

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, April 30th, 2018
Accolade Building West (ACW) 206
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (if the labour dispute continues)
3:00 pm – 5:00pm (if the labour dispute is over)

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Committee of the Whole: Discussion on Academic Governance during the CUPE 3903 Strike
4. Hortative Motion

2017- 2018 Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Faculty Council Meetings are normally on the second Thursday of the month at 3:00pm in the Senate Chamber, N940 Ross Building.

May 10, 2018
June 7, 2018**

**The June meeting of Council will take place on the first Thursday due to a scheduling conflict. Please note this meeting will take place in the Harry Crowe Room, 109 Atkinson.

HORTATIVE MOTION

LA&PS Faculty Council expresses non-confidence in the senior administration of York University led by President Rhonda Lenton and in the Board of Governors led by Rick Waugh

Rationale

With the strike in its eight week, the Administration of York University, led by President Rhonda Lenton, continues to refuse to bargain with CUPE 3903 to resolve outstanding issues. Although it welcomed the appointment of Commissioner William Kaplan, the Administration still publicly refuses to negotiate. The positions of Administration remain deeply contradictory. On the one hand, the Administration has [stated](#) that CUPE 3903's positions "continue to be well outside the range of anything the university can ever agree to." On the other hand, the Administration [calls](#) for CUPE 3903 "to allow an independent third party to decide what's fair and impose a settlement that binds both sides." The Administration claims that the proposals are outside what they can ever agree to, but supports a process of binding arbitration that might lead to those very same outcomes. This strategy has nothing to do with negotiating a contract and everything to do with bypassing negotiations altogether.

Because of its refusal to bargain, the winter semester is in chaos. Now the Administration has [announced](#) the imminent cancellation of summer semesters. This announcement once again usurps the authority of Senate and Senate Executive to make decisions on class suspension due to a labour disruption. It demonstrates a "scorched earth" approach to contract negotiations placing the business-driven interests of the Board of Governors over the academic reputation of the institution and the education, mental health and future of our students. The Senate Executive Committee has managed remediation in full deference to this administrative approach. It has created chaos and dysfunction within York. It has intensified the anxiety and stress of students, faculty and staff, and undermined the academic integrity of courses and York's standing with students, families and the public.

The [April 2 letter](#) from Rick Waugh, Chair of the Board of Governors, to Lesley Beagrie, Chair of Senate, is a frontal attack on collegial governance at York. It states that "oversight and accountability for the operations of the University rest with the Board of Governors." This misleading statement fails to acknowledge the exception clause from the [York Act](#): "Except, as to such matters by this Act specifically assigned to the Senate" (article 10). "The Senate is responsible for the academic policy of the University" (article 12). The Board's usurpation of Senate's authority for academic governance during a labour disruption violates the legal framework that established York University and the Board's fiduciary responsibility for "collegial self-governance" ([York Mission Statement](#)).

Given these considerations, LA&PS Faculty Council can no longer express confidence in the leadership of President Rhonda Lenton or Chair of the Board of Governors Rick Waugh.

Mover: Ricardo Grinspun

Secunder: Terry Maley