; the Sub-Committee and Senate Executive reiterated the hope that more nominations will be forthcoming while stressing that the process is not onerous
- changes to the Faculty of Education's convocation ceremonies
- as recommended by the University Secretary, approval of all eleven Faculty Council membership lists for 2016-2017

APPRC reported that its Sub-Committee on Organized Research Units had concurred with a proposal of the Vice-President Research and Innovation to suspend the York Institute for Health Research as options are explored.

ASCP reported that it had approved revised *Senate Guidelines and Procedures Governing Course Cross-Listings, Exclusions and Substitutions* along with the following minor changes to curriculum and degree requirements:

Arts, Media, Performance and Design

- minor changes to the degree requirements for the BA Honours Minor program in Theatre (Production)
- minor changes to the degree requirements for the Honours BFA and Honours BA programs in Theatre

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- minor changes to the degree requirements for the BA Honours Minor in Computational Arts and Technology program

Education

- clarification of admission and degree requirements for the BEd (Technological Education) program

Glendon

- minor changes to the Bilingual requirement for all undergraduate programs at Glendon

Lassonde School of Engineering

- minor changes to the degree requirements for the Specialized Honours BEng program in Civil Engineering

Awards

The Awards Committee filed its annual report on Faculty and Senate adjudications. Its Chair, Professor Robert Kenedy, highlighted data showing increases in funds disbursed and the number of students benefitting from support.

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

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the February 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, March 23, 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.