

# The Senate of York University

## Synopsis

The 628th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, September 22, 2016

### Remarks

At the outset of the first Senate meeting of 2016-2017, the Chair of Senate, Professor George Comninel

- welcomed continuing and new Senators, the latter including Dean Lyndon Martin of the Faculty Education and Dean Paul McDonald of the Faculty of Health
- introduced the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Senators on the Board of Governors, and Senate committee chairs
- saluted the Vice-Provost Students, Janet Morrison, and wished her well as she prepares to take up the position of Vice-President Academic and Provost at Sheridan College

York's President, Dr Mamdouh Shoukri, applauded the community for all of its many successes and contributions to society, and paid special attention to highlights from the summer months, including major funding from the federal government for multi-institutional initiatives centred at York (The Health Ecosphere: An Innovation Pipeline for Commercial Health Solutions funded by Federal Development Ontario and Vision: Science to Applications or VISTA, made possible by a significant grant from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund). The University's researchers had also fared well in Social Science and Humanities Research Council competitions. Two faculty members were among the latest crop of Trudeau fellows, and three current faculty members and one graduate had been named to the Royal Society. These and other indicators reaffirm York's standing in the world of cutting-edge research and underline its growing impact and multiplying connections with external partners.

An announcement about funding for projects submitted to Ottawa under the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund is imminent, and the ground will be turned on the Schulich School of Business facility expansion on September 30. Dr Shoukri announced the names of individuals slated to receive honorary degrees at Fall Convocation ceremonies,

Looking ahead to his final year in office, the President called on the community to rally behind York's core values of providing students with the highest quality education while fitting them with the attributes essential for positive citizenship, building on research strengths and interdisciplinarity, and helping to boost the University's profile and reputation. All members of the community should be respectful, responsible, sensitive and collegial.

The President's monthly "Kudos Report" can be accessed in the meeting agenda package.

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### **Academic Accommodations on November 2, 2016**

Senate approved a resolution declaring November 2, 2016 – on which date a nationwide student day of action will be held - a day of academic accommodations with the specific request

that all course directors be asked through the Deans/Principal to: avoid scheduling exams, tests, presentations or other work on that day and to establish reasonable extensions of deadlines for other graded work due that date and to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who choose to attend the November 2, 2016 Day of Action, including reasonable alternative access to materials covered during their absence. At its meeting of September 22, 2016 the Senate approved a resolution declaring November 2, 2016 – on which date a nationwide student day of action will be held - a day of academic accommodations with the specific request

### **Approval under Summer Authority**

The Committee reported that the only action it took during the summer resulted in approval of an amendment to the *Senate Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course Option* specifying that “Petitions for removal of the W notation are not permitted and no refund of tuition fees shall be provided for courses dropped through the late withdrawal option.” (For details on the Policy itself see the reports from Executive and ASCP in the agenda package).

### **Other Approvals**

On a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Senate approved an expansion of the membership of the Senate Appeals Committee by one faculty member to achieve balanced adjudicative panels and diminish the likelihood of postponed meetings. Senate acted at the second stage of a statutory motion.

Senate elected two Librarians to Senate committees: Stacy Allison-Cassin, Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy, and Yemisi Dina, Awards.

Senate approved a recommendation of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to

authorize the granting of degrees at the University’s Convocations held in Fall 2016, February 2017 (Convocation *In Absentia*) and Spring 2017 to those students who have fulfilled the degree program requirements and who have been recommended by the Councils of the Faculties and Colleges for receipt of the degrees listed in Appendix A of the ASCP report.

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authorize the forwarding of recommendations for certification by the Faculty of Education to the Ontario College of Teachers for those students who have been deemed “recommended for certification” by the Council of the Faculty of Education; and that

authorize the granting of diplomas and certificates at the University's Convocations held in Fall 2016, February 2017 (Convocation *In Absentia*) and Spring 2017 to those students who have fulfilled requirements and who have been recommended by the Councils of the Faculties for receipt of the diplomas and certificates listed in Appendix A of the ASCP report.

### Committee Information Reports

In its report Senate Executive reported on

- its approval of Senate committee members nominated by Faculty Councils
- enhancements to nominations process and a new timing, in November, for the annual call for expressions of interest in Senate committee membership and other positions elected by Senate; Senators were asked to assist in the process of identifying prospective candidates throughout the year
- Senate meeting dates for 2016-2017, with scheduling adjustments made in December, February and June
- the results of the Senator and Senate committee member survey conducted in June and July, along with actions that will be taken to address key findings
- the annual report on Senate in 2015-2016 together with attendance figures for the September 2016 to May 2017 period

Academic Policy, Planning and Research reported the University Academic Plan 2015-2020 will be at the heart of its agenda for the year, and urged Senators to be strong advocates for the UAP in their Faculties and other collegial settings as they actively participate in the process of both “making the UAP matter” and helping to bring its objectives to fruition. The Committee also advised that it will sponsor academic planning forums in October on recommendations emanating from Institutional Integrated Resource Plan working groups, shared the latest update on Markham Centre planning, and announced members of its sub-committees for the year.

ASCP reported on programs approved to commence by the Quality Council of Ontario and approved for funding by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

### Discussion Item

Senators offered their thoughts on a discussion item concerning due diligence in the acceptance of gifts and the recognition of donors. Assurances were given that the

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University exercises all due diligence in donor relations and the importance of having effective processes was noted by all.

### **Additional Information about this Meeting**

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the September 2016 meeting for details about these items.

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/senate/meeting-agendas-and-synopses/>

### **Next Meeting of Senate**

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, October 27, 2016.**