

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 639th Meeting of Senate  
held on Thursday, November 23, 2017

### Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie of the Faculty of Health, reported that the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee had agreed to remediation plans for students currently enrolled in the York-Sheridan Design Program and the York-Seneca Professional Writing Program. Accommodations were necessitated by the duration of the strike at Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. Senate Executive concurred with ASCP's proposals. The Chair asked that Senators continue to reserve time for the meeting scheduled on December 14. The Executive Committee will announce the status of the meeting as soon as possible.

The President of York University, Rhonda Lenton, focused her remarks on transition matters including implementation of Institutional Integrated Resource Plan recommendations and local IRPs. Her personal priorities include enhancing York's reputation, supporting the University's vision, building strong communities, establishing the Markham Centre Campus as a city builder, and positioning Glendon. She provided a status report on searches for the Vice-Provost Academic and Provost, Deputy Provost Markham and four Deans along with consultations on the creation of a Vice-President Engagement and Equity portfolio. Pointing to Employee Engagement Survey results, the President urged a dialogue highlighting the question of what can be done at York to understand, promote and achieve excellence. Closing comments on academic freedom in the current context led to a brief discussion during which Senators shared their perspectives on this enduring bedrock value.

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

### Senate Committee Member Elections

Senate acclaimed a candidate recommended by Senate Executive to serve on the Tenure and Promotions Committee and approved a slate of nominees for the contract faculty member position on Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee. An e-vote will be conducted to elect the ASCP member.

### Notices of Statutory Motion

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy gave notice of its intention to recommend approval of the following new degree types:

- Master of Supply Chain Management (Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies)
- Master of Marketing (Schulich School of Business / Faculty of Graduate Studies)

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### Approvals

Senate approved, in principle, revisions to Senate's *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties*. Principal elements of the ensemble of amendments include a change from the current 9-point letter scale to a 13-point letter scale (including minus grades) along with the calculation of grades to a weighted GPA with 4.0 as the maximum. These and other adjustments will be the subject of further consultation before final approval is sought.

### Major Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Vice-President Research and Innovation Robert Haché provided Senate with an annual report on research. The report is accessible from the Senate Meeting website.

### Committee Information Items

#### Executive

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- the issuing of a call for expressions of interest in membership on Senate committees and other positions elected by Senate
- the approval of members of Senate committees nominated by student Senators
- the autumn meeting of Senate committee chairs and secretaries

#### Academic Policy, Planning and Research

APPRC provided information on these items:

- planned resumption of a collegial dialogue initiated by the Committee's request for Faculty input on tracking progress to the achievement of objectives
- preliminary details about an APPRC / ASCP "Forum of Ideas" devoted to successful program renovation and redevelopment
- the questions addressed to the Deans, Principal and University Librarian in the annual conversation about the state of academic planning
- an update report planned for January on the Institutional Integrated Research Plan
- a discussion of Markham Campus Planning at the APPRC meeting of November 30 and the expectation that a substantial report will be made to Senate thereafter

#### Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

ASCP reported that it had approved minor changes to degree requirements proposed by the following programs in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies:

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- Specialized Honours BCom-ITEC program
- BA programs in Communications Studies

### Appeals

The Appeals Committee presented its annual report on Faculty- and Senate-level petitions and appeals decisions. It also advised that efforts are underway to modernize the policy framework governing appeals.

### Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the November 23, 2017 meeting for details about these items.

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

### December Meeting of Senate (Subject to Confirmation)

Senate's next meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 14, 2017**  
subject to confirmation.