

The Senate of York University Synopsis

The 666th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 via Zoom

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, welcomed Senators participating in the special meeting.

Executive Committee Report (Professor Alison Macpherson, Chair)

The Chair called the special meeting of Senate, in consultation with the Executive Committee, to discuss and gather input from Senators on academic continuity planning during the COVID-19 disruption, including the plans for the Fall term. To set the stage for the discussion, Senator Philipps briefly spoke to the principles to guide Fall 2020 course planning and presentation slides on a Universities Canada survey of students and parents which had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Highlights include:

- thanks to community members for their compassion for students, creativity and flexibility in the transition to online course delivery for the completion of the Winter term and for the Summer term
- an update on Summer term enrolments, which are approximately 20% above target
- the determination of the administration, in consultation with Senate Executive, the government and public health authorities, that the Fall term will be delivered remotely and online for the most part with select in-person activities planned where possible, with a phased re-introduction of campus re-opening
- an overview of the principles to guide Fall 2020 course planning – prioritizing health and safety, focusing on student learning outcomes, prioritizing access to campus spaces, equity in accommodating student circumstances, and scheduling courses to enable progression – which will be reflected upon and adjusted as appropriate moving forward
- the plans to continue to provide robust support and resources to course directors to assist with Fall course planning
- the reinforcement provided by the Universities Canada survey that the University's approach to Fall 2020 course delivery responds not only to government and public health directives but also to the concerns of students and parents

A facilitated discussion about academic continuity planning ensued, in which feedback was conveyed on the Principles, and comments were shared about: upholding collegial

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governance and academic freedom during the disruption; the need for additional support for course directors to support high quality online course delivery; accessibility challenges associated with online course delivery for both course directors and students; the importance of putting in place health and safety measures for in-person activities permitted in the Fall; and the timely communication of information on decisions on the approach to Winter 2020 course delivery.

Senators' input was gratefully received and will, in turn, inform decisions and arrangements as planning for the upcoming academic year continues.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the Thursday, May 21, 2020 meeting for details about these items.

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

May Meeting of Senate

The next regular meeting of Senate is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020.