



The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 672nd Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 via Zoom

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, welcomed Senators to the first meeting of the new year and expressed appreciation for accommodating the extended meeting time to engage in discussion regarding the academic planning landscape at York. She acknowledged with sorrow the recent passing of several faculty colleagues, Doug Freake, Leo Panitch and Lisa Drummond all from the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies.

In the context of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued enhanced restrictions in the City of Toronto, President Rhonda Lenton's remarks included the following:

- gratitude to members for their ongoing commitment to the University community and its students.
- encouragement to think about “lessons learned” from the past year with the transition to online delivery of programs, how this drove pedagogical innovation, and how the innovation can be sustained to support the diverse needs of students in a post-pandemic environment.
- the optimistic enrolment picture, owing to ongoing solid enrolments for the winter 2021 term and promising undergraduate applications data for FW 2021-2022
- Anticipation that the disruption to University operations will extend into the FW 2021-2022 academic year due to the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty of its duration and the timelines for recovery.
- highlights from the “Kudos” report, including the work of Jude Kong in connecting researchers from York with organizations across Africa to predict the spread of COVID-19.

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

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Reports

Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

Speaking to the written report included in the agenda, the Academic Colleague to COU, Senator Brenda Spotton Visano, reported on the October COU meetings in which members engaged in conversation with Dr. Scott Henderson, Dean and Head of Trent University on the topic of misinformation and the role of universities, in addition to a number of updates that were provided on policy matters and initiatives under discussion at the provincial level.

Academic Planning Information Session

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC), an information session was facilitated on academic planning processes and the current University planning landscape to set the stage for Senators' engagement in the upcoming APPRC open forum on defining measures of progress on the University Academic Plan (UAP). Aided by commentary from each of the Vice-President Equity, People and Culture, Vice-President Research & Innovation, Provost and the Special Advisor on LA&PS' Anti-Black Racism Strategy, links were made between current pan-University planning documents and the University Academic Plan to illuminate the broader planning context at the University. Planning discussions will continue at the February meeting of Senate.

Approvals

The Executive Committee put forward a notice of statutory motion to Senate to approve the membership of Senate for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. On a recommendation from Senate Executive, Senate approved the appointment of Julie Clark to Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy, and the appointment of Poonam Puri to the Tenure and Promotions Committee.

On the recommendation of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved:

- Changes to the general education requirements for the BA, BHS, and BSc degree programs housed within the Faculty of Health, effective FW2021-2022;
- Revisions to the definition of Specialization (Graduate) within the Pan-University Academic Nomenclature, effective FW2021-2022;
- Changes to language proficiency requirements for admission to undergraduate and graduate programs, effective immediately.

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Committee Information Reports

Executive (Professor Mario Roy, Vice-Chair)

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
- a briefing from the Provost on the broad themes that emerged from the survey of students conducted this past autumn to learn about their overall educational experience with virtual program delivery in the Fall 2020 term.
- Discussion of online proctoring of exams.

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

APPRC reported on the following items:

- committee input to Vice-President Equity, People and Culture, on the draft *Framework to Address Anti-Black Racism*.
- ongoing discussions about academic governance structures and processes for Markham Centre Campus

ASCP (Professor Chloë Brushwood Rose, Chair)

ASCP's information items included an update on Committee membership with the addition of two student members and the following minor changes approved by the Committee.

Glendon

Changes to degree requirements for the BA and iBA programs in Philosophy,
Department of Philosophy

Changes to Faculty-Wide Degree Requirements for Honours Double Major or Honours
Major/Minor Degree Programs

Minor changes to calendar copy for the iBA-BBA Dual Degree Program in International
Studies and Business with EM Lyon

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Changes to Astronomy Stream within the MSc and PhD programs in Physics and
Astronomy, Graduate Program in Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science

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Minor changes to requirements for the Diploma in Advanced Accounting, Schulich School of Business (effective Summer 2021)

Minor changes to degree requirements for the Master of Accounting, Schulich School of Business (effective Summer 2021)

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

Minor change to degree requirements for the BA program in Business Economics

Minor change to degree requirements for the Specialized Honours BA program in Financial and Business Economics

Faculty of Science

Minor changes to degree requirements for the BSc programs in Physics and Astronomy

Minor changes to degree requirements for the BSc programs in Chemistry

Minor changes to degree requirements for the BSc and BA (Honours) programs in Mathematics

Tenure and Promotions (Professor Thomas Baumgartner, Chair)

Tenure and Promotions transmitted its 2019-2020 Annual Report to Senate, which addressed tenure and promotions data for 2019-2020 and the full committee review of unit-level standards report of October 2020, as well as other items.

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

APPRC and ASCP jointly conveyed a report 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, January 28, 2020 meeting for details about these items.

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

February Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, February 25, 2021.