

The Senate of York University Synopsis

The 668th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, June 25, 2020 via Zoom

Remarks

The Chair, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, welcomed Senators to the meeting and expressed sorrow at the recent passing of a long-serving faculty colleague David Lumsden, a dedicated member of Senate during his tenure at York, and Professor Emeritus Pinayur Rajagopal. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Senators and committee members for their contributions this year, especially to those completing terms this month, and to the staff of the University Secretariat for their support of the work of Senate and its committees over the course of the year, in particular their facilitation of the move to virtual meetings. This being the final Senate meeting for Secretariat member Terry Carter, retiring over the summer, the Chair expressed thanks for her support of tenure and promotion processes among other Assistant Secretary duties.

In the current context of local and global uprisings against anti-Black racism, the Chair expressed the hope that, as a measure of moving forward progressively in governance at the University, a diversity of voices be heard during Senate's discussions, as it is from sharing and listening to our many and different views and perspectives that will we build our knowledge, enable debate, and define paths forward.

Drawing Senators' attention to the 2019-2020 Year-End Retrospective presentation slides circulated in advance of the meeting, President Rhonda Lenton highlighted the many notable achievements from the year despite the challenges presented by the disruption to operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and confirmed the solid position of the University to face the current circumstances. Other announcements and updates shared by the President included:

- the University's commitment to social justice and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and the plans to intensify ongoing efforts in support of the advancement of EDI in response to the movement against anti-Black racism and the recommendations of the independent external and internal reviews of the November 20 incident
- the planning underway in support of the resumption of campus activities, including the *Principles to Guide Fall 2020 Course Planning*, shared with Senate in May, the staged return to on-campus research facilities, and the introduction of curb-side pick-up program by the Libraries
- congratulations to the winners of the Governor General's Gold and Silver Medals and the Murray G. Ross Award, listed in the Awards Committee's information report

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

- an expression of thanks to Cheryl Underhill for her commitment and service as Interim University Secretary from July to December 2019
- thanks and gratitude to members of the administration who are retiring or moving into other positions at the University: Dean of Education Lyndon Martin, Dean of the Schulich School of Business Deszö Horvath, Vice-Provost Academic Alice Pitt, Interim AVP Teaching & Learning Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt, Interim VP Research and Innovation Rui Wang, and AVP Finance & CFO Aldo DiMarcantonio
- thanks and appreciation to faculty members for their support of students during the pandemic

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

Reports

Under the auspices of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senators Lisa Philipps, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Carol McAulay, Vice-President Finance and Administration, delivered a presentation on the budget context for academic planning for the years 2020-2021 to 2022-2023.

Approvals

Senate approved the recommendation of its Executive Committee to elect Tom Kirchner, Professor, Science, to the Tenure and Promotion Appeals Committee.

On the recommendation of its Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senate approved the University Academic Plan 2020-2025.

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

- restructure and rename the existing stream in Environmental Politics, Justice and Arts within the BES program to a BES degree program in Environmental Arts and Justice, housed within the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC), effective FW2021-2022
- restructure and rename the existing stream in Environmental Management: Policy, Resources and Conservation within the BES program to a BES degree program in Sustainable Environmental Management, housed EUC, effective FW2021-2022
- restructure and rename the BA programs in Geography to the BA programs in Global Geography, housed within EUC, effective FW2021-2022

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

- change the degree requirements for the PhD program in Cinema and Media Studies, housed within the Graduate Program in Film, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design / Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective FW 2020-2021

Senate approved a joint recommendation of its Academic Policy, Planning and Research and Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committees to revise the *Senate Policy on Approval and Cyclical Program Review of Programs and Other Curriculum*, effective July 1, 2021.

The recommendation of its Executive Committee to approve, without amendment, changes to the *Tenure and Promotions Policy, Criteria and Procedures*.

