

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 633rd Meeting of Senate  
held on Thursday, March 23, 2017

### Remarks

Senators joined the Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie, in congratulating Provost Rhonda Lenton on her appointment as President beginning July 1, 2017. The Chair is committed to ensuring that the transition is smooth and successful. Members of the Presidential Search Committee elected by Senate were thanked for their dedication and commitment. The Chair also acknowledged the many contributions to Senate by Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer, attending his last meeting as a Senator. There was much to celebrate on Red and White Day, and a discussion of the University Academic Plan's priorities for an Enhanced Campus Experience during the meeting demonstrated that York continues to grow and thrive in significant ways.

Drawing attention to a statement issued with the Provost, York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, reiterated his conviction that intolerable expressions of hate require vigilance. He called on the community to resist any and all efforts to silence, marginalize and exclude, and to embrace values that are fundamental to society, the academy and to the University. He also commented on the following matters:

- postsecondary education aspects of the March 22 federal government budget and the expectation that additional measures await greater certainty about the overall economic outlook
- recent survey results showing that the brand campaign has improved York's reputation among parents and prospective students
- the sterling career at York of Vice-President Brewer and his efforts to ensure that financial planning was tied to Senate-approved plans and initiatives

The Statement on Incidents of Hate Graffiti can be accessed from this link

<http://president.yorku.ca/2017/03/statement-from-president-shoukri-and-provost-lenton-on-incidents-of-hate-graffiti/>

The President's March Kudos Report is accessible with other documents posted for the meeting.

In response to numerous expressions of gratitude, Vice-President Brewer spoke of his appreciation to Senators and committee members for their thoughtful input, especially with regard to aligning academic and budget planning. He will urge his successor to engage with Senators in order to benefit from their input.

### Planning Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC), Provost Rhonda Lenton provided an update on planning for the Markham Centre campus.

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### **Facilitated Discussion: University Academic Plan Priority Area 5**

In the third of a series of “spotlight” discussions of priority areas in the University Academic Plan sponsored by APPRC, Vice-President Finance and Administration Brewer presented on processes and key initiatives that related to the constituent goals of priority area 5: *Enhanced Campus Experience*.

### **Notice of Motion: Senate Membership 2017-2018 to 2018-2019**

At the first stage of a statutory motion, Senate received notice of Senate Executive’s recommendations concerning Senate membership from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

### **Research and Teaching Awards**

Senators joined the Chair of the Awards Committee, Professor Robert Kenedy, in congratulating the following recipients of prestigious awards:

- President’s Research Excellence Award: Anne Russon, Psychology, Glendon
- President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award: Amro Zayed, Biology, Faculty of Science
- President’s University-Wide Teaching Award for Senior Full-Time Faculty Members: Andrea Davis, Humanities, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
- President’s University-Wide Teaching Award for Full-time Faculty: Alex Czekanski, Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde
- President’s University-Wide Teaching Award for Contract and Adjunct Faculty: Véronique Tomaszewski, Sociology, Glendon
- President’s University-Wide Teaching Award for Teaching Assistant: Sabina Mirza (PhD Program in Education), Sociology and Social Science, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

### **Curriculum Approvals**

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

- establishment of an Honours Minor Degree Option in Arts, Media, Performance and Design, School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design
- restructuring of the BA Program in Mathematics for Commerce, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science
- establishment of a Professional Certificate in Actuarial Science, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science
- addition of a Stream in Media Arts within the BFA program in Film, Department of Cinema and Media Studies, School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
- establishment of new Degree Options within and changes to Requirements for the BSc program in BioChemistry, Faculty of Science

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### Committee Information Items

Senate Executive reported on the following items:

- its concurrence with recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials resulting in the addition of six individuals to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients
- a confidential recommendation from the *ad hoc* group considering the re-appointment or appointment of the Chancellor
- Senate committee vacancies
- the lack of impact on academic activities of the strike by Aramark employees

APPRC reported that it is nearing the conclusion of its meetings with the Deans, Principal and University Librarian and expects to report on the discussions this spring.

ASCP reported that it had approved the following minor changes to curriculum and degree requirements:

#### Health

- minor changes to degree requirements for BA and BSc Global Health programs
- corrections to the degree requirements for the BSc program in Psychology

#### Science

- minor changes to requirements for the Honours Minor BSc Biology program
- minor changes to requirements for the Specialized Honours BSc Physics program
- minor changes to requirements for the Pharmaceutical and Biological Stream within the Honours BSc program in Chemistry

APPRC and ASCP conveyed the most recent report of the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance and Final Assessment Reports along with Final Assessment Reports for recently completed Cyclical Program Reviews.

### Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the March 23, 2017 meeting for details about these items.

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

### April Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, April 27, 2017**.