

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

**The 656th Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, April 25, 2019**

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Franck van Breugel, Lassonde, extended thanks and appreciation on behalf of Senate to Senator Rob Haché whose tenure as Vice-President Research & Innovation comes to a close as he heads to Laurentian University to become its next President and Vice-Chancellor. The Chair expressed appreciation for Senator Haché's commitment to advancing York's research priorities and partnership with the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee and Senate on shared goals and strategies, and highlighted that York's growing research success is a testament to his impact on the University.

To set the context for the 2019 Ontario Budget, President Rhonda Lenton restated the challenges of the current financial context, including the ongoing impacts on enrolment from the 2018 labour disruption, the tuition fee reduction for 2019-2020 and freeze for 2020-2021, and the cancellation of provincial government funding for Markham Centre Campus. The alignment of the federal government's 2019 budget with York's priorities were noted, with investment in work-integrated learning, graduate student scholarship and supports, lifelong learning, and an international education strategy.

President Lenton reported on the initiatives announced in the 2019 Ontario Budget that relate to the post-secondary education sector. Included among them are:

- the increase of performance-based funding tied to the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) in SMA-3
- faculty renewal, with plans to introduce amendments to the MTCU Act to address concerns about the increasing age of retirement amongst university professors
- pay for performance for executives
- the creation of an expert panel on intellectual property and commercialization
- consultation on compensation growth within collective agreements
- the cancellation of capital funding for graduate expansion, resulting in a loss to the University of approximately \$1.6M annually

Performance-based funding will comprise 25% of the grant in 2020-21 and gradually increase to 60% of the grant in 2024-25. Universities' performance will be measured against 10 metrics aligned with government priorities in skills and job outcomes and with economic and community impact. One of the metrics will be a negotiated institution-specific metric in the area of economic and community impact. Universities' achievement of the 10 metrics will be on a pass/fail basis with a band of tolerance and there will be limited flexibility for institutions to weight the metrics that best reflect their

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differentiated strategic goals. Additional information about the implementation and administration of performance-based funding will be reported to Senate as it becomes available.

Prior to the SMA-3 negotiations, which will begin over summer 2019, it will be important to initiate discussions within the University community about the weighting of the metrics, institutional strengths and the one institution-specific metric.

Other comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- the important long-term strategic opportunity that Markham Centre Campus presents to the University and the plans to reengage the committees tasked with planning for the campus to consider next steps
- York's ranking as 26th in the world and 5th in Canada in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking which assesses universities based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The monthly "Kudos" report on the achievements of members of the York community can be accessed with other documentation for the meeting.

Reports

Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Professor Andrea Davis, reported that the discussion at the April COU meetings focused on the assessment of student skills and learning outcomes, specifically on new ways to measure transferable skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and lifelong learning. In the Council meeting, where Colleagues and university Executive Heads met together, they received a presentation from Queen's University guest speakers that shared the results of a recent four-year longitudinal study that measured and tracked student learning outcomes as students progressed through their education at Queen's.

Indigenous Framework

Under the auspices of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senators Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, and Ruth Koleszar-Green, School of Social Work, LA&PS, delivered a presentation on the Indigenous Framework for York University.

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Approvals

On a recommendation of its Executive Committee, Senate approved the membership and distribution of Senate for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021.

Senate approved the following recommendations of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, effective FW2019-2020:

- changes to degree requirements for the Bachelor of Disaster and Emergency Management programs, School of Administrative Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- changes to degree requirements for the Specialized Honours Bachelor of Commerce program and to the Management Science stream within the program, School of Administrative Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- changes to admission and program requirements for the Diploma in Mathematics Education, Faculty of Education / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- changes to degree requirements for the MA and PhD programs in English, Department of English, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / Faculty of Graduate Studies

Senate Elections

Senate approved a slate of candidates presented by the Executive Committee with the result that a number of individuals were acclaimed to positions on Senate committees while others will be elected as the result of a ballot conducted from April 29 to May 6.

Committee Information Reports

Executive (Professor David Mutimer, Interim Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee reported that there will be further consideration of options and next steps regarding the Special Joint Senate-Board Working Group on Jurisdiction Related to the Cancellation/Suspension of Classes during a Labour Disruption, as the call for nominations fell short of attaining the required three Senators.

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

APPRC provided information on these items:

- its tracking of 2015-2020 UAP progress and the commencement of discussions with the Deans / Co-Principals on their respective successes in advancing UAP goals

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- progress on the initiative to develop “Faculty Blue”, with a draft proposal for the establishment of the new Faculty in circulation for feedback prior to its formal review by Faculty Councils in LA&PS and FES

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor Kim Michasiw, Chair)

ASCP reported on a minor change approved by the Committee to the thesis and dissertation regulations relating to oral examinations in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Awards (Professor Brenda Spotton Visano, Chair)

The Awards Committee conveyed the 2018 New Awards Report, with comments focused on the primary reasons for the decrease in donor-funded awards in 2018. Senators were encouraged to refer students in financial crisis to the Office of Student Community Relations in the Bennett Centre to obtain information about the new York Emergency Assistance Fund, which provides support to students who are experiencing a financial crisis.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the April 25, 2019 meeting for details about these items.

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

May Meeting of Senate

Senate’s next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2019.