Committee Information Reports

Executive (Professor Mario Roy, Vice-Chair)

The Executive Committee's information items included the following:

- the results of the election of individuals to serve on ASCP held between June 1 and 5, 2020, and an update on the remaining Senate committee vacancies
- its authorization of the extension of the terms of three student members on the Senate Appeals Committee from June 30 to August 31, 2020
- its ongoing monitoring of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on academic activities, with no actions pertaining to the disruption required since the Executive Committee's last report to Senate in May
- its review of changes to the Faculty Council rules and procedures of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, and the structural changes to reflect the evolution of graduate studies that have been instituted or are underway by other Faculty Councils
- the report on Senate Attendance in 2019-2020
- progress made by Senate Committees in 2019-2020 on defined actions in support of UAP priorities
- encouragement for Senators to complete the Senator and Senate Committee surveys for 2019-2020
- its assumption of summer authority between the June and September meetings of Senate, in accordance with the Senate Rules
- thanks and appreciation to members whose terms end this month for their exemplary contributions to the Committee

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

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

APPRC's information items included the following:

- its receipt and discussion of the spring report on the budget context for academic planning from the Provost and AVP Finance
- its receipt of the Annual Reports of APPRC Sub-Committees supported by the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation
- its progress on 2019-2020 priorities
- an expression of thanks to members completing their terms this month

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professor Chloë Brushwood Rose, Chair)

ASCP provided an update and held a facilitated discussion on the implementation efforts associated with the transition from the 9.0 to the 4.0 scale, approved in principle by Senate in November 2017, giving Senators an opportunity to express their views about the draft *Policy on York University Grading Schemes* and draft qualitative descriptors. Senators' input was gratefully received and will inform the finalization of the policy framework for the new scheme.

ASCP also extended thanks and appreciation to its outgoing members, and reported on its progress on 2019-2020 priorities and its approval of the following proposals.

School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design

Minor change to degree requirements for the Specialized Honours BFA in Production within the Film program

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Minor changes to degree requirements for the MA program in Cinema and Media Studies, Graduate Program in Film

Minor changes to degree requirements for the MFA program in Film, Graduate Program in Film

Minor change to degree requirements for the Clinical-Developmental Psychology specialization within the MA program in Psychology

Minor change to degree requirements for the MA program in Ethnomusicology/Musicology

Changes to Faculty of Graduate Studies Regulations relating to Leaves of Absence

Change to time to completion requirements for the MASc and PhD in Mechanical Engineering

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

Academic Policy, Planning and Research / Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Professors Carl S. Ehrlich and Chloë Brushwood Rose, Chairs)

APPRC and ASCP jointly conveyed the 2018-2019 annual report on Non-Degree Studies and a report from the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

Awards (Professor Jonathan Obar, Chair)

Senators joined the Awards Committee in congratulating the recipients of the prestigious awards for graduating students.

Governor General's Gold Medal: Stephanie Raposo, Graduate Program in Psychology; Athina Peidou, Graduate Program in Earth and Space Science; Siobhan Angus, Graduate Program in Visual Art & Art History

Governor General's Silver Medal: Megan Anne Schwegel, Glendon, BSc (Honours) in Biology, First Class Standing; James Leonard Addis, Glendon, Honours Major/Minor BA in Economics and Music, First Class Standing; Lance David Morrison, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Specialized Honours BA in Indigenous Studies, Summa Cum Laude

The Murray G. Ross Award: Aly Fawzy, Faculty of Health, Specialized Honours BSc in Kinesiology & Health Science

The Awards Committee also reported on the following items:

- its receipt and transmission to Senate of the 2018-2019 Undergraduate Award Disbursement Report, the 2019 New Awards Report, and the 2018-2019 Graduate Award Disbursement Report
- the delay in the notification process for the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards and Honorific Professorships as a result of the pandemic, and its plan to announce the recipients to Senate over the summer
- its progress on priorities identified in the fall
- an acknowledgement of the contributions of its outgoing members

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material posted online with the Thursday, June 25, 2020 meeting for details about these items.

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

The Senate of York University Synopsis

September Meeting of Senate

Senate's next meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2020.