

New Faculty Facilitating Group Community Bulletin June 4, 2019

Introduction

This is the first in a series of community bulletins issued by a Facilitating Group tasked with overseeing the process leading to the establishment of a new Faculty approved in principle by Senate in June 2017. Bulletins will be issued on a regular basis to provide the York community with timely information and meaningful opportunities to provide input as the process unfolds.

The motion approved by Senate identified the Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Department of Geography – two units with a long history of outstanding research and teaching along with many shared interests -- as the inaugural components of the new Faculty. It also left open the possibility of other programs joining the Faculty and explicitly anticipated that there would be innovative collaboration spanning the University. Since Senate approval, colleagues from FES, Geography and other units and programs have explored curriculum possibilities. Their efforts are intensifying on a timeline that foresees action by Senate and the Board this autumn.

The mandate of the Facilitating Group mandate, which was established in the autumn of 2018, includes:

- organizing and tracking overall process to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear, and consultations are inclusive of participating units as well as others directly affected
- providing early input on proposals for curricular programming to be offered by the new or re-visioned Faculty
- facilitating agreements and decisions on administrative, governance and budgetary issues
- preparing updates, motions and documentation as needed for Senate, the Board of Governors, and their relevant Committees.

The individuals serving on or supporting the Facilitating Group are listed at the end of the bulletin.

Communications

At its meeting of May 28, the Facilitating Group agreed to produce regular updates to ensure that the community is informed of developments and made aware of how they can contribute. Progress reports will be issued at least monthly and will be distributed widely on collegial governance listservs and posted on the Senate Website. The Deans of Environmental Studies and Liberal Arts and Professional Studies have reiterated their commitment to timely information exchanges.

Special Sub-Committee of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy on Faculty Curriculum (ASCP)

The final proposal to establish the new Faculty will cover a range of matters, including the vision and relationship to University planning objectives. A key element will be the identification of innovative curriculum that reflects the vision and will be attractive to students. There are significant opportunities for FES and Geography to partner with others on curriculum.

The Facilitating Group agreed to a suggestion that a Special Sub-Committee be established to better inform the work of curriculum designers. This will be done through a series of consultations involving other Faculties and programs as well as the Indigenous Council. Summaries of the discussions will be provided to colleagues in the Faculty of Environmental Studies and Geography who have been tasked with designing curriculum. They will also be shared with other participants in this round of consultation and posted on the Web.

The Special Sub-Committee has a dedicated site off the ASCP home page that contains important information about the round of consultations this spring and other background documents relating to the initiative.

- role of the Sub-Committee as defined by the Facilitating Group
- proposal to create New Faculty as approved by Senate
- a governance pathway (Update May 2019)
- 2018-2019 progress reports to Senate from APPRC

There are links to Faculty of Environmental Studies and Department of Geography sites and to the University Academic Plan 2015-2020

<https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/senate/academic-standards-curriculum-and-pedagogy-committee/special-sub-committee-on-new-faculty-curriculum/>

FES-Geography Working Groups

FES and Geography have established collegial working groups to focus on matters that will be covered in the final proposal that is submitted to Senate and the Board for approval. Colleagues are focusing on curriculum, administrative makeup, collegial governance and other elements. As noted above, a Special Sub-Committee of ASCP has embarked on consultations to inform the curriculum group.

Les Jacobs, Chair of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee of Senate (Co-Chair)
Kim Michasiw, Chair, Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee of Senate (Co-Chair)
Lisa Philipps, Provost and Vice-President Academic
Alice Hovorka, Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies
J.J. McMurtry, Interim Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Joseph Mensah, Chair, Department of Geography
Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic
Cheryl Underhill, Senior Assistant Secretary of the University (Secretary)
Sarah Whitaker, Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic (Resource)
Robert Everett, Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic (Resource)