

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

**The 654th Meeting of Senate
held on Thursday, February 28, 2019**

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Franck van Breugel, Lassonde, began the meeting by showing Senators a video which explains the statements included in the Indigenous land acknowledgement, the history of the traditional territory of the Indigenous Peoples who called the Keele and Glendon campus lands home before the arrival of the settlers, and the *Dish With One Spoon Treaty* that covers the area. Jointly produced by the Centre for Aboriginal Student Services at York University, Professor Deborah McGregor, Professor Ruth Koleszar-Green, and Amy Desjarlais, traditional knowledge keeper, the [video is available online](#).

President Rhonda Lenton provided an update on the Student Choice Initiative, announced by government in January, which will introduce a requirement that some student fees be made optional. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has informed post-secondary institutions that ancillary fees that fund academic supports, student health and wellness and student safety will be considered mandatory. Other fees will be considered optional and universities will be required to set up an online platform where students can opt out of those fees. President Lenton highlighted the importance of a consultative, student-driven discussion and robust process to implement the Student Choice Initiative in order to reach an outcome that achieves full transparency about the fees levied. Three sub-committees will be established to handle the different components of implementation, which will include representation from YFS, YUGSA and the Glendon College Students Association (GCSA). Consultation also will be undertaken with the broader York community.

Other comments made by President Lenton included the following:

- the plans to take up the themes that emerged from the pan-university budget consultation, including deferred maintenance, interdisciplinary scholarship, teaching and learning and the faculty complement, and to hold a budget consultation on an annual basis
- the plans to develop interpretive guidelines for the Statement of Policy on Free Speech, in follow-up to the additional activities and consultations recommended by the Free Speech Policy Working Group, which will be led by a working group with student group representation
- the status of the reviews of the Student Code of Rights & Responsibilities and the Ombuds Office role
- confirmation of the University's commitment to move ahead with a presence in Markham which is likely to be smaller in scope than originally planned
- appreciation for the contributions of two colleagues who will be departing from the University in the coming months, Vice-President Research & Innovation Robert

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

Haché, who has been appointed to the position of President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurentian University, and University Secretary and General Counsel Maureen Armstrong, who is retiring

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

Reports

Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, Professor Andrea Davis, reported that the focus of the Academic Colleagues’ most recent meeting was on the new government-mandated changes relating to OSAP, tuition, and ancillary fees. In particular, the Colleagues noted the implementation challenges associated with the Student Choice Initiative and the impact of OSAP changes on mature and graduate students. Also discussed were ideas for collaborative initiatives to mitigate the sense of distrust in the relationship between Ontario universities and the provincial government, including seeking new allies to help change the narrative about universities to the public.

Approvals

On a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Senate approved without amendment the establishment of a Special Joint Senate-Board Working Group on Jurisdiction Related to the Cancellation / Suspension of Classes during a Labour Disruption.

Senate approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee to acclaim Logan Donaldson, Professor, Biology, Science, to the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee.

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

- establish a Graduate Diploma in Law for Law Enforcement Professionals in Osgoode Professional Development, Osgoode / Graduate Studies
- change the requirements for the Certificate in the Discipline of Teaching English as an International Language, Department of English, Glendon
- change to the degree requirements for the BA programs in Human Rights and Equity Studies, Department of Equity Studies, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- establish a Graduate Field in Black Studies and Theories of Race and Racism within the MA and PhD programs in Social and Political Thought, Department of Social Science, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / Graduate Studies
- change the degree requirements for the MA program in Social and Political Thought, Department of Social Science, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies / Graduate Studies

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

- close the BA programs in Multicultural and Indigenous Studies, Department of Equity Studies, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- close the BA programs in European Studies, Department of Humanities, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- close the BA programs in United States Studies, Department of Humanities, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- close the BA programs in Environmental and Health Studies, Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Glendon
- close the Certificate in Psychometrics, Department of Psychology, Health

Committee Information Reports

Executive (Professor David Mutimer, Interim Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- the Committee's monitoring of the academic disruption, including the status of FW 2017-2018 remediation and provisional grades
- its approval of recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials to add individuals to the pool of prospective recipients of honorary degrees

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

APPRC provided information on these items:

- its tracking of 2015-2020 UAP progress and preparations for one-on-one discussions with the Deans / Co-Principals over spring and fall 2019 on their respective successes in advancing UAP goals
- the status of the development of a complement renewal strategy, with a forthcoming opportunity for collegial consultations to be guided by a Provostial Discussion Paper on the topic
- reflections on the ASCP-APPRC Forum of Ideas held on February 7, which focused on program re-visioning and curriculum reform and interdisciplinary / cross-Faculty program development, with further work on the latter area to be taken up under the guidance of the Provost
- the efforts of the Faculty Blue Facilitating Group, which continues to work closely with Geography, the Faculty of Environmental Studies and other relevant parties, to be guided by a Plan of Action for this term
- the work underway on the VPRI-led initiative to develop and implement an Electronic CV (ECV) tool for York Faculty members

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor K. Michasiw, Chair)

ASCP provided a Notice of Motion for the establishment of a new degree type, the Master of Management in Artificial Intelligence in the Schulich School of Business, Graduate Studies. ASCP also provided information on the following minor changes to degree or admissions requirements approved by the Committee:

Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

- Minor change to degree requirements for the BA and BCom programs in Information Technology, School of Information Technology
- Minor change to degree requirements for the Honours Minor BA program in Japanese Studies, Department of Language, Literature, and Linguistics
- Minor changes to degree requirements for the Specialized Honours BA and Honours Minor BA programs in Cognitive Science, Department of Philosophy

Lassonde

- Changes to the English-language facility requirement for admission to the BEng programs
- Minor changes to degree requirements for the BEng programs in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Space Engineering, and Electrical Engineering
- Minor changes to degree requirements for the BSc in Earth and Atmospheric Science

Academic Policy, Policy and Research / Academic Standards Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor Kim Michasiw, Co-Chair)

APPRC and ASCP conveyed a report from the Joint Sub-committee on Quality Assurance.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the February 28, 2019 meeting for details about these items.

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

March Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2019