Minutes of Meeting of Council, Tuesday, December 8, 2009


Regrets: G. Audette

The meeting commenced at 3:15pm, E. Hamm in the Chair.

4.1 Minutes of the Meeting of October 13 and November 10, 2009.

Approved.

4.2 Matters Arising: None.

4.3 Inquiries and Communications: None

4.4 Dean’s Remarks

Dean Walter Tholen

Noted that Prof Paul Delaney is the new recipient of the Sandford Flemming Medal

With respect to the budget, work is continuing on the implementation of the 3.5% budget cut; some units have made great effort but we are still a distance away. We will continue to work on that; many of the cuts have been achieved through cutting part-time teaching and restructuring in the staff area.

I have made the point with the Provost that the faculty went over its target in enrolment by approx 400. There is a promise of a credit for that – we are hopeful that we will receive the credit in one form or the other – extra enrolment also entails enrolment which comes from tuition credit. There is still the question of if the province will pay the university for extra enrolments.

During the budget meetings with the Vice-President and Provost, we have presented a growth plan in accordance with Horizon 2020 and requested increases in tenure-stream complement: Net increases of 3% - 2010-2011; 4% - 2011-2012; 5% - 2012-2013 another 5% for each following two years in a 5-year rolling budget. We will continue to work in the rolling budget. It goes a long way in the enrolment growth plan; we have to work on the academic program – some are in the pipeline – there are some in the horizon for a later day.

Green/White Paper Process

Dean Tholen noted that he has summarized comments; the first draft is due by the end of January and presented to community for input. The White Paper first draft will get down to concrete plans and not generalities. On our part we have commitment to continue to work further on this. In the report to the community Engineering and Science expansion is noted on the first page. In conjunction with the White Paper we have to work our way through. Hopefully it will be implemented in March by Senate. This is a new turn for the UAP updates. While we have good direction, what is missing is good database data needed to back-up our direction. The faculty will be asked to update input in the spring. A working group will be set-up in January.

At the project committee meeting for the Life Science Building (LSB), things are not necessarily going smoothly. For example, the architects have been working with technique for the foundation and structure of – it is called Bubbledeck –everything is not so lid concrete there are bubbles inside – this technique has been used in other cities but not in Toronto. The city is not willing to put their signature or take responsibility on this. We have been asked to identify potential things which will save on cost. For example, the architects have been working with technique for the foundation and structure of – it is called Bubbledeck –everything is not solid concrete there are bubbles inside – this technique has been used in other cities but not in Toronto. The city is not willing to put their signature or take responsibility on this. We have been asked to identify potential things which will save on cost. There are a few things under discussion: Environmental Status, connection between Chemistry Building and new LSB and faculty offices were put on hold. Dean Tholen had resisted the latter. We may have to delay some teaching laboratories by a year.

A meeting was held with Wade Hall, Vice-President, Development, YU Foundation, Paul Marcus, President and CEO, York Foundation to ensure that funding for LSB is a top priority for the Foundation and all efforts will be put into the enterprise. There will be some changes, currently the CDO for our faculty is Bruce Logan, who will be moving on to work with Kinesiology on fundraising projects. There will be a gradual transition; our faculty will be working with Kim Warner. My impression about Kim is positive and together with Paul and Wade, all their efforts will be at fundraising for LSB. Bruce will continue to work on ongoing projects and in particular in conjunction with the establishment of IRC’s.

Another meeting was held with the Dean of Health and the Vice-President Research and Innovation regarding anew CRC which should be in a field that is funded by CIHR. The field that was identified was Neuroscience and FSE will be working jointly with Faculty of Health. This would be a larger initiative to promote research and potentially teaching of neuroscience. There is currently some expertise in the relevant faculties.
There was a meeting with Shahbaz Mir, Student Council, and he expressed some of the students’ concerns including: Establishment of core and internship programs; concern regarding class sizes particularly tutorials and the desirability to have course materials on the web.

Dean concluded with the issues regarding the technical shops – A meeting was conducted with the users, staff members of the technical shops and the Dean’s office; the topics included the strengths of the technical staff; administrative processes for quick and satisfactory service. A committee, chaired by John Amanatides, will be set up to address the concerns.

A question was posed regarding budget cuts and loss of faculty members versus 5% expansion of faculty. Dean Tholen reiterated the growth plan and noted that the reception from the VP Academic and Provost was satisfactory.

4.5 Associate Deans and Bethune Master’s Remarks
AD Michael De Robertis
The NSERC USRA awards have been advertised, York University has an allocation of 47. All units have been informed and the awards committee will decide on the allocation. The awards are due on January 25 and will be ranked and presented to the Dean’s office on February 8, 2010.

The memos regarding the competition for the The Junior Faculty Fund (JFF)and Minor Research Grant (MRG) were sent out today. The JFF – approximately 13,000 is awarded annually for candidacy and pre-candidacy members.

MRG has to be discussed with the Research and Awards Committee; the application form including curriculum vitae and instructions are available on the website.

AD’s Peter Cribb, Spiros Pagiatakis and Bethune Master John Amanatides had no remark.

4.6 Reports from Science Representatives on Senate Committees
Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) – Prof. Paul Delaney noted that the committee continues to engaged in the Green Paper/White Paper. Regular business will commence at the next meeting.

4.7 Reports of Committees
Science Curriculum Committee: AD Peter Cribb noted that one of the newly proposed coursed NATS 1530 is withdrawn until further consultation

4.8 Other Business – United Way.
Yvette Monroe, Manager Community Relations presented information and noted that UW has agencies in the local neighborhood and is working collaboratively with faculty members on a joint committee based on research. A grant came through the Faculty of Health and the focus is on youth and youth development. The joint applicant is Jane Kritchen Family Center. Students who are enrolled in the concurrent placement education program to be qualified for teaching have to do a one-year placement in a community agency – half of the agencies are UW, which is working with YU to educate and provide practical skills placement.

Dean Tholen reminded the attendees that FSE Holiday Party is scheduled for December 21, 2009.

M/S P. Delaney/I. Coe to adjourn at 3:51pm.