1. **YORK UNIVERSITY**

COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Minutes of the Meeting of Council, Tuesday, September 9, 2009


Regrets: J. McConnell, H. McLellan, D. Reynolds

The meeting commenced at 3:05 p.m., Chaired by Ernst Hamm. He introduced Vice-President & Provost Patrick Monahan.

1.1 **Provostial White Paper – Patrick Monahan, Vice-President Academic & Provost**

Vice-President Monahan stated that he will be attending meetings of all Faculty Councils this Fall and FSE is the first of these meetings.

He gave a general overview of the White Paper process as follows:

The President asked the VPA’s office to lead a White Paper process. Former VPA Michael Stevenson led a process to create a White Paper for the University in the 1990s. This document was intended to be a guide for the University for 10 to 15 years. The document was not widely discussed and it has run its course. The University Academic Plans tend to be for 5 years setting objectives but not necessarily setting a plan. The concept of the new White Paper is to have objectives but also to have a realistic plan of how to achieve the objectives. Where do we want to be as a University in 5 to 10 years, recognizing that there are financial constraints?

Where does FSE fit in the process? President Shoukri’s vision for York includes the idea of a more comprehensive University, particularly increasing enrolments in science, natural science, life science, medical education and health education. The President’s priorities will be essential building blocks of the process for the White Paper.

The process will be collegial with a series of Green Papers that are in the process of being developed. They will be in the nature of options papers, for the future for York and the papers will be circulated to the community in late October. There will also be a few open planning forums in October and November with opportunities for members of the community to participate. A series of five working groups will formulate and develop Green Papers on: 1. research, 2. student experience, 3. experiential education, 4. strategic enrolment plan, 5. York’s
overall reputation.

Early in the new year a draft of a White Paper will be submitted to Senate as a general planning framework, for approval in principal. He urged members to be involved in the process.

A question and answer period followed.

The FSE Decanal Search Committee will have its first meeting later this week. At that time a timeline and a process of consultation with the Faculty will be established.

1.2 Inquiries & Communications
No comments.

1.3 Dean’s Remarks
Dean Tholen reported on the following:

- **Awards and Honours** - W. Whiteley won the 2009 Adrien Pouliot Award from the Canadian Mathematical Society; Early Researcher Awards – P. Hall, J. Heffernan and S. Unniappan

- Two strategic positions were reinstated after the call for holds on hires – one in space science and the failed search in Physics/fMRI. The search in Earth and Space Science and Engineering is close to completion with an excellent candidate identified.

- Will be meeting with all the departments and ORUs along with the FSE Executive Officer and FSE Sr. Financial Officer, to determine how the 3.5% budget cuts will be met. This is a very difficult exercise for all the Chairs.

- Has initiated the search process for new the Director of CRESS and the search committee will be established shortly.

- FSE has met the enrolment target and as of today we are over target with 108%. The crucial date for the FFTE count is November 1.

- A signed, concrete construction plan for the 4th floor of Petrie has been finalized. The project is to be completed by Fall of 2010.

- **New Life Sciences Building** - $70M has been received from the government for the new Life Sciences Building. It was clear from the beginning that $70M was not enough for all four floors. The Users’ Committee and Sub-Committees planned for three floors which meant fundraising must be done to complete the 4th floor. Appreciation was extended to the leaders of the Sub-Committees for their work, with a special thanks to Sam Benchimol.

A Project Committee meeting was held on August 25 where members were informed that
there is only enough funding to cover two floors and the plan was to complete the first and second floor (lecture halls and teaching labs). Arguments were presented for the completion of the 2nd and 3rd floors as lack of wetlab space is the primary impediment to growth in the life sciences. More planning for the 4th floor is needed. Deans Skinner and Tholen met with the VPA and VP Finance to emphasize completion priorities and the need for additional funding. Dean Tholen will be working with B. Logan, CDO for FSE, on fundraising. FSE will host a lunch for local industry to initiate contact with potential users.

- The deadline to the VPA for a prioritized list for tenure-stream appointments was August 14. A prioritized list was submitted which included the fMRI position. The list will be discussed with the VPA on September 10.

- **Horizon 2020** – A brief FSE Faculty Plan update must be submitted to the VPA & Provost and the President. The draft document will be available to everyone and feedback is welcome. The document should also inform the discussion on the Green Paper, which will be the basis for the White Paper. The White Paper must receive official approval from Senate.

1.4 **Associate Deans and Bethune Master Remarks**
Associate Dean Hornsey reported that the accreditation document must be completed by the end of September.

J. Amanatidies, Bethune Master – Academic orientation went well with about 1000 students attending.

1.5 **Other Business**
J. Dupuis advised that the York Writes celebration that was postponed from last fall will be held on November 3, 2009. He requested that ideas for graduate student posters to be displayed in the library be sent to [www.YorkWrites.com](http://www.YorkWrites.com).

Two issues raised by K. Maltman were referred to CEAS and Petitions.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.**