



The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 674rd Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 via Zoom

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, welcomed Senators to the meeting and extended a special acknowledgement to all who have been impacted by the pandemic, especially those who have been ill, and those who have lost loved ones.

Comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- a report on the recent release of the 2021 Ontario Budget which is focused on pandemic recovery. Highlights include the government's commitment to the investment of over \$500 million to support healthcare research initiatives undertaken in universities, colleges and academic hospitals, an additional \$7 million to help postsecondary students during COVID-19 to increase access to mental health and addiction services, and a new Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit which would provide up to \$2,000 towards eligible training expenses.
- an update that the Ontario government is expanding the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to include nearly 600 micro-credential programs. Through this initiative, the province is ensuring loans and grants will be available to more learners looking to rapidly upskill and reskill for the in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow.
- an update on campus planning for fall 2021 and the partial return to campus in September beginning with the gradual reopening of the campus over the summer while keeping consistent with government and public health guidelines and prioritizing the health and safety of the community.
- acknowledgement of the significant challenges for students and faculty in the context of the pandemic in reference to a recent student accommodation matter, and emphasis that York University is committed to upholding and promoting the values of respect, equity, diversity, and inclusion across its campuses and in communications.

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- acknowledgement of the open letter to the President and the Board of Governors from the *York University Fossil Free Campaign* advocating for divestment in fossil fuels and York's leadership, in addition to its investment strategies, in lowering its carbon emissions to advance its institutional Sustainable Development Goals.
- an announcement that in recognition of all the efforts of faculty and units across the university in continuing to advance the priorities of the university in the context of the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, a special York Wellness Day will be instituted on Friday, July 2, to provide an extended 4-day long weekend.
- highlights from the "Kudos" report including three major research projects led by York researchers Professors Eric Hessels, Derek Wilson, and George Zhu, which have received more than \$9 million in research infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

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 (COU)

Speaking to the written report included in the agenda, the Academic Colleague to COU, Senator Brenda Spotton Visano, reported on the February COU meetings in which members engaged in conversation with Dr. Alison Flynn, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Ottawa, on the topic of "Online Learning: Lessons Learned and the Future of Education after the Pandemic." In addition, a number of updates were provided on policy matters and initiatives under discussion at the provincial level, including the advocacy of the OCAV Micro-credential Working group regarding the Ministry's emerging micro-credential framework.

Vice-President Research and Innovation Annual Report

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Vice-President Research & Innovation Amir Asif presented the Vice-President Research and Innovation Annual Report.

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Academic Policy, Planning and Research (APPRC) / Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP)

Speaking to the written report included in the agenda, APPRC Chair Senator Brenda Spotton Visano, reported on joint meeting with ASCP in late February to discuss the academic programming for the Markham Centre Campus, highlighting how the planning is animating the campus vision and focused on providing students a rich experience at the new site. Professor Alice Pitt, Senior Advisor for Markham Academic Strategic Planning, led the discussion.

Approvals

On the recommendation of its Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senate approved, effective immediately:

- Change in the name of the Department of Communication Studies to the *Department of Communication and Media Studies*

On the recommendation of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved:

- change in the name of the BA and Honours iBA programs in Communication Studies to *Communication and Media Studies*, housed within the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, effective FW 2021-2022
- change to the Osgoode Hall Law School Academic Rules governing the Indigenous and Aboriginal Law Requirement for the Osgoode Hall Law School Juris Doctor Program to accommodate a waiver of the requirement in specific circumstances, effective immediately
- changes to the requirements for the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing Undergraduate Certificate housed within the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, effective FW 2021-2022
- changes to the requirements for the Sustainable Energy Undergraduate Certificate, housed within Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, effective FW 2021-2022
- amendments to the *Senate Policy on Letters of Permission* related to the new grading scheme implementation, effective FW2023-2024

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- amendments to the *Senate Policy and Guidelines on Undergraduate Co-Registration Options with Other Post-secondary Institutions* related to the new grading scheme implementation, effective FW2023-2024
- amendments to the *Undergraduate Certificate Guidelines and Procedures* related to the new grading scheme implementation, effective FW2023-2024

Committee Information Reports

Executive

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- its ongoing monitoring of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on academic activities including a decision on online proctoring of examinations and further actions pertaining to the disruption outlined in its written Report
- the Senate consultation process pertaining to the renewal of the President's term
- the launch of the call for Expressions of Interest in membership on Senate committees and other positions elected by Senate
- its review of the Faculty Council rules and procedures of the School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design, and Glendon.
- the launch of the search for York's next Chancellor

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (APPRC)

APPRC reported on the following items:

- its ongoing monitoring of UAP Implementation including the spring planning forum session on the UAP teaching priorities focusing on ways to take up Experiential Education opportunities that took place on 11 March 2021.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP)

ASCP's information the following minor changes that were approved by the Committee, effective FW2021-2022 unless otherwise noted:

Faculty of Health

Minor changes to the requirements for the degree options in the BSc program in Global Health

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Minor changes to the requirements for the degree options in the BSc programs in Kinesiology

Minor changes to the requirements for the Specialized Honours BSc Program in Neuroscience

Minor changes to the requirements for the degree options in the BSc programs in Psychology

Faculty of Science

Minor changes to Degree Requirements for the BSc programs in the Department of Biology

Lassonde School of Engineering

Minor change to complementary studies requirement for BEng degree programs

Schulich School of Business

Establishment of a Specialization in Digital Transformation within the MBA program

Minor changes to degree requirements for the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and International Bachelor of Business Administration (iBBA) programs

Glendon / FGS

Changes to admissions requirements for the MA in Translation Studies program (related to the new grading scheme implementation), effective FW2023-2024

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Changes to the Graduate Courses and Grading Regulations (related to the new grading scheme implementation), effective FW2023-2024

Changes to English Language Proficiency requirements, effective immediately (related to the changes to undergraduate and graduate admission requirements (Language Proficiency))

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the Thursday, March 25, 2020 meeting for details about these items.

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

April Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 22, 2021.