



The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 649th Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, September 27, 2018

Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Franck van Breugel of the Lassonde School of Engineering, greeted continuing and new Senators. Senate Executive member Professor Carl Ehrlich served as Acting Vice-Chair in the absence of Professor Alison Macpherson.

Senators were encouraged to attend a “Community Forum on Renewing Institutional Focus” sponsored by Senate Executive, on Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Accolade West 206. The idea emerged from a suggestion made by three Senators that there should be a discussion of this kind at Senate, and the Executive Committee felt that a community forum would be a more appropriate venue. The President and Provost will be in attendance along with members of the Executive Committee. The Chair also urged Senators to join in celebrating graduating students at the Fall Convocation ceremonies.

President Rhonda Lenton announced that Anne Russon, Glendon, and Nantel Bergeron, Science, will be honoured as Distinguished Research Professors at Convocation. She thanked Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, as she takes up the position of Provost, Okanagan Campus at UBC. She also congratulated Lisa Philipps on her appointment as Provost and Vice-President Academic, as well as the first Deputy Provost Markham, Rui Wang, and the new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Thomas Loebel.

Regarding public policy matters, President Lenton discussed the possible implications of the Ernst and Young audit of provincial spending conducted for the provincial government, core elements of York’s mission and vision that should resonate with Queen’s Park, and sector-wide advocacy undertaken by the Council of Ontario Universities to position universities favourably. In response to the government’s mandating of a free speech policy by January 1, 2019, Osgoode Professor Lorne Sossin has agreed to lead an initiative that will engage the community and governing bodies that will be announced in the coming weeks.

As York regains momentum following the strike, the senior administration is committed to constructive engagement through a dialogue aimed at aligning resources with academic priorities, addressing key policy questions, and finding solutions to pressing challenges.

A new award has been established to honour Dr Robert Everett of the University Secretariat. The award in his name will recognize up to three students (undergraduate or graduate) for valuable and significant contributions to University governance.

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Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Provost Philipps presented the Autumn Report on Complement and Enrolment.

Approvals

On a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Senate elected Robert Heynen, Assistant Professor, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and Pamela Millet, Associate Professor, Education, to the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee.

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

- close the 15-credit College - University Accounting Bridge Program, School of Administrative Studies, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
- close the Diploma in Theatre & Performance Studies, in the Graduate Program in Theatre & Performance Studies, AMPD / Graduate Studies
- change admission and degree requirements for the Master of Real Estate and Infrastructure, Schulich / Graduate Studies
- authorize the granting of degrees at the University's convocations held in Fall 2018, February 2019 (Convocation *In Absentia*) and Spring 2019, and individually to students at any point during the year who have fulfilled the degree program requirements for receipt of degrees; authorize the granting of diplomas and certificates at the University's Convocations held in Fall 2018, February 2019 (Convocation *In Absentia*) and Spring 2019, and individually to students at any point during the year who have fulfilled the requirements for receipt of diplomas and certificates; and 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.

Committee Information Reports

As they presented reports at the inaugural meeting of 2018-2019, the Chairs of Senate committees briefly described their roles on behalf of Senate, how they conduct business and items Senate can expect to come to the floor from them during the year.

Executive (Professor Carl Ehrlich, Acting Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- approval of Senate committee members nominated by Faculty Councils

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- current vacancies on Senate committees, and in the Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague position
- actions taken under Summer Authority
- the Committee's monitoring of the academic disruption
- the Committee's priorities for 2018-2019
- University Secretariat initiatives in support of governance and Senate
- suggestions by committees for facilitated discussions at Senate
- Senate meeting dates for 2018-2019 with changes approved for December
- the results of the Senator and Senate committee member surveys conducted in June and how they help inform the Executive's priorities
- a new agenda package layout, with all appendices compiled together
- a summary of actions taken by Senate in 2017-2018
- Committee and Sub-Committee membership for 2018-2019

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Les Jacobs, Chair)

APPRC shared its priorities for the year, which include planning for the Markham Centre Campus and a review of the University's academic unit structures. Consultations on the budget were launched earlier in the day when APPRC met with Provost Philipps and Vice-President Finance and Administration Carol McAulay, and provided input.

The Committee also provided information on the following items:

- ways that the Committee will fulfill its mandate and resources for Senators
- its concurrence with proposals to establish the Carswell Chair for the Public Understanding of Astronomy (subsequently approved by the Board of Governors) and amend the SSHRC Research Opportunity Grants Program
- the latest developments in Markham Centre Campus Planning
- ongoing attention paid to student / faculty ratios in conjunction with complement planning discussions
- an electronic curriculum vitae exercise geared toward modernizing practices
- Sub-Committee members for 2018-2019

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

ASCP provided information on its priorities for the year, which include revisions to the Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties and a review of select Senate policies / regulations in the context of UAP priorities and emerging pressures to address any gaps in legislation. Other information items reported were the following:

- a minor change to degree requirements for the Honours Minor program in Marketing housed in the School of Administrative Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

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- the focus of recent discussions of the Markham Centre Campus curriculum and pedagogy
- programs at other universities approved by the ministry in 2017-18

Appeals (Professor Simone Pisana, Chair)

Professor Pisana provided an overview of the Committee's role and function on behalf of the Committee.

Awards (Professor Brenda Spotton Visano, Chair)

Professor Spotton Visano provided an overview of the Committee's role and function on behalf of the Committee and highlighted the upcoming call for nominations for the President's Research Excellence Awards – the President's Emerging Research Leadership Award, the newly-created President's Research Impact Award, and the President's Research Excellence Award. The Committee has explored possible means by which to increase nominations for all awards and to ensure the fullest recognition of diverse achievements (in regard to which it commended the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) [Unconscious Bias Training Module](#)).

Tenure and Promotions, Tenure and Promotions Appeals (Professor Thomas Baumgartner, Co-Chair)

Professor Baumgartner provided an overview of the Committee's role and function on behalf of the Committee and Co-Chair.

Additional information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the September 27, 2018 meeting for details about these items.

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

October Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2018.

The Senate Executive-sponsored **Community Forum on Renewing Institutional Focus** will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Accolade West 206