

September 28, 2023 Senate Meeting Synopsis

The Acting Chair of Senate, Professor Lauren Sergio, welcomed Senators to the 698th meeting of Senate (held in person and via zoom). Officiating was also Acting Vice Chair Patricia Burke Wood.

There were no requests to discuss consent items and no business arising from previous Senate meeting.

1) Inquires and Communications

W. van Wijngaarden gave the Report of the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities. Key points made:

- Challenges that are faced by international students attending university in Ontario (it was noted that for some small universities international students make up the majority of students)
- Housing shortages and housing conditions were particularly highlighted.
- There was reminder of how important it is to have Universities provide support to incoming international students.
- Provost and others highlighted that York has an ESL program and has formed a Housing working group led by Carol McAulay, Vice- President Finance & Administration which is looking at increasing capacity in residences and is doing both short- and long-term planning.

2) Presidents Items

President Lenton gave a lengthy address on the following items:

a) Recent global engagement activities

- President was addressing Senate from Australia where she was as part of her work on developing global partnerships. Had just been in India (6 cities) where an MOU has been signed with OP Jindal Global University in Sonapat. In Australia she was looking at DEDI initiatives. All part of Global Engagement Strategy to raise York's profile and expand links.
- b) Auditor General value for money audit of the University – Update
 - AG has submitted 3 reports to York which they are currently reviewing for factual accuracy but also for the underlying assumptions – York is waiting for draft report to come in late October.
- c) Current post-secondary landscape
 - Annual progress report on UAP will be posted by October 16, 2023
 - Talked about York's Higher Education ratings – York has moved up to 40th in the world (Times Higher Education) – although ratings have their limitations, important for global reputation.
 - Budget and enrollment – 2021-22 had strong budget performance but enrollments have come down now.
 - Had surpluses from previous years to address infrastructure needs, inflation and DEDI initiatives.
 - But in 2023 there has been a drop in enrolments, retention and course loads as well as a decline in international students – but still balanced budget.
 - Next 2 years will be leaner and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has new financial stability metrics which they can now invoke going forward.
 - Result of several factors: no increase in tuition/provincial grants frozen/impact of challenge to Bill 124 (limited wage increases to 1% a year but has now been declared unconstitutional so wage discussions are beginning)

- To mitigate budget shortfalls: increase global reputation (International students)/new programs especially professional ones/strengthen existing programs, etc.,

Questions/Comments included:

- University saved a lot because of Bill 124 and other universities are giving wage increases to staff and faculty (President Lenton response was that that is true but the University now has less revenue to deal with this)

d) Kudos Report

- Reminder to read.

3) Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee (Patricia Burke Wood)

- Need membership especially on Senate T & P (Health has 3 members)

b) Academic Policy, Planning and Research (A. Davis)

- Went over APPRC mandate
- Reminded that there will be an Academic Forum on October 26th from 9:30-12

c) Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (K. Michasiw)

- Gave his usual spirited account of ASCP work (new grading scheme still being discussed, medical form, policy on academic conduct)
- Task Force on the Future of Pedagogy being shared by APPRC and ASCP

d) Appeals (J. Sutherland)

- Described the mandate and composition and need for more participation (have 9 faculty and 3 students)

e) Awards (R. Bashir)

- Discussed mandate and reminded people to look at website related to awards and encourage applications

f) T & P (S. Bohn)

- Discussed mandate (review adjudication, faculty standards, appeals)

- Shortage of members (T & P appeals also has a vacancy)

4) Other Business

Motion brought forward by York Federation of Students to allow students to participate in National Day of Action against tuition hikes November 8th with reasonable academic accommodations.
Passed

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of June 29, 2023
- Granting of degrees, certificates & diplomas (Fall 2023 to Spring 2024)
- Senators on the Board of Governors re: June 2023 meeting of the Board.