

Synopsis

The 661st Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, November 28, 2019

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Franck van Breugel of the Lassonde School of Engineering, welcomed Senators to the meeting. Senate Executive member Professor Lisa Farley served as Acting Vice-Chair in the absence of Senator Macpherson.

President Rhonda Lenton addressed the November 20 protest in Vari Hall that emerged in response to a student organized panel discussion on the topic of anti-Semitism. Significant safety planning ahead of the event enabled it to proceed, consistent with the University's [Statement of Policy on Free Speech](#). President Lenton expressed her disappointment at the behaviour displayed at the protest, and condemned acts of violence on all York campuses. In response to the events of November 20, the President has tasked the Offices of the Vice-President Equity, People and Culture, and Vice-Provost Students to undertake a comprehensive review of the incident, and to make recommendations to ensure alignment of York's processes with best practices.

Other comments made by the President included the following:

- an update on the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) negotiations with the provincial government and the plan to gather Senate's input on the draft SMA3 document at the December meeting
- the reengagement of planning for Markham Centre Campus
- congratulations to the incoming Vice-President Research and Innovation, Dr. Amir Asif, and University Secretary, Pascal Robichaud, and expressions of appreciation to Rui Wang and Cheryl Underhill for providing continuity in those roles on an interim basis

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

Inquiries and Communications

The Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Professor Andrea Davis, reported on the discussions at the COU meetings of September, which focused on exploring areas in which universities could demonstrate thought leadership in the public sphere. Drawing on strategic and academic plans, several common priorities on which universities could be thought leaders were identified, including environmental sustainability and reconciliation and indigenization. Colleagues also received updates on COU's Affiliate Review and the provincial government's engagement process for SMA3.

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Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Associate Vice-President Haig-Brown presented the Vice-President Research and Innovation Annual Report on behalf of Vice-President Wang.

Approvals

On the recommendation of its Executive Committee, Senate approved:

- the election of Professor Mario Roy (Glendon) as Vice-Chair/Chair-elect of Senate beginning 1 January 2020
- the disestablishment of the Faculty Council, Faculty of Environmental Studies, effective 31 December 2019, contingent upon the approval of the new Faculty by Senate and the Board of Governors

On the recommendation of its Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senate approved the:

- establishment of the provisionally named Faculty of Urban and Environmental Change comprising the Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Department of Geography, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, to commence operations 1 January 2020, with a full launch on 1 September 2020
- disestablishment of the Faculty of Environmental Studies, effective 31 August 2020
- transfer of the constituent academic programs and curricula from the Faculty of Environmental Studies to the new Faculty of Urban and Environmental Change, effective 1 September 2020
- disestablishment of the Department of Geography, LA&PS, effective 31 August 2020
- transfer of the constituent academic programs and curricula from the Department of Geography, LA&PS, to the new Faculty of Urban and Environmental Change, effective 1 September 2020

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

- change the admission and degree requirements for the MASc and PhD programs in Mechanical Engineering, Graduate Program in Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering / Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective FW 2020-2021
- change the degree requirements for the MA and PhD programs in Health, Graduate Program in Health, Faculty of Health / Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective FW 2019-2020

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Executive (Professor Lisa Farley, Acting Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee gave Notice of Statutory Motion for revisions to the York University Rules of Senate relating to the membership of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, and nomination guidelines and criteria.

The Executive Committee facilitated a discussion on the question of whether there is a need to review at this time the Principles Governing a Presidential Search. An electronic survey will be conducted following the Senate meeting to allow Senators to reflect on the discussion and to share their opinion on the question.

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- approval of the Lassonde School of Engineering's nominee to the Executive Committee
- approval of members of Senate Committees nominated by student Senators
- its review of Faculty Council rules and procedures of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- additions to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients and the renewal of candidates currently residing in the pool
- confirmation that a December meeting of Senate will be held on Thursday 12 December at 3:00 pm

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (Professor Carl Ehrlich, Chair)

APPRC provided Notice of Statutory Motion for the establishment of a School of Global Health in the Faculty of Health, effective 1 July 2020, and the transfer of the BA and BSc degree programs in Global Health from the Dean's Office, Faculty of Health, to the School of Global Health, Faculty of Health, effective 1 July 2020.

APPRC reported on the following information items:

- its reflections on the Vice-President Research and Innovation Annual Report
- an update on the [University Academic Plan renewal](#) process, with a consultation to be held at Senate during the December meeting

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

ASCP's information items included the following minor changes to calendar copy and admission and degree requirements.

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Faculty of Science

Minor changes to calendar copy for the Biomedical Sciences stream within the BSc (Honours) program in Biology, Department of Biology

Minor changes to calendar copy for the BA and BSc programs in Applied Mathematics, Mathematics Education, Mathematics, and Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Minor change to degree requirements for the Master of Accounting program, Schulich School of Business

Minor changes to French language proficiency requirements for the Master's program in Public and International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, Glendon

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

Professor Baumgartner spoke to the Committee's Annual Report for 2018-2019.

Additional Information about this Meeting

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

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

December Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 12, 2019.**