

# York University Senate

## Notice of Meeting

Thursday 22 October 2020 at 3:00pm

Via Videoconference

### AGENDA

Page



**1. Chair's Remarks** (A. Macpherson)

10min

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**3. Inquiries and Communications**

**4. President's Items** (R. Lenton, for information)

20min

a. President's Annual Report 2019-2020 [[online](#)]

b. Kudos Report.....1

### Committee Reports

**5. Executive Committee** (M. Roy) .....4

15min

a. Establishment of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Faculty Council  
(For approval)

b. Election of Members of Non-Designated Senate Committees (For approval)

**6. Academic Policy, Planning and Research** (B. Spotton Visano) .....11

a. Provost's Autumn Report

30min

- Preliminary FW 2020-2021 enrolments and 2020/21-2022/23 budget update
- Faculty complement update

**7. Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy** (C. Brushwood-Rose).....15

a. Revision to the Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties and Honours  
Progression Requirements

20min

- Establishment of the Senate Policy on York University Grading Schemes
- Rescission of the Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties;  
Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing; and Progression  
Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing in Bachelor of Engineering
- Establishment of qualitative descriptors for the undergraduate grading scheme

10min

**8. Awards** .....24

15min

**9. Other Business**

# York University Senate

## Consent Agenda

Consent agenda items are deemed to be approved or received unless, prior to the start of the meeting, one or more Senators ask that they be dealt with as regular business.

- 10.** Minutes of the Senate meeting of 24 September 2020.....25
- 11.** Changes to coursework and language requirements for the PhD program in English, Graduate Program in English, LA&PS / FGS (ASCP Report, page 21)
- 12.** Synopsis of the 6 October 2020 Meeting of the Board of Governors (J. Etcheverry / M. Hamadeh) .....34

## Appendices

### Executive Committee:

- Appendix A: EUC Faculty Council
- Appendix B: Update on Academic Continuity Planning
- Appendix C: Senate Committee Priorities 2020-2021
- Appendix D: Annual Report on Senate Actions in 2019-2020

### Academic Policy, Planning & Research Committee:

- Appendix A: Provost Complement and Enrolment Reports

### Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee:

- Appendix A: Senate Policy on York University Grading Schemes
- Appendix B: Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties, Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing, and Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing in Bachelor of Engineering
- Appendix C: Qualitative Descriptors
- Appendix D: Sessional Dates

P. Robichaud, Secretary



# PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

OCTOBER 2020

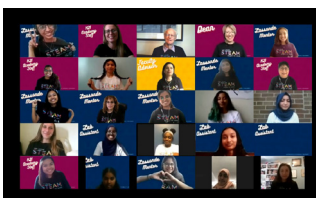


Master of Disaster and Emergency Management graduates [Alisha Khan and Magda Sulzycki](#) founded 1033, a global network of Emergency and Business Continuity Management (EM/BC) professionals who provide free advisory and consulting services to organizations impacted by COVID-19.



The [Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies](#) announced the latest recipients of the Barbara Godard and Odessa Prizes, which recognize outstanding works that advance our knowledge of Canada:

- Best graduate dissertation: Alan Ojiig Corbiere, Department of History, for his dissertation titled "Anishinaabe Treaty-Making in the 18th- and 19th-Century Northern Great Lakes: From Shared Meanings to Epistemological Chasms"; and
- Best undergraduate paper in a fourth-year course: Natalia Santilli for her paper "The Abject Horror of the Spanish Influenza in Canadian Theatre."



The Lassonde School of Engineering welcomed [16 female high school students](#) to participate in the Helen Carswell STEAM Program for Women. This year, the program ran over a two-week period in a completely virtual format, and offered participants a paid research opportunity as lab assistants doing meaningful work in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).



Schulich Professor [Yelena Larkin](#) won the Pagano & Zechner Prize for the best non-investments paper published in the *Review of Finance* journal in 2019-20 for her work "[Are US Industries Becoming More Concentrated?](#)".



York's [School of Human Resource Management](#) (HRM), in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, won all four Canadian HR Reporter Reader's Choice Awards for best education in Canada for the third consecutive year. Every York HRM program was nominated and selected as the winner in its respective category:

- The PhD HRM program;
- The executive master's program(MHRM);
- The bachelor's degree programs (BHRM); and
- the certificate in HRM.



[goPeer](#), a financial technology start-up that makes non-traditional lending accessible on a peer-to-peer platform, won the 2019 Aird & Berlis StartupSource Market Entry Award, which includes both a \$12,500 cash prize and an equal amount in Aird & Berlis LLP legal services. goPeer will also receive a \$10,000 LaunchYU Accelerator Award.



The [Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion](#) launched the Anti-Racism Workshop Series, a four-part series on the critical components involved in increasing awareness and actions to address concerns of racial discrimination.



Construction of our new [Markham Centre Campus](#) (MCC) formally began last month with a small, physically distanced groundbreaking event at the project site. This important milestone was celebrated in-person and virtually by members of the York community, representatives from all three levels of government, our architecture and construction partners, community leaders and other supporters.



York launched its [first-ever brand strategy](#) to reflect its distinct identity in the higher education landscape. The new brand provides a clear, credible and differentiated articulation of our shared purpose and identity, and will enhance reputation, drive enrolment and attract funding and strategic partnerships.

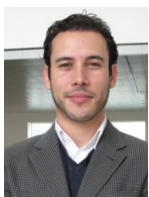


The family of the late Avie Bennett, chancellor of York University from 1998 to 2004 and an honorary degree holder, has made a gift of \$400,000 to support [Canadian Writers in Person](#) (CWIP), a literature course that curates a schedule of interactive opportunities with published Canadian authors for York students and the public. This one-of-a-kind course recently celebrated [its 20th anniversary](#).



[Four faculty members](#) in the Faculty of Health were recognized with the annual Dean's Awards, which reflect excellence and innovation within the Faculty. This year's recipients are:

- Lauren Sergio - Dean's Award for Research Excellence;
- Jennine Rawana - Dean's Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership, Pedagogical and/or Curricular Innovation;
- Parissa Safai - Dean's Award for Excellence in Service & Engