

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 645th Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, April 26, 2018

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Beagrie, welcomed Senators and members of the community attending the meeting. Reflecting on the tragic incidents of April 23, she urged the community to rally around the values of compassion, diversity, perseverance and respect that characterize the city of Toronto and its people.

The President of York University, Rhonda Lenton, also spoke of the April 23 incident. She advised that a student pursuing Continuing Students at York was among the fatalities, and described resources available to community members traumatized by the loss of life and serious injuries. The President also commented on the following matters:

- close analysis of post-secondary education planks in party platforms in the run-up to the June elections, and efforts to reach out to candidates
- the implications of government green-lighting of new university campuses in Brampton and Milton given that Halton and Peel have been important catchments for York
- the latest developments in Markham Centre Campus planning, with a major report from the Provost expected in May
- achievements and milestones as illustrated by the ranking of Kinesiology and Health Science as number one in Canada, and a proposal to add and Indigenous and Aboriginal course to the requirements of the JD program (just one of a number of initiatives responding to recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)
- the academic implications of a strike that has reached eight weeks and hopes that the widely shared concern about students and York's reputation will create a pathway to resolution of the labour dispute

The President's monthly "Kudos" report and the text of her remarks drafted for the March 22 meeting were posted with the meeting agenda.

Reports

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor David Leyton-Brown, reported on topics discussed at recent meetings and post-secondary issues at the provincial level. A key focus has been on government-mandated indicators and the effect they are having and may have on universities and on faculty members.

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Motions Approved

Senate approved a motion of the Executive Committee such that, for Y 2017-2018 and W 2018 courses, the undergraduate policy on Pass / Fail Grades is broadened as follows:

- a. students are permitted to add 6 credits above the normal maximums for both 90 (normally 6 credits) and 120 credit (normally 12 credits)
- b. graduating students and those otherwise in their last term at York may elect a Pass/Fail grade for General Education courses, including Core Science requirements that are part of the BSc General Education requirements
- c. graduating students and others in their final term at York may, in exceptional circumstances, request a Pass/Fail grade in major or minor courses,¹ and outside-the-major required courses, at the discretion of Associate Deans
- d. non-graduating students in good standing may, in exceptional circumstances, request to have General Education courses evaluated as Pass/Fail, not including Core Science requirements that are part of BSc General Education requirements for the BSc

Senate also approved a motion “that Senate instructs Senate Executive that in regards to establishing a process for reviewing the authority and role of Senate during labour disruptions, forming a body to conduct such a review, as well as deriving conclusions and decision, Senate Executive, shall, as per Senate procedures, bring any recommendations to Senate for approval.” It is anticipated that recommendations on a process will be taken up by Senate and the Board in the coming months.

Curriculum Approvals

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

- change the Joint York-Sheridan Bachelor of Design Program to a York University Honours BDES program and amend its degree requirements, Department of Design, School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design
- establish a Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Public History, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / School of Arts, Performance, Media & Design / Glendon
- change degree requirements for the Juris Doctor, Osgoode Hall Law School, to add an Indigenous and Aboriginal Law Requirement
- change requirements for the BA Programs in Interdisciplinary Social Science, Department of Social Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- change degree requirements for the BA, iBA, BSc and iBSc Programs in Psychology, Department of Psychology, Glendon

¹ Not including for-credit practica.

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Committee Information Items

Executive

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- actions taken by the Committee prior to and since the outset of the disruption that began on March 5 as a result of the CUPE 3903 strike

Academic Policy, Planning and Research

APPRC's report contained information on the following items:

- the most recent report on Markham Centre Campus planning, which will be a focus for the Provost's year-end report to Senate in May
- follow up to the February 15 Forum of Ideas and how the event relates to other major initiatives on the Committee's agenda
- April – June Schedule and items of business

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

ASCP reported that it had received or approved the following minor modifications as set out below.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

- The addition of a specialization in European and International Affairs as added by the Université de Strasbourg to its *Master en Administration publique* program, and its inclusion as an option for students in the MPIA-IEP dual degree program between York and the Université de Strasbourg [received for information].

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

- changes to degree requirements for the BA program in Criminology
- changes to degree requirements for the Honours Minor BA in Medical Anthropology

School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design

- Adoption of DESN as the new rubric for the Design major program; and closure of YSDN rubric coincident with the discontinuation of the joint York-Sheridan program in 2022.

May Meeting of Senate

The next regular meeting of Senate is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on

Thursday, May 24, 2018