

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

**The 651st Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, November 22, 2018**

Remarks

In her report, President Rhonda Lenton discussed the Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, which, with the exception of the announcement of the cancellation of the French-language university, did not shed light on the Ontario government's plans for the post-secondary sector. In view of the Finance Minister's statements that the "fiscal hole is deep" and "everyone in Ontario will be required to make sacrifices," budget cuts to all publicly supported institutions are anticipated in the provincial budget to be issued next spring. President Lenton affirmed that she will work with colleagues at York, across the sector and at COU to advocate for the sector, and also will undertake York-specific advocacy. Regarding the French-language university, President Lenton has conveyed to the Minister of Francophone Affairs and Attorney General York's willingness to continue to support French-language post-secondary education, and will work collectively with the other bilingual Ontario universities, the University of Ottawa and Laurentian University, in this area.

Other comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- the federal government's Fall Economic Statement, released earlier in the week, which will be reviewed for implications for York and the university sector
- the shifting ground on the university budget consultations in light of the uncertainty around the provincial budget, and themes that have emerged during the consultations, including deferred maintenance, labour relations, interdisciplinary scholarship, and ensuring classrooms are equipped with appropriate technology
- explorations to proceed with Markham Centre Campus, including efforts to build relationships with potential donors, seek federal government funding, and build a case for provincial funding of enrolment for the campus
- the plans to further the UAP priority of establishing an internationalization strategy, to be led by a Working Group with representation from all faculties and from the administration and undergraduate and graduate students; a call for expressions of interest for the Working Group will be issued soon
- highlights from the Kudos Report and recent events she had attended including the annual retirees luncheon

Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Vice-President Research and Innovation Rob Haché presented the annual report on research.

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Approvals

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

- change the requirements for the Certificate in Athletic Therapy, School of Kinesiology and Health Science, Health
- change the requirements for the BA (Honours) Programs in Business Economics, Glendon

Committee Information Reports

Executive (Professor Alison Macpherson, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee provided notice of motion to Senate for the Statement of Policy on Free Speech, which will come forward to Senate for approval at the meeting of 13 December 2018. Senators shared views on the draft Statement during a discussion facilitated by the Chair of the Free Speech Policy Working Group, Professor Lorne Sossin, Osgoode.

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- the forthcoming annual call for expressions of interest in membership on Senate committees and other positions elected by Senate, with Senators encouraged to help identify prospective candidates
- approval of Senate committee members nominated by Faculty Councils
- the Committee's joint efforts with the Board Executive Committee to bring forward to Senate a recommendation on a process to clarify the responsibilities of the Board, Senate and Administration for the suspension of classes during a disruption
- additions to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients
- regarding the Committee's review of Senate Rules, Procedures and Guidelines, the call to Senators, distributed by email on November 5, to provide input on the preliminary list of the aspects of the rules proposed for focus in this round
- efforts to create a message board for Senators that could function independently of e-mail
- the Committee's monitoring of the academic disruption

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Les Jacobs, Chair)

APPRC provided information on these items:

- preliminary discussions regarding the establishment of a new / "revised" faculty composed of Geography, the Faculty of Environmental Studies and other possible units
- plans to hold an academic planning forum in early 2019

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- defining an action plan on Incomparable Metrics to track the University's success in research and scholarship through indicators
- tracking 2015-2020 UAP progress and framing the process for developing the next Plan
- update on plans for Markham Centre Campus following the announcement of the cancellation of provincial funding for the Campus

ASCP (Professor Kim Michasiw, Chair)

ASCP provided information on this item:

- minor changes to the requirements for the Finance stream within the Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) Program, School of Administrative Studies, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

Awards (Professor Brenda Spotton Visano, Chair)

The Awards Committee information items were the following:

- revisions to the Procedures for Nomination in the Senate Policy on Honorific Professorships, to allow nomination files of those not selected for the University Professorship and Distinguished Research Professorship to be held for reconsideration for three years
- revisions to the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards Criteria to allow nomination files of full-time faculty and contract/adjunct faculty not selected to be reconsidered for three years
- the distribution of the call for nominations for the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards, with details available on the [Awards Committee webpage](#)

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the November 22, 2018 meeting for details about these items.

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

December Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018.