A Brief Report from the Senate Meeting of January 28th, 2021
Senator Cheryl van Daalen-Smith

- **President Lenton’s Report – highlights**
  - Despite the Pandemic, we have managed to retain the majority of our students
  - We are down in new U/G students
  - 21/22 Applications are positive overall
  - International 101 applications down 23%
  - 3rd highest applications after U of T and McMaster
  - Summer will continue to be online/remote over all with the usual application process for face-to-face requests
  - Fall plans will continue to evolve given the ongoing questions about vaccine roll out
  - Priority is the well-being of our community of faculty, staff, students
  - Face to face will increase based on PH guidelines
  - Looking at creative ways to allow students a phased return to campus
  - Sees this as an opportunity for us all to reflect upon a Post-Pandemic York University
  - Pandemic has shown us just how small the world is
  - Our commitment to global engagement is furthered by this realization
  - For example, Do we want to maintain some online/remote given AODA?
  - How can we address the needs of working professionals needing to re-tool?
• President Lenton’s Report – highlights continued.....

• The 2020-2025 UAP’s 6 priorities must be central to how we explore a Post Pandemic York U.

• The UN Sustainable Development Goals are already deeply embedded here at York, i.e. climate change, inequality, AI, Health Transformation, Poverty

• How might we organize our work post pandemic?

• How will we use our space?

• How can we decrease our carbon footprint as an institution?

• How can we improve access?

• What will 21st Century Learning look like?
1. Motion to *increase FOH seats at Senate by 2* – passed (based on number of faculty)

2. Use of **On-line proctoring** – With the pandemic came a need to provide examinations online – and with that brought the use, for some, of online proctoring.

Grave concerns have been shared with the Provost and Senate executive regarding the use of online proctoring, with concerns re class bias, racial implications secondary to facial recognition, inequitable access to sufficiently strong enough broadband, and many others.

We are exploring models – *including the full restriction of such system* – these consultations and deliberations continue. Further, we are exploring other mechanisms to facilitate academic integrity – *note there is university-wide/sector-wide concern regarding academic dishonesty during the pandemic.*
This past Autumn, a survey of students was conducted to learn about their overall educational experience with virtual program delivery in the Fall 2020.

While there were broad themes of “helpful aspects,” there also were frustrating challenges. A comprehensive summary of the survey results will be provided to ensure we can explore measures to enhance students’ learning.

A survey of instructors will be conducted shortly to collect a complete picture of experiences with remote program delivery.
Senator Brenda Spotton-Visano facilitated a pre-discussion with Senators regarding APPC with a focus both on the University Academic Plan, the SDGs (below) and how we can collaboratively shape our contribution as Faculties and units so as to impact the SDGs.
Each year, APPC hosts a planning forum for the university community centred on the UAP.

The 2021 open forum will be held on THURSDAY 11 MARCH, 2021 with a focus on “identifying the hallmarks of success for the 2020-2025 UPA and setting the stage for monitoring progress.”

In January and February, educative sessions will be held at Senate re the UAP and

Several different planning documents and frameworks intersect and tie purposefully around the UAP including:
- The Indigenous Framework (Shelia Cote-Meek)
- The Framework to Address Anti-Black Racism, (Andrea Davis)
- EDI principles
- The Strategic Mandate Agreements, and
- The Institutional Integrated Resource Plan

We discussed how the UAP interrelates with these recent/emerging planning documents, with a 5-minute overview on each of these provided by key leaders.
Sheila Cote-Meek, VP Equity, People, Culture Division

Discussed the Development of a pan-university EDI Strategy including AB Racism, the April 2019 Indigenous Framework (with a specific focus on the TRC), and rooted and based in reconciliation.
Andrea Davis, LAPS Special Advisor Anti-Black Racism Discussed the Development of an ABR Framework and advisory committee – to be launched in February 2021.

Carl E. James has been appointed as Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation to the University, as part of the Division of Equity, People and Culture (EPC). In this newly created role, Professor James will work closely with Vice President of EPC, Sheila Cote-Meek, to support the advancement of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) throughout the University. Colleagues in the FOH are involved in both of these initiatives.
Discussed how the 2018-2023 Strategic Direction for Research and Innovation links with the UAP, involving INTENSIFICATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, INTERDISCIPLINARITY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

6 Themes, include some that directly link to the FOH including: Building Healthy Lives, Communities and Environments and Forging a Just and Equitable World.

A new ORU in Indigenous Knowledges and a Health PRECINCT was mentioned.

Also mentioned was the 2019 OPEN ACCESS POLICY at York University inviting all of us to work towards the goal of open access and decreasing barriers to knowledge access.

Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy
The change to Gen Ed requirements in the FOH’s BHS, BSc and BA including a faculty-specific option to take courses in house was passed despite significant concerns raised regarding A. increased insularity in the disciplines, B. the corollary decline in exposure to interdisciplinary courses (the breadth requirement) and C. the impact on faculties with a long-standing relationship with the FOH in delivering courses.

TENURE AND PROMOTION REPORT
55 files have been evaluated (average), Three unit standards were reviewed and a statistical review of unit reviews completed. No appeals were filed. Units are “urged to tackle teaching stream standards” asap, stating many are not yet done.

The committee commented on recurring issues from file reviews including A. review anomalies, B. files missing info, C. insufficient evidence to substantiate recommendations, D. inadequacies in the required ‘full and balanced report’, E. Files missing correlation to Unit Level Standards, F. Unsigned student evaluations, and G. Not achieving the requisite 6 faculty members present at file reviews.

We are asked to see the TOOL KIT: HOW TO REVIEW FILES.
NB – all electronic – may consider maintaining this versus resorting back to large binders.
The Next step involves faculties and units/schools/programs to explore how the UAP connects to us, how will our Faculty of Health and individual units implement the UAP. How can we enact the six foundational priorities? The SDGs, and the current and in-development frameworks.

Meant not to be a “micro-prescription”, rather Faculties and individual units are free to imagine how we will take these up.