

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 638th Meeting of Senate  
held on Thursday, October 26, 2017

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie of the Faculty of Health, greeted continuing and new Senators. She spoke of the celebration and inspiration characterizing Fall Convocation ceremonies and the installation of the President, welcomed new Vice-President Finance and Administration Carol McAulay to her first meeting of Senate, and expressed condolences on the passing of Professor Michael Michie, fondly remembered for his dedication and good cheer. A recent meeting of the Council of Ontario University Academic Colleagues reinforced the sense that York's collegial governance was a model of openness and positive interaction, and she encouraged Senators to preserve and enhance the space that has been created. Senators were encouraged to attend a roundtable sponsored by Enable York at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7 in Room 519 Kaneff Tower

The President of York University, Rhonda Lenton, also recalled Professor Michie, stressing his contributions to Atkinson College and support for her when she served as its Dean. Recent incidents that have touched the University community, including a vehicular accident that claimed the life of a York graduate student, served as reminders that we need to be mindful of the safety and wellbeing of others.

President Lenton gave thanks for the enthusiasm and community spirit that made her installation so memorable and heartening. Pointing to the monthly Kudos report, she offered highlights that included the largest CFI grant ever received by the University, the election of alumnus Jagmeet Singh as leader of the federal NDP, and recognition garnered for new buildings on campus. Following up on questions raised in September, the President confirmed that York is working closely with the management of the new Quad residences to ensure the implementation of appropriate security protocols consistent with University norms, including coordination with the University's security team and Toronto Police Services.

Now that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development has signed Strategic Mandate Agreement II, it is time to consider how best to influence system-wide metrics for the next round while developing indicators that tell York's compelling story fully and well. York is a partner in three of the ten Canadian Innovation Supercluster Initiative applications approved for the final selection round, and the University is in talks with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on the possibility of locating a new facility on the Keele campus, one that should have benefits for research activities and could be an anchor tenant for a research park. York has indicated interest in Toronto's Amazon bid, but in any event should assess and pursue opportunities in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and STEM disciplines.

The monthly "Kudos" report on the achievements of members of the York community can be accessed with other documentation for the meeting.

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### Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities

The Chair attended recent meetings of COU Colleagues and the Council on behalf of Professor David Leyton-Brown. She reported that discussions pivoted around the challenges associated with government-mandated change at Ontario universities. Strategies discussed in this regard included the role of Senate and the need for focused consultations at all levels to promote awareness of and appropriate responses to, directives from Queen's Park. The meetings also yielded early insights into the province's desire to increase STEM enrolments and develop an internationalization strategy. The Career Kick Start Strategy is now unfolding with the aim of promoting a highly skilled workforce.

### Committee Member Elections

Senate elected candidates recommended by Senate Executive to serve on the Tenure and Promotions and Tenure and Promotions Appeals Committee.

### Approvals

On a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Senate approved changes to the Senate Tenure and Promotions Document to provide for the inclusion of consideration of community engaged scholarship encompassing all three areas of professional responsibility. A revision was also made to Section F 3.3. (Dean's Letter), the intent of which is to address circumstances in which a file has been referred back to the Adjudicating Committee by the Senate Review Committee.

Senate approved recommendations of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to

- amend the Senate Policy on Sessional Dates and the Scheduling of Examinations provide for a four-day Fall Reading Week, effective FW 2018-2019 (ASCP also shared revised dates for 2018-2019 that reflected this change)
- change admission requirements for Bachelor of Education programs offered by the Faculty of Education
- establish a new field in Socio-Cultural and Policy Studies in Sport and Physical Activity in the Graduate Program in Kinesiology and Health Science, Faculty of Health / Faculty of Graduate Studies
- change admission requirement for the Master of Arts in Information Systems and Technology, School of Information Technology, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / Faculty of Graduate Studies

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### Major Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Provost Lisa Philipps briefed Senate on enrolments and complement. The report is accessible from the Senate Meeting website.

### Committee Information Items

#### Executive (Professor Franck van Breugel, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- Senate committee vacancies and upcoming round of nominations
- Senate committee priorities for 2017-2018
- academic implications of the strike at Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology
- the Committee's response to an inquiry regarding Senate membership for students in the Faculty of Education and the need to adhere to rules concerning proxies and substitutes

#### Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Thomas Loebel, Chair)

APPRC provided information on these items:

- progress on the Strategic Research Plan renewal process
- Markham Centre Campus planning
- the University Academic Plan and Engagement of Senate and the Collegium
- the development of questions for the Deans, Principal and University Librarian and variations in the proposed form of engagement
- major items expected in November

#### Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor Kim Michasiw, Chair)

ASCP advised that it is reviewing the Religious Observances section of the Senate Policy on Sessional Dates and the Scheduling of Examinations in anticipation of issuing clarifications on the process for seeking accommodations and the options available to instructors and students. The Committee will also transmit to APPRC a summary of its discussion of the Markham Centre Campus Governance Structure Options. Minor modifications to curriculum approved by ASCP at recent meetings were as follows:

#### *Faculty of Environmental Studies*

- waiver of Section 5c of the Senate Policy on Sessional Dates and the Scheduling of Examinations for ENV5 4800 3.0 Advanced Topics in Environment and Health to permit the intensive week-long course to be offered during February Reading Week at York's co-campus in Costa Rica

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### *Faculty of Graduate Studies*

- a change in the name of the specialization in History and Theory of Psychology to Historical, Theoretical, and Critical Studies of Psychology, Graduate Program in Psychology
- minor change to the requirements for the MA and PhD programs in Psychology, Clinical Psychology Specialization, Clinical Neuropsychology Sub-specialization
- minor change to requirements for the MA in Development Studies

### **Tenure and Promotions (Professor Simone Bohn, Co-Chair)**

The Tenure and Promotions Committee presented its annual report on Tenure and Promotions for 2016-2017. In doing so the Chair stressed that the Committee has prioritized unit level standard reviews and feedback this year and will furnish updates to Senate. The Committee is also concerned about the following issues:

- some file preparations committee are evaluating rather than merely assembling and transmitting documentation
- unit standards not always shared with reviewers
- some Faculties are not following course evaluation guidelines regarding the need for student signatures

In response to questions the Chair confirmed that some units have guidelines for alternate stream applications that differ from the Senate framework. In cases of inconsistency standards have been turned back to the originating units.

### **Tenure and Promotions Appeals (Professor Parissa Safai, Chair)**

The T&P Appeals Committee reported on the outcome of two cases that it had dealt with in 2016-2017.

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

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the October 26, 2017 meeting for details about these items.

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

### **November 2017 Meeting of Senate**

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, November 23, 2017**.