

# The Senate of York University

## Synopsis

The 625th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, April 28, 2016

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor George Comninel, advised that the Executive Committee continues to seek expressions of interest in Senate committee membership and other positions elected by Senate.

In the absence of the President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, Provost Rhonda Lenton

- described the academic priorities supported by *This Is Impact: The Campaign for York University*
- commented on the formal launch of the Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence and the opening of the Lillian Meighen Wright Centre and EcoCampus in Costa Rica
- provided an update on the timelines for submitting proposals under the federal government's Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, and pointed to proposals under consideration at the University that are consistent with the criterion of achievable completion by 2018
- announced the individuals who will receive honorary degrees at Spring Convocation ceremonies
- responded to questions about the new model for graduate student funding

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

### Senate Advisory Statement to the Presidential Search Committee

Senate approved an Advisory Statement to the Presidential Search Committee. The Statement was based on input received by the Executive Committee from Senators, Senate committees and Faculty Councils.

### Notice of Motion to Establish of a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Degree Type

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy gave notice of its intention to recommend approval of a Bachelor of Commerce degree type. ASCP is also poised to recommend a renaming of the Bachelor of Administrative Studies degree program to Bachelor of Commerce.

### Markham Centre Campus Planning Update

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Provost Lenton and Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer responded to questions arising from a report to APPRC and Senate in February on planning for the new campus at Markham Centre. Planning for the Markham Centre site will be a

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standing item on the agenda of APPRC, which will report regularly to Senate on developments.

### **Discussion of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression**

In a wide-ranging discussion, Senators shared their perspectives on contemporary issues associated with academic freedom and freedom of expression on university campuses.

### **Approvals**

Senate approved a recommendation of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to change the degree requirements and admission requirements for the International Business Law Specialization, Professional LLM, Osgoode Hall Law School / Faculty of Graduate Studies.

### **Committee Information Reports**

Senators joined the Chair of the Awards Committee, Professor Robert Kenedy, in congratulating recipients of the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards for 2016, all of whom instruct in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies:

Senior Full-Time Faculty Member: R. Darren Gobert, English

Full-Time Faculty Member: Kabita Chakraborty, Humanities shared with María L. Figueredo, Languages, Literatures and Linguistics

Contract / Adjunct Faculty Member: Krista Hunt, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

Teaching Assistant: Matthew J.P. Strang, Sociology

The Awards Committee also reported on new awards approved in the calendar year 2015 and graduate student awards disbursements in 2014-2015.

ASCP reported that it had approved minor modifications for the following:

#### Education

- establishment of academic penalty legislation for BA degrees within the Faculty of Education, mirroring the legislation for BA degrees in LA&PS, Health and Science

#### Graduate Studies

- minor changes to requirements for the MSc and PhD programs in Biology

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- a new rubric of MSTM for the Master of Management degree program

### Lassonde School of Engineering

- minor changes to the core requirements for all BEng programs
- minor changes to the specific requirements for the BEng program in Civil Engineering
- minor changes to the specific requirements for the BEng program in Mechanical Engineering

Please refer to the full Senate agenda posted online for details about these items.

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/senate-agenda-20160428.pdf>

**Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2016.**