

# The Senate of York University

## Synopsis

The 659th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, September 26, 2019

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Franck van Breugel of the Lassonde School of Engineering, greeted continuing and new Senators, and urged Senators to join in celebrating graduating students at Fall Convocation ceremonies.

Noting that 2019-2020 is the final year of the current University Academic Plan (UAP), President Rhonda Lenton highlighted the progress made to date on priorities articulated in the Plan and the importance of consolidating progress this year as we look ahead to the next UAP. One forum for discussion will be the [President's Town Hall](#), scheduled for October 10, where community members are encouraged to share input on progress on University priorities and major strategic initiatives.

Provost and Vice-President Academic Lisa Philipps delivered a presentation and gathered Senate's input on the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) metrics and principles for the establishment and implementation of the SMA3 at York, highlighting the importance of continuing to align the weighting of the metrics and the University's academic priorities in SMA3.

President Lenton also reported on the following items:

- the senior administrative team's review of resource plans across the University to facilitate enhanced investment in areas identified as priorities during the budget consultation held in 2018-2019
- the new business plan for Markham Centre Campus, to be brought forward to the Board of Governors for approval on October 8, and the planned next steps if Board approval is obtained
- the individuals who will be honoured with honorary degrees at Fall Convocation, whose names will be shared with the University community shortly

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 on the discussions at the Colleagues' August meeting which focused on SMA3 metrics, the measuring and reporting of faculty outputs, and research and innovation in Canada. Senator Davis briefed Senators on a subsequent COU meeting where Colleagues received an update on the provincial government's definition

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of experiential education for the purpose of measuring universities' success on the experiential learning SMA3 metric.

### Approvals

Senate approved a motion submitted by Provost Philipps to:

- declare September 27, 2019 a day of academic accommodation for which no student shall receive an academic penalty for not attending classes
- ask faculty members through the Deans / Principal to establish reasonable extensions of deadlines for graded work due on that date, and to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who choose to attend the Global Climate Strike activities, including reasonable alternative access to materials covered during their absence that does not alter the academic standards associated with the missed activity

On the recommendation of its Executive Committee, Senate elected Brian Huss (Liberal Arts & Professional Studies) and Saskia Van Viegen (Liberal Arts & Professional Studies) to the Senate Appeals Committee, Michael Rotondi (Health) to the Senate Committee on Awards, and Benjamin Geva (Osgoode) to the Tenure and Promotions Committee.

Having been provided Notice of Motion in May 2019, Senate approved the following revisions to the Senate Rules and Procedures recommended by its Executive Committee:

- a reduction of the time allotted for a Senator to speak to a motion
- non-substantive changes and additions to enhance clarity on the duties of the Chair, committee meeting quorum, and meeting agenda and order of business

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

- revise the Senate Pass/Fail Grades Policy, effective September 1, 2019
- change the degree and admission requirements and delete and create Graduate Fields within the MAsc in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Graduate Program in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Lassonde / Graduate Studies, effective FW 2019-2020
- delete Graduate Fields and change the requirements of the qualifying program for the MA in Translation Studies, Graduate Program in Translation Studies, Glendon / Graduate Studies, effective FW 2019-2020
- change the diploma requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Health Industry Management, Schulich / Graduate Studies, effective FW 2019-2020

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- authorize the granting of degrees at the University's convocations held in Fall 2019, February 2020 (Convocation In Absentia) and Spring 2020, and individually to students at any point during the year who have fulfilled the degree program requirements for receipt of degrees

## Committee Information Reports

### Executive (Professor Alison Macpherson, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- its approval of Senate Committee members nominated by Faculty Councils
- its priorities for 2019-2020
- the results of the Senator and Senate committee member surveys conducted in June and the Committee's planned follow-up activities
- the University Secretariat's initiatives in support of governance and Senate in 2019-2020
- Senate meeting dates for 2019-2020 with changes approved for December
- actions taken under Summer Authority
- Senate attendance in 2018-2019 and a consolidated report on actions taken by Senate in 2018-2019, available for review on the Senate website

### Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Carl Ehrlich, Chair)

APPRC reported on the following items:

- preliminary information about the planned approach to the University Academic Plan renewal process, with more details to be shared at an upcoming Senate meeting
- its participation in a budget consultation led by the Provost and AVP Finance
- its confirmation of priorities for 2019-2020
- the membership of its Sub-Committees for 2019-2020

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

ASCP reported on the membership of its sub-committees for 2019-2020 and its approval of an editorial correction to the calendar copy for the Specialized Honours BSc program in Neuroscience, Department of Biology, Science / Departments of Psychology and Kinesiology & Health Science, Health.

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### **Additional Information about this Meeting**

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the September 26, 2019 meeting for details about these items.

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

### **October Meeting of Senate**

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2019.