



# The Senate of York University

## Synopsis

The 619<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, October 22, 2015

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor George Comninel, thanked Senators for attending Autumn Convocation ceremonies. With the Equity Sub-Committee poised to consider the question of how aspects of mental health and well-being should be taken up by Senate, the Chair drew attention to an October 29 talk by Drew Dudley followed by an open forum. He advised that the Secretariat will establish a second listserv for Senators to exchange substantive views and Senators were reminded of the protocols for communicating business to Senate and its committees.

The President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, commented on Council of Ontario Universities matters, including the development of a common position on the funding formula review led by Suzanne Herbert. He urged Senators to nominate worthy individuals for honorary degrees, especially women candidates. A number of York alumni had been elected to the House of Commons, and there is optimism that universities will benefit from the new Liberal government's promise to invest in infrastructure and innovation. In response to an open letter that was circulated to Senators, the President, Provost and Vice-President Finance and Administration commented on Keele campus facilities, including the future of the bookstore, use of the York Room for dissertation defences, and the possibility of a revived Faculty Club.

The President's monthly "Kudos Report" can be accessed from the agenda package.

### Reports

Senate's nominees on the Board of Governors, Professor David-Leyton-Brown and Professor Bernard Lightman, presented a synopsis of the Board's meeting of October 6, 2015. Professor George Turlakis, Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, shared the COU Issues Update for October. In doing so he reported on discussions about experiential education involving colleagues and executive heads, and advised that university presidents have corresponded with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Research and Innovation on the postsecondary funding formula review (the communication will be shared with Senate if and when it becomes publically available).

### Approvals

Senate approved a slate of candidates for designation as Senate's nominees to the Presidential Search Committee. Nominees will be determined by a ballot conducted by e-vote beginning the week of October 26.

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

- establish a Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Aging

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- amend admission requirements for the Second-Degree Entry BScN and Internationally Educated Nurses BScN Programs in the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health
- transform the Honours BSc Program in Science to a direct-entry option and establish appropriate admission requirements
- amend degree requirements for the PhD Program in Mathematics & Statistics, Graduate Program in Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Graduate Studies

### University Academic Plan 2015-2020

The Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee posed a series of questions of Senators that will inform the development of the next University Academic Plan and help guide wider community consultations leading to Senate approval in the winter of 2016. Input was obtained from Senators during the meeting. The Committee also provided timelines for the UAP renewal process.

### Committee Information Reports

Senate Executive informed Senators of the following:

- its approval of committee members nominated by Faculty Councils and student Senators
- a review of changes to the Membership and Structure, Rules and Procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council which resulted in agreement that they were consistent with the principles of collegial governance and practices elsewhere at the University
- priorities for 2015-2016 established by APPRC, ASCP and Senate Executive itself

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy reported that it had reviewed sessional dates for Summer 2016 and Fall-Winter 2016-2017 terms (posted online with the agenda package) and determined that they were in accordance with the *Senate Policy on Sessional Dates and the Scheduling of Examinations*. The Committee will take up a request from Senate Executive that it reflect on the impact of changes to the length of Fall Reading Days and advise if the allocation. ASCP also reported that it had approved proposals to effect the following minor changes:

- degree requirements for the MA Program in Mathematics & Statistics
- PhD and Master's Thesis and Dissertation Supervisory Committee Guidelines
- degree requirements for the BA Programs in Gender & Women's Studies
- degree requirements for the BA Programs in Sexuality Studies

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

**University Secretariat: extension 55310**

**Senate's 619th meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, November 26, 2015  
in the Senate Chamber, Ross Building, Keele Campus**