

The Senate of York University Synopsis

The 662nd Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, December 12, 2019

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Franck van Breugel of the Lassonde School of Engineering, welcomed Senators to the meeting. This being the final Senate meeting for the Chair, Vice-Chair, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, expressed thanks and appreciation for his leadership, meticulous preparation and care for fairness and collegial processes. Senator Macpherson and Professor Mario Roy of Glendon will assume the Chair and Vice-Chair roles, respectively, as of January 1.

President Rhonda Lenton commented on the ongoing efforts to respond to the November 20 event in Vari Hall, being led by the Vice-President Equity, People and Culture and the Vice-Provost Students. An investigation of the incidence is being conducted, and will be guided by four principles: 1) safety is the priority, 2) no tolerance for discrimination on the University's campuses, 3) respecting the right to free speech and the free exchange of ideas; and 4) all community members are responsible for upholding the principles. Noting concerns about a recent motion passed by the York Federation of Students (YFS), President Lenton advised Senators that conversations are continuing with YFS about the importance of upholding the four principles.

Other comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- best wishes for the holiday season
- an expression of thanks to the Senate Chair for his guidance and even-handedness in the role

Provost and Vice-President Academic Lisa Philipps presented for discussion the strategy for the development of the University's Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) submission to the provincial government. Aligning the weighting of the performance metrics with the University's academic priorities (as set out in the University Academic Plan), together with the goal of preserving the University's funding, was the core SMA3 strategy. Provost Philipps reviewed the definitions of the 10 performance metrics, and gathered input from Senators on the proposed weighting and rationale for each one.

The monthly "Kudos" report on the achievements of members of the York community can be accessed with other documentation for the meeting.

Approvals

On the recommendation of its Executive Committee, Senate approved changes to the York University Rules of Senate regarding the membership of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, and the nominations guidelines and criteria (sub-section 1.6).

On the recommendation of its Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senate approved:

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- the establishment of a School of Global Health as a new academic unit within the Faculty of Health, effective July 1, 2020; and
- the transfer of the BA and BSc degree programs in Global Health from the Dean's Office, Faculty of Health, to the School of Global Health, Faculty of Health, effective July 1, 2020

Executive (Professor Alison Macpherson, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- its plan to review the e-survey results and a summary of the discussion at the November 28 Senate meeting on the question of whether there is a need to review the *Principles Governing a Presidential Search*
- its approval of Senate committee members designated by the Alumni Association
- its approval of a student nominated by student Senators to serve on the Senate Appeals Committee
- an overview of the autumn meeting of Senate committee chairs and secretaries

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Carl Ehrlich, Chair)

APPRC facilitated a consultation on the University Academic Plan 2020-2025, gathering input from Senators through real-time audience polling and feedback technology

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor Kim Michasiw, Chair)

ASCP reported on its ongoing work to prepare the policy and academic regulations framework to implement the transition from the 9-point to 4-point undergraduate grading scheme, approved in principle by Senate in November 2017.

Awards (Professor Jonathan Obar, Chair)

Professor Obar encouraged Senators to submit nominations for the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards and promote the submission of nominations among their colleagues. The criteria and nomination form are available on the [Awards Committee website](#).

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the Thursday, December 12, 2019 meeting for details about these items.

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

January Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2019.