7. 1 Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 2011
P. Wilson called a motion to approve the minutes. P. Cribb (moved) and J. Amanatides (seconded). Carried.

7.2 Matters arising from the Minutes
Nothing brought forth.

7.3 Inquiries & Communications:
Senate Meeting Synopsis for 17 February 2011 (for information)
Senate Meeting Synopsis for 24 March 2011 (for information)

7.4 Dean’s Remarks
1. Future of FGS within our Faculty
   FSE is prepared to undertake a pilot project for the next four years changing the relationship of the Faculty to FGS. We would like administration of graduate programs to be put under our jurisdiction, or at least partially, and create a partnership with FGS. We would use expertise and administrative resources at FGS while decisions, with regards to allocation of scholarships and elimination of admission limits, would be our responsibility, including offering admissions very early. The University has agreed with our proposal in principal but we will need to submit a more specific proposal after consulting with UPDs.

   Michael De Robertis asked about NSERC Discovery situation and whether there were any thoughts as we move forward? The major concern is having funding cut to zero. Are there any thoughts as to how we might approach this in the future?

   Dean Kozinski: NSERC’s mechanism is changing and we need to be flexible in responding to it. The proposal that M. De Robertis had devised as Associate Dean was a favourable approach and W. Tholen will expand on it moving forward. As a result, we don’t have a specific proposal at the moment but a mechanism that M. De Robertis and P. Karwowska-Desaulnier developed. We will need to look at individual cases and the fundamental goal is to not let graduate students suffer so we will need to find a solution and the University should be a part of that solution.

   M. De Robertis commented that the VPRI’s office offer certain services to mentor researchers submitting proposals and that we could also provide this mentoring and training to our applicants so they can have direction on proposal submissions.

   J. Kozinski noted that subsequent to a discussion with W. Tholen on how to reflect our priority to increase research activity, we need to offer the proper advice to the new generation of hires because they need to understand what the nature of the NSERC program is. A position might...
be created to help W. Tholen coordinate research, more specifically, helping with Tri-Council applications and international partnerships.

2. NSERC statistics
   P. Karwowska-Desaulniers updated Council on the applications and the results. FSE submitted 40 applications in total with a success rate of 57.5%. Applications pertained to three categories:
   - Early research: one successful application
   - Renewal: 24 applications with 75% success rate (national average was 74%)
   - Established researchers (without grants in the previous cycle): 15 applications with 33% success rate (same as national average)
   The overall success rate for FSE was 57.5%

3. Outcome of AIF
   P. Cribb commented:
   Congratulations were offered on behalf of Dean Kozinski to all faculty who submitted AIF proposals. Ninety applications were submitted for a total funding amount of 2.5 million. FSE had seven applications in total, four of which were funded. Successful projects were as follows:
   - Math: Bridging and Supplemental Instruction (J. Amanatides)
   - Science First: A Learning Community for First Year Students (L. Donaldson)
   - Effective Strategies and Implementation of E-Learning Formats for Large Science Classes (T. Noel)
   - Science and Engineering Co-Op (P. Cribb)
   - York University Incoming Student Transition I (with participation from J. Amanatides)

   Also, there will be a conversion reception for top admits in May.

4. Outcome of LOF process
   Results were expected in the morning but they did not come through so no results can be reported at this time. Results are expected for the next Council meeting.

J. Kozinski updated Council on general developments within the university:
Firstly, the University has decided to go ahead with the next group of strategic hires. Thirty were allocated last year and another 30 have been approved for the current year.

Also, another project moving forward is the “York Research Chairs”. This development will impact our faculty positively because the program will be used mostly as a retention tool for colleagues within the university who are unable to attain Canada Research Chairs.

7.5 Associate Deans’ and Bethune Master’s Remarks

D. Hastie: Update on Faculty Searches
Currently, we have nine ongoing searches and the first choice candidates are exceptional. It’s hoped that outcomes can be announced at the next Council meeting.

R. Hornsey: Update on Engineering Task Force
The task force has been assembled, work has begun and the members are as follows:
   - Sunil Bisnath (Geomatics Engineering, representing ESSE)
   - Amir Asif (Computer Engineering, representing CSE)
   - Sylvie Morin (Chemistry)
Buks van Rensburg (Math)
Damir Gumerov (graduate of Geomatics Engineering and current ESS grad student)
Richard Hornsey (Associate Dean, Engineering)

J. Amanatides: AIF and Bethune’s plans for the upcoming academic year
The AIF proposal was accepted and as a result the following procedures have been implemented in conjunction with Bethune College for students in the Faculty:
   a) All incoming students are required to take a math background quiz which will help decide what math course to recommend to them in first year.
   b) Daily math tutorials will be held the first week of classes with more tutorials to be hosted given the AIF. Long term plans also include hosting these tutorials during the Fall Co-Curricular week
   c) Funding has been received for organized study groups for first year Math, Chemistry and Biology courses
   d) All incoming students will be assigned a peer mentor for their program

7.6 Reports from Science and Engineering Representatives on Senate Committees
D. Bohme, APPRC – regrets

A. Asif, ASCP
The Senate Sub-Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy met twice this past month and discussed two items relevant to our Faculty:
- The Fall Co-Curricular reading week, specifically, its timing
- Distribution of grades: some courses have a history of reporting poor grades especially for first year students. ASCP is looking at how the performance of these students can be improved by introducing some transition activities for incoming high school students.

M. De Robertis, Faculty Representative for Senate Executive:
Senate Executive met with the Board Executive at the end of March to convey its findings on the reappointment process and the Board is scheduled to make a decision by the end of April.

7.7 Reports of Committees
For Action
Science Curriculum Committee, part I of attachment 7.7.1
A motion to approve the adoption of the B.A. degree program in Science and Technology Studies was called. P. Cribb (moved) and R. Jarrell (seconded). Carried.

For Information / Discussion
Science Curriculum Committee, part II of attachment 7.7.1
P. Cribb noted the document is an attempt to explain the approach and values of NATS as defined by York University. The document has undergone numerous reviews and K. Croker thanked A. Mills for his hard work on finalizing the document.

7.8 Other Business
Dean Peers was slated to attend the current Council meeting but given an interim Dean will be starting soon, he/she will attend our meeting in May instead.

P. Delaney (moved) and P. Cribb (seconded) that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm