Memorandum

To: Peter Timmerman, Chair, FES Faculty Council

From: Mamdouh Shoukri, President & Vice-Chancellor

Date: May 14, 2012

Subject: Announcement of Appointment of Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies

I am pleased to inform you that the search for a new Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies has reached a successful conclusion, and I invite you to share this news with colleagues in the Faculty.

Last fall, I established a search committee, comprising members of the Faculty of Environmental Studies (faculty, staff and students), as well as a member appointed by me, and chaired by the Vice-President Academic & Provost, charged with undertaking a search for the next Dean. Following an extensive national and international search, the Committee recommended the appointment of Professor Noël Sturgeon to this position. I am delighted to announce that Professor Sturgeon has accepted our invitation to take up a five-year term as Dean, commencing August 1, 2012. The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors Executive Committee on May 10, 2012.

Professor Sturgeon comes to York University from Washington State University (WSU), where she is a Professor of Women’s Studies in the Department of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies. She is also a member of the University’s Graduate Faculty in American Studies. In 2010-2011, she spent a term at York in the Faculty of Environmental Studies as a Fulbright-York University Chair. She has also held visiting appointments at the JFK Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität, Berlin; Murdoch University, Perth, Australia; the University of California, Santa Cruz; and Rutgers University.
From 1998 to 2008, Professor Sturgeon served as Chair of Women’s Studies at WSU, enhancing the curriculum and building the unit from a program to a department with majors and minors, the only online Women’s Studies major in the US, and a graduate program. Following her term as Chair, she was engaged in planning for the merger of the Women’s Studies Department with the Comparative Ethnic Studies Department and the American Studies Program to create the Department of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies. She also founded and directed two research units, the Centre for Social and Environmental Justice and Gendering Research Across the Campuses, and has been involved in several international collaborations. She has been deeply involved in a number of university efforts to promote diversity, environmental research, women’s programs, and interdisciplinary research efforts at WSU.

Professor Sturgeon holds a PhD in History of Consciousness (Politics) from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has a strong scholarly record and enjoys an international reputation as an interdisciplinary feminist scholar, specializing in environmental justice cultural studies, feminist theory, social movements, and anti-racist and environmental movements. Her work has focused on questions of social change, cultural representation, and policy shifts arising from multi-issue movements such as anti-militarist and anti-nuclear direct action, ecofeminism, and environmental justice, in a range of cultural and historical contexts.

I am pleased to welcome Professor Sturgeon back to York. I look forward to working with her in this important portfolio, and I hope all members of the Faculty will join me in congratulating her.

I would like to thank the members of the Decanal Search Committee for their contributions to this important process.

And finally, I am grateful to Barbara Rahder, outgoing dean, for all that she has achieved over the years at York, and wish her well in all of her future endeavours.

cc: Patrick Monahan, Provost and Chair of the Search Committee
   Vice-Presidents
   Deans, Principal and University Librarian
   Members of the Search Committee
   Secretary, FES Faculty Council