

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 636th Meeting of Senate  
held on Thursday, June 15, 2017

### **Tribute to President Mamdouh Shoukri and His Reflections**

The Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie, paid tribute to President Mamdouh Shoukri on the occasion of his last meeting of Senate. Dr Shoukri's tenure coincided with the creation or expansion of new campuses in the Greater Toronto Area and around the world, the establishment of an Engineering Faculty, the building and refurbishment of facilities for academic activities and other pursuits, diversification of the curriculum, and enhancements in line with the University's distinctive mission and commitment to excellence. Senators warmly applauded the President.

Dr Shoukri thanked Senators for their help in establishing a culture of planning and ensuring that objectives were pursued and realized. Recognizing York's potential and attracted by its mission, he was taken by the way in which the University's values so closely aligned with Canada's heritage and evolving culture. After a decade in office his faith in York has only strengthened. The University will need to actively monitor and adapt to rapid change in the years ahead, but Dr Shoukri was confident that the community will continue to address complex challenges with dexterity, conviction and a steady focus on York's social responsibilities.

### **Other Remarks**

The Chair expressed sorrow on the passing of former Chancellor Avie Bennett, a champion of the Liberal Arts and true friend of the University. She encouraged Senators to attend Spring Convocation ceremonies along with graduates and their loved ones. She thanked Senators, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary and her University Secretariat colleagues for their contributions to collegial governance throughout the year, and conveyed wishes to all for a productive, refreshing summer.

Dr Shoukri acknowledged the exceptional leadership of Deans Shawn Brixey (Arts, Media, Performance and Design) and Noël Sturgeon (Environmental Studies) and welcomed their interim successors Professor Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt and Professor Ravi da Costa respectively. He spoke of the excitement attending the appointments of James Orbinski as the Director of The Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health and Stephen Hoffmann as a Tier One Canada Research Chair with the School of Health Policy and Management and Osgoode Hall Law School. Together with colleagues already at York, they will ensure that York achieves pre-eminence in global health scholarship and impact. He, too, urged Senators to participate in Convocation celebrations, which were his favourite duties while in office.

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

### **Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities**

In his final report of the year, the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor David Leyton-Brown, drew attention to Indigenization efforts, the status of Strategic Mandate Agreement negotiations, experiential education initiatives, and the current and next phases of COU's Strategic Engagement Campaign.

### **New Faculty: Approval in Principle**

Senate approved in principle the establishment of a new Faculty comprising the Faculty of Environmental Studies, the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Department of Geography, and potentially other departmental units or programs.

### **Senate Policy Amendments**

Senate approved amendments to *the Senate Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities* as recommended by the Executive Committee and revised by its Sub-Committee on Equity.

### **Curriculum, Academic Standards and Admissions Approvals**

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

- establish a Specialized Honours BFA Program in Intermedia, Departments of Computational Arts and Visual Arts & Art History, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (subject to approval by the Quality Council)
- establish Graduate Degree Programs in Digital Media, School of the Arts, Performance, Media & Design / Lassonde School of Engineering / Faculty of Graduate Studies: Establishment (subject to approval by the Quality Council)
- change the requirements of the OMIS Field in PhD programs, Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- amend admission requirements for BA and BSc programs, Faculty of Science
- change admission requirements and transfer credits for the Delayed-Entry Pathway, BBA and iBBA Programs, Schulich School of Business.

### **Major Reports**

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost Lisa Philipps presented a year-end report focusing on how the Institutional Integrated Resource Plan relates to University

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

academic priorities and facilitates the attainment of objectives. APPRC also facilitated a report on the budget context for academic planning by Interim Vice-President Finance and Administration Trudy Pound-Curtis. The report pivoted around the implementation of the SHARP budget model. Both presentations were posted online with the Senate agenda.

### Committee Information Items

#### Executive

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- a planned review of the Guidelines, Procedures and Definitions accompanying the *Senate Policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities* and plans to consult with the community during the
- affirmation that summer authority resides with the Committee until the September meeting of Senate
- editorial changes to *Senate Rules and Procedures* such that Senate committee membership rules will refer to "Librarians and Archivists" rather than "Librarians."
- vacancies remaining on Senate committees
- Senate attendance from September 2016 to May 2017
- Progress made by Senate committees in achieving the priorities they defined in October
- a consolidated report on actions taken by Senate in 2016-2017 Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

#### Academic Policy, Planning and Research

APPRC provided information on these items:

- goals and timelines for renewing the Senate-approved Strategic Research Plan
- responses from Faculty Councils to questions about "Tracking Progress to Achievements" and the next phase of an ongoing dialogue about how the University can gather and project details about the achievement of planning goals
- the way in which data gather from Senate Committee and Senator surveys will help shape the Committee's 2017-2018 agenda

#### Academic Policy Planning and Research / Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

APPRC and ASCP jointly transmitted the following documents:

- the most recent report of the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance
- the annual report on Non-Degree Studies

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

### Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

ASCP advised that it had approved the use GCIN as a rubric for the new Internship Program Work Term in Liberal Arts & Professional Studies and made a minor revision to the *Senate Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing* to reflect a change in degree type from BAS to BComm, and the addition of the BEng degree type on the list of exempted programs.

### Awards

Senators joined the Awards Committee in congratulating the 2017 recipients of prestigious awards for graduating students:

*Governor General's Gold Medal:* Nicole Marie Racine, Graduate Program in Psychology (Clinical-Developmental) and Muhammad Salman Chaudhry, Graduate Program in Earth & Space Science

*Governor-General's Silver Medals:* Yaakov Green, Faculty of Science, BSc, Honours, Biology, First Class with Distinction; Ilan Kogan, Schulich School of Business, BBA, Special Honours, Administrative Studies (General) With Distinction; and Ruhama Quadir, Schulich School of Business, iBBA, Specialized Honours, Administration, With Distinction

*Murray G. Ross Award:* Alamgir Khandwala, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, BAS Special Honours, Administrative Studies (Accounting) and Senator

### Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the June 15, 2017 meeting for details about these items.

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

### September Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, September 28, 2017**.