



The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 615th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, April 23, 2015

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, expressed her appreciation to Senators for their contributions during the academic disruption in March, and her admiration for their collegiality and respect, frankness and fairness during Senate's deliberations.

Pleased and proud that the community had returned to normal operations following the strike, President Shoukri was confident that the community will come together in a positive, forward-looking way. York values its contract faculty members highly, and will continue to count on them to deliver high quality education. Even so, it is essential to maintain an appropriate balance of instructors.

The President profiled two recent appointees, Professor Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, the next Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and the new University Librarian, Joy Kirchner. Both will take up their positions on July 1. He also thanked Dean Martin Singer, former University Librarian Cynthia Archer and Interim University Librarian Catherine Davidson for their service. The April 29 federal budget included significant opportunities for the University, but also contained measures that were less welcome, including a freeze on Tri-Council funding. With the appointment of former Deputy Minister Sue Hebert on March 12, consultations about a possible new funding formula for universities have intensified. There is concern that the funding modernization project will be used for greater differentiation between institutions.

Dr Shoukri announced that the following individuals will receive honorary degrees at Spring Convocation ceremonies:

- John Abele (a developer of medical devices, philanthropist and venture investor)
- Lloyd Axworthy (University executive, politician, and human rights advocate)
- Salah Bachir (an eminent publisher, president of Cineplex Media and champion of diversity)
- David Collenette (former federal politician who served as minister of Defense, Transport and Veterans Affairs, and York graduate)
- Tom Jenkins (Chancellor of the University of Waterloo and innovator in education technologies)
- Mark Lievonon (honorary member of the Board of Governors and President of Sanofi Pasteur)
- Alberto Manguel (internationally acclaimed critic, novelist, journalist and translator)
- Sam Schwartz (a York alumni and past member of the Board, lawyer and community leader)

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- Murray Sinclair (Manitoba's first Aboriginal judge and Chair of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada)
- Sheila Watt-Cloutier (human rights/environmental activist, Inuit leader and author)
- Julio Frenk (acclaimed scholar, current Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health and President-elect of the University of Miami)

The President called on Provost Lenton who, citing the need for collegial re-engagement, provided a high-level overview of challenges facing the University and described revised timelines for related academic planning initiatives.

Reports

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor George Turlakis, presented COU's April Issues Update, and highlighted recent COU discussions on topics including:

- the government's funding formula review
- concerns about financial stability
- the role played by contract faculty members

Approvals

On recommendations made by the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee Senate approved:

- a Diploma in Intermediate Accounting (Type 3), Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- deletion of the Linguistic and Stylistic Studies Field from the MA and PhD Programs in English, Graduate Program in English, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Committee Information Reports

Senate Executive provided Senate with a record of its meetings and decisions prior to and during the disruption of academic activities that began on March 3 and ended March 31. The annual call for expressions of interest in Senate-elected positions has been issued, and Senators and others in the community were invited to suggest names of possible candidates. The Equity Sub-Committee reported that it met in February to develop a work plan for the final months of 2014-2015 (a priority is the conclusion of a review of the *Senate Policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*). A working group established to develop recommendations on Senate membership for the next two years will report in May after which the Executive Committee will present its own recommendations to Senate. Following a review mandated when the Statement of Principles on External Partnerships was approved by Senate in 2013, the Committee concluded that it remains an effective expression of the academic principles that apply to partnerships (the Secretariat will follow-up on other recommendations made by the working group that developed the Statement). Having reviewed changes to rules and procedures forwarded by the Faculty Councils of Graduate Studies and Health, the

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Executive Committee confirmed that they were consistent with principles of collegial governance and practices elsewhere in the University.

- Senators joined the Chair of the Awards Committee, Professor David Leyton-Brown, in congratulating recipients of the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards for 2014-2015:
- Senior Full-time Faculty: Carys Craig, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Full-time Faculty: Jean Michel Montsion, International Studies, Glendon
- Contract and Adjunct Faculty: Peter Constantinou, School of Public Policy and Administration, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
- Teaching Assistant: Vivian Stamatopoulos, Sociology, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

The Awards Committee also reported on new awards approved in 2014.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research confirmed a previous announcement that the planning forum scheduled for April 23 has been postponed to the autumn, with a date likely in September. A report based on recent planning discussions with the Deans, Principal and University Librarian is in progress and will be transmitted to Senate in May.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedogogy advised that it had approved minor modifications to degree requirements for the following:

Faculty of Graduate Studies

- changes to degree requirements for MSc and PhD programs in Biology
- change in the name of the LLM program's Specialization in Alternative Dispute Resolution to Dispute Resolution

For information on these items please refer to the full Senate agenda posted online.

University Secretariat: extension 55310

**Senate's 616th meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m.
on Thursday, May 28, 2015
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus**