

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 653rd Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, January 24, 2018

Remarks

The Chair welcomed Professor David Mutimer, LA&PS, who was attending his first Senate meeting in his capacity as Interim Vice-Chair of Senate.

In her report, President Rhonda Lenton referenced the provincial government announcements to:

- cut tuition fees by 10% in 2019-20, followed by a tuition freeze in 2020-21
- introduce changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) that will affect eligibility, the balance between grants and loans, and some aspects of repayment
- introduce a requirement that some student fees be made optional

Vice-President Finance and Administration Carol McAulay summarized the financial impact of the tuition reduction, estimated to be \$46.7M in 2019-2020 and \$60.4M in 2020-2021, representing a 4.5% budget cut. As a result, there will be two additional years of deficit in the operating budget through to 2020-2021, when the plan approved by the Board was to achieve a balanced budget by 2019-2020.

President Lenton then turned to an update on applications for Fall 2019, with Provost and Vice-President Academic Lisa Philipps presenting an overview of application statistics from the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC). Overall, the total number of direct entry applications to York has decreased by 4.2%, while they have increased across the system by 4.9%, with the biggest drops in first choice and second choice applications. In contrast, international applications to York have increased by 22% (versus a 14.5% increase in the system). Currently, York is eighth in the province in terms of the share of first choice applications, continuing the downward trend in its position over the past ten years, a period during which three major labour disruptions occurred. To restore prospective students' confidence in choosing to attend York, Provost Philipps highlighted the need for the University community to engage in dialogue about the underlying issues producing tensions and consider approaches to working together collectively to move forward.

President Lenton outlined the next steps to begin overcoming the challenges presented by the tuition reduction – including identifying efficiencies and ways to drive new revenue, and the undertaking of a comprehensive financial analysis – highlighting that the impact of the cut will be shared among all units. With respect to the OSAP changes, President Lenton underlined the importance of York remaining steadfast to its commitment to access, a foundational value for the University.

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Other comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- the importance of making as much progress as possible on the 2015-2020 University Academic Plan (UAP) as planning begins for the next iteration, especially as the UAP ties into the government consultations on the third round of Strategic Mandate Agreements
- explorations to proceed with Markham Centre Campus continue and an update will be provided at an upcoming Senate meeting

Reports

Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities

In her first report of the year, the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor Andrea Davis, reported that the focus of its most recent meeting was on free speech on university campuses with various guest speakers contributing to the discussion, including two students from the McMaster Students Union. The student guests highlighted to the Colleagues that faculty should be prepared to broaden free speech considerations to the classroom, in addition to protests and events, as speech occurs in classrooms daily. The Colleagues also explored the concept of safe spaces in the classroom and suggested an alternative option of accountable, brave and courageous spaces, where students may express themselves freely and be socially responsible and accountable for engagement with others.

Approvals

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

- establish a Stream in Cognitive Neuropsychology within the BA and BSc (Honours) programs in Psychology, Glendon
- establish a full-time option for the Master of Public Policy, Administration & Law, School of Public Policy & Administration, LA&PS / Graduate Studies
- approve changes to the degree requirements for the Master of Design, AMPD / Graduate Studies

Committee Information Reports

Executive (Professor David Mutimer, Interim Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee presented for discussion a draft proposal for a Special Joint Senate-Board Working Group on Jurisdiction Related to the Cancellation / Suspension of Classes during a Labour Disruption. Senators shared views on the proposal at the meeting and are invited to submit feedback via email to Cheryl Underhill (underhil@yorku.ca) by Friday, February 8 for transmittal to Senate Executive.

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The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- the Committee's monitoring of the academic disruption, including the status of course completions and grades submission from the FW 2017-2018 session
- encouragement for Senators to suggest individuals to serve as external members of the Board of Governors for consideration by the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee; suggestions may be made to the Senators serving on the Board, currently Senators Mutimer and Turlakis, or to Maureen Armstrong, Secretary to Senate and the Board
- its efforts to establish a review cycle for Senate policies
- a reminder that the call for expressions of interest in membership on Senate committees and other positions elected by Senate has been issued, with the upcoming vacancies on Senate committees and the form to submit nominations available on the Senate webpage under the title [Senate Elections](#)

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

APPRC provided information on these items:

- a reminder of the upcoming [ASCP-APPRC Forum of Ideas](#) on Thursday, February 7, with panels to address the various forms of institutional support and resource planning for program development and a keynote address from Alex Usher
- its tracking of 2015-2020 UAP progress and preparations for discussions with the Deans / Principal over spring and fall 2019 on their respective successes and challenges in advancing UAP goals, as well as progress on their Integrated Resource Plans
- the efforts of the Faculty Blue Facilitating Group, which continues to work closely with Geography, the Faculty of Environmental Studies and other relevant parties to cement the Faculty vision, identify options, address hurdles and tackle resource questions
- the work underway on the VPRI-led initiative to develop and implement an Electronic CV (ECV) tool for York Faculty members

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor K. Michasiw, Chair)

ASCP provided an update on its efforts in collaboration with the Registrar's Office to implement the move from the 9-point to 4-point grading scale, approved in principle by Senate in November 2017. A significant number of policy and operational tasks follow on from this change, including defining the required GPA for progression and graduation

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and reviewing the current approach to Honours progression through the lens of enhancing student support and success. Broad consultation will be forthcoming.

ASCP also provided information on the following items:

- Minor changes to the degree requirements for the MSc and PhD programs in Biology, Science / Graduate Studies
- Minor change to the admission requirements for the Professional LLM in International Business Law, Osgoode / Graduate Studies

Appeals (Professor Simone Pisana, Chair)

The Appeals Committee presented its annual report on Faculty- and Senate-level petitions and appeals decisions. The Chair noted trends in the petitions and appeals received by Faculties and the Committee, such as the increase in appeals related to academic integrity cases. As the appeals in many academic integrity cases relate to the penalty levied rather than the finding, the Chair encouraged Faculties to provide a clear rationale for their decisions to augment the Appeals Committee's understanding of the files.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the January 24, 2019 meeting for details about these items.

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

February Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2019