

New Faculty Facilitating Group

Community Bulletin of July 9, 2019

This is the second 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. The membership of the group can be found at the end of this communiqué. The Facilitating Group met most recently on June 27. The purpose of these bulletins is to ensure that the community is aware of developments and has opportunities for timely, meaningful participation. The Facilitating Group welcomes questions and comments about any aspect of the initiative, and will respond promptly to communications.

FES-Geography Working Groups

The two units most closely involved in planning for the new Faculty – the Faculty of Environmental Studies and Department of Geography -- have established working groups on curriculum (collaborating with others as warranted) and aspects of governance such as the make-up of the Faculty, the rules, procedures and structures of an Interim Faculty Council and the Faculty's name (provisionally, Faculty of Environment).

The FES-Geography curriculum working group is focusing its efforts on innovative curriculum proposals. It is expected that three will be highlighted in the recommendation that goes to Senate and the Board and moved through the process in the autumn. Others will follow. There will be opportunities for input on all of them.

During the final stages of proposal development proponents will endeavour to elicit and present persuasive evidence that the new programs will attract new students to York in number sufficient to make the Faculty sustainable. This will entail outreach to students, prospective employers, alumni and others who can offer insights, along with close enrolment analysis. Many of the promising curriculum ideas emerging from consultations with others are in development. Others will be taken up subsequently.

Consultations Undertaken by a Special Sub-Committee of Senate ASCP

A Special Sub-Committee on New Faculty Curriculum has embarked on consultations designed to inform the work of the FES-Geography curriculum working group. Meetings have been held with colleagues from the following:

- School of Administrative Studies / Disaster and Emergency Management (7 individuals)
- School of Public Policy and Administration (2 individuals)
- Department of Social Science and constituent programs (principally BUSO, Development Studies / International Development Studies, Urban Studies; 6 individuals)
- Indigenous at York / Indigenous Studies Program (2 individuals)

The discussions to date have been positive, stimulating and productive. A major focus has been on opportunities for collaboration with the new Faculty. The Sub-Committee has also received astute advice that it has shared with curriculum designers

“Records of consultation” are prepared after each meeting. They are provided to the FES-Geography working group as well as attendees, and have been or will be posted on the Special Sub-Committee’s Website. Invitees have accepted invitations to re-convene in September when proposals have been refined.

Upcoming consultations include Lassonde and Science, The CITY Institute and Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Sub-Committee would be happy to meet with any units or individuals that wish to explore opportunities or discuss concerns. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact the Sub-Committee’s Secretary, Robert Everett, by email at beverett@yorku.ca

Legislative Pathway and Timelines

There are many steps involved in approving a new Faculty. The Facilitating Group has reviewed the nature and sequencing of motions required and the bodies responsible for acting on recommendation. The task is formidable; but it is also gaining momentum. The process will remain intensely collegial throughout, and the Facilitating Group is grateful to those who are working diligently and creatively toward timelines that contemplate action by the Senate and the Board during the calendar year.

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, 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, Interim University Secretary
Sarah Whitaker, Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic (Resource)
Robert Everett, Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic (Resource)