



The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 669th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 via Zoom

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, greeted continuing and new Senators, and extended wishes for success in research, teaching and learning this year and appreciation for everyone's commitment and resiliency in these challenging times. The Chair acknowledged with sorrow the passings over the summer months of Professor H el ene Massam, a longtime faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Professor Gabriele Scardellato, a faculty member with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics; and Professor Gregory Malszecki, a longtime faculty member in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science.

Reiterating comments made at the June meeting, the Chair expressed her hope that, as a measure of moving forward progressively in governance at the University in the context of local and global uprisings against anti-Black racism, a diversity of voices be heard during Senate's discussions.

President Rhonda Lenton wished Senators health and success in the year ahead, and reported on the following items:

- gratitude to members of the University community for their resilience during these challenging times and to Senate for continuing to advance important business and priorities, such as the University Academic Plan
- appreciation for the engagement of those who participated in the community consultations on anti-Black racism and the plans to embark on a number of initiatives to address systemic barriers within the University, including the development of an Anti-Black Racism Framework and funding to support targeted hires to address the underrepresentation of Black faculty members
- the recent disruption to eClass and the hard work of UIT, in collaboration with Oracle, to bring the system back online and to continuously improve the reliability of the platform
- an update on the enrolment picture for the University, which has improved considerably in comparison to Spring projections, with the Provost to provide additional details at the next Senate meeting
- the start of construction at Markham Centre Campus, marked with a physically distanced groundbreaking event on site earlier in the week
- an update on the Free Speech Working Group which held its inaugural meeting over the summer

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

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

Reports

Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Senator Brenda Spotton Visano, described the role and function of COU and its activities in support of Ontario universities during the pandemic, and reported on changes in the leadership of the organization, including the appointments of President Lenton as Vice-Chair of Council and Steve Orsini as President. Senator Spotton Visano also reported on Colleagues’ August meeting which featured a discussion on anti-Black racism facilitated by York Professor and Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation Carl James.

Approvals

Senate approved the recommendation of its Executive Committee to elect Professor Clara Chapdelaine-Feliciati, Glendon, to the Awards Committee, and Professor Nombuso Dlamini, Education, to the Tenure and Promotions Committee.

Senate approved the recommendations of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to:

- revise the Senate *Policy on Letters of Permission*, effective FW2020-2021, exempting students in the BA programs in Jewish Studies and the Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Department of Humanities, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and the Jewish Teacher Education option within the BEd program, Faculty of Education
- authorize the granting of degrees at the University’s convocations held in Fall 2020, February 2021 (Convocation In Absentia) and Spring 2021, and individually to students at any point during the year who have fulfilled the degree program requirements for receipt of degrees

Committee Information Reports

The Chairs of Senate Committees briefly described their roles on behalf of Senate, how they conduct business and items Senate can expect to come to the floor from them during the year.

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

Executive (Professor Mario Roy, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee provided notice of statutory motion for the establishment of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Faculty Council, effective September 1, 2020.

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- its ongoing monitoring of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on academic activities, with actions pertaining to the disruption outlined in its written Report
- its decisions on temporary actions to be implemented for a Faculty Council experiencing ongoing uncertainty
- encouragement for Senators to assist in the process of identifying prospective candidates to fill the remaining vacancies on the Tenure and Promotions and Tenure and Promotions Appeals Committees
- its approval of Senate Committee members nominated by Faculty Councils
- its priorities for 2020-2021
- the results of the Senator and Senate committee members surveys conducted in June, and the Committee's planned follow-up activities
- its receipt of a briefing from University Secretary Pascal Robichaud on the governance support initiatives for 2020-2021 to be taken up by the University Secretariat
- actions taken under Summer Authority
- the report on Senate attendance in 2019-2020
- the 2020-2021 Executive Committee membership
- Senate meeting dates for 2020-2021 with changes approved for December

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Brenda Spotton Visano, Chair)

APPRC reported on the following items:

- its preliminary planning related to the implementation of the University Academic Plan 2020-2025, with additional information to be provided to Senate in October
- its intention to provide monthly reports to Senate on Markham Centre Campus planning
- the membership of its Sub-Committees for 2020-2021

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

ASCP (Professor Chloë Brushwood Rose, Chair)

Discussion of an emerging proposal for revisions to the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties* and Honours Progression requirements was held. Senators' input was gratefully received and will inform the finalization of the policy framework.

ASCP reported on the membership of its sub-committees for 2020-2021 and on its approval of the following items.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Temporary change to admission requirements for the MA and PhD programs in
Psychology, Graduate Program in Psychology

Minor changes to promotion standards for the graduate programs housed within the
Schulich School of Business

Minor change to English language proficiency requirements for the MASc and PhD
programs in Civil Engineering, Graduate Program in Civil Engineering

Faculty of Health

A temporary waiver of degree requirements for graduating students in the BA and BSc
programs in Kinesiology and Health Science, School of Kinesiology and Health
Science

Schulich School of Business

Changes to promotion standards for the BBA and iBBA programs

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy / Academic Policy Planning and Research (Professors Brenda Spotton Visano and Chloë Brushwood Rose)

APPRC and ASCP jointly conveyed two reports from the Joint Sub-Committee on
Quality Assurance.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with
the Thursday, September 24, 2020 meeting for details about these items.

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

October Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, October 22, 2020.