

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 635th Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, May 25, 2017

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie, commented on the Spring meeting of Senate committee chairs and secretaries, expressed appreciation to members of the Executive Committee for their support and advice on procedural matters, and encouraged Senators to participate in Convocation ceremonies. She welcomed Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost Lisa Philipps to her first meeting in her new role, and greeted interim deans in attendance.

York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, paid tribute to outgoing Deans Brixey, Crow and Sturgeon. He spoke of the opportunities that attend renewal of the University's leadership, the solid legacy of those who are leaving their positions, and the attributes of those who will succeed them on an interim basis. Taken together, changes in the Ontario postsecondary system landscape also represent a significant moment of transition, and President Shoukri provided updates on the following matters:

- the provincial funding framework outlined in the recent budget and its accent on access and work-integrated learning experiences
- other elements of the budget that address universities, and the welcome news that Queens' Park will match the federal government's Mitacs program
- Strategic Mandate Agreement 2 negotiations, and the University's draft submission (discussed at the April meeting of Senate and based on the Senate-approved *University Academic Plan 2015-2020*)
- the emerging grant funding and tuition fee models
- the thrust of the report prepared by the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Basic Science "Investing in Canada's Future: Strengthening the Foundations of Canadian Research"

Following up on inquiries at the previous meeting of Senate, Dr Shoukri described steps taken by the University following an incident at York Lanes in March that is now before the courts, the presence of loss prevention staff at some campus vendors along with the protocols that apply to them as well as to the University's own safety and security personnel, and the continuing commitment to prevent discrimination and profiling. He stressed that overcoming racism requires a collaborative, collegial approach. Others spoke of personal experiences of racism, ways to promote inclusion and respect while protecting members of the community from harm, the role of the York University Development Corporation, and security arrangements for the new Quad residence.

The President's monthly Kudos report was included in the agenda package.

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Senators on the Board of Governors

Senate's nominees on the Board of Governors, Professors Bernie Lightman and Lauren Sergio, presented a synopsis of the Board's meeting of May 2 meeting.

Major Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Provost Philipps presented a progress report on Markham Centre Campus academic planning. The report focused on academic programs in various stages of collegial review and approval, timelines for final approvals, governance (about which Senate and the community will be consulted in the autumn), and the growing presence of the University in Markham and York Region.

Approvals

Senate approved a recommendation from its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to

- close the Certificate of Proficiency in Italian Language Level One (Beginner Range)
- close the Certificate of Proficiency in Italian Language Level Two (Intermediate Range)
- change the name of the Certificate of Italian Language Proficiency, Level Three (Advanced Range) to the Certificate of Italian Language Proficiency
- change requirements for the re-named Certificate of Italian Language Proficiency

Hortative Motion

A hortative motion expressing Senate's disappointment at the suspension of the York University Advisory Committee on Responsible Investment was approved. The status of YUACRI is under review.

Committee Information Items

Executive

The Executive Committee reminded Senators that the June meeting of Senate would be held earlier than usual, on June 15, and provided additional information about the following:

- guidance to Senators on procedural matters associated with hortative motions of the kind dealt with at the meeting and "points of order" recorded at the April 27 Meeting
- the results of annual surveys of Senators and Senate committee members

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Academic Policy, Planning and Research

APPRC transmitted a substantial report entitled “Perspectives on Planning in 2017: Report on Discussions with the Deans, Principal and University Librarian” and transmitted the annual reports of three sub-committees supported by the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation that report to Senate via the Committee.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

ASCP advised that it approved minor modifications originating with two Faculties as follows:

Glendon

- changes to the requirements for the Certificate in Spanish-English Translation
- changes to the requirements for the BA program in Political Science

Graduate Studies

- changes to the requirements for the MA and PhD programs in History

Awards

Senators joined the Awards Committee in congratulating the 2017 recipients of prestigious awards for faculty members:

- University Professor: Professor Dawn Bazely, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science
- Distinguished Research Professors: Jonathan Edmondson, Department of History and Program in Classical Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and Joel Katz, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the May 25, 2017 meeting for details about these items.

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

June Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 15, 2017**.