

# The Senate of York University Synopsis

The 663<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, January 23, 2020

## Remarks

The Chair, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, welcomed Senators to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Professor Mario Roy and Pascal Robichaud, joining Senate for the first time in their respective roles as Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Chair expressed sorrow at the recent passing of Professor Emeritus John Caldwell, a professor of astronomy in the Faculty of Science, and at the lives lost in the Ukrainian International plane crash near Tehran, including three York students who were lost in the tragedy.

President Rhonda Lenton expressed sadness at the passing of three York students in the plane crash and acknowledged the efforts of York International and the Iranian Student Association to organize a vigil and the University's participation in the nationwide moment of silence to pay respects to the students and others who lost their lives. President Lenton advised Senators that the University will set up a new scholarship in honour of the victims and will match donations up to \$100k.

Other comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- encouragement for Senators to review and provide input on the draft Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) which can be accessed through the link on the Senate agenda
- an update on the planning and ongoing discussions with all levels of government on Markham Centre Campus
- the ongoing efforts to respond to the November 20 event in Vari Hall, with Thomas A. Cromwell leading an independent external review of the planning and preparations for the event and relevant University policies, procedures and practices
- an expression of sympathy for the York student who was the victim of a stabbing incident that occurred near campus and a reminder to community members to be aware of their surroundings
- the shortlisting of Assistant Professor Jesse Thistle's memoir *From the Ashes* in the CBC Canada Reads competition

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 Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved:

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- the establishment of a new Specialized Honours option in Speech and Language Sciences within the Linguistics Section, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, effective FW2021-2022
- the establishment of a part-time option and changes to admission and degree requirements for the Master of Finance program, Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective FW2020-2021
- the deletion of MRP and thesis options and changes to degree requirements for the MA program in Dance, Graduate Program in Dance, School of the Arts Media, Performance and Design / Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective FW2020-2021
- a reduction in coursework requirements for the Historical, Theoretical and Critical Studies in Psychology specialization within the PhD program in Psychology, Graduate Program in Psychology, Faculty of Health / Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective FW2020-2021

### Committee Information Reports

#### Executive (Professor Mario Roy, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- the next steps for the review of the *Principles Governing a Presidential Search*, in follow-up to the Senate discussion and results of the online survey
- a reminder that the call for expressions of interest in membership on Senate committees and other positions elected by Senate has been issued, with the upcoming vacancies on Senate committees and the form to submit nominations available on the Senate webpage under the title [Senate Elections](#)
- its review of progress on 2019-2020 priorities
- its approval of an individual nominated by Glendon Faculty Council to serve on the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials

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

APPRC updated Senators on the status and planned next steps in the University Academic Plan (UAP) renewal process. With community consultations coming to a close at the end of January, APPRC's Technical Sub-Committee will soon begin the preparation of a draft UAP. Community members will be invited to provide input on the draft document at an Open Forum planned for the morning of Thursday, March 5.

#### Appeals (Professor Suprakash Datta, Chair)

The Appeals Committee presented its annual report on Faculty- and Senate-level petitions and appeals decisions. In the absence of the Appeals Committee Chair,

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Senators were encouraged to send any questions arising from the report to the Secretariat for follow-up.

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

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the Thursday, January 23, 2020 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 27, 2020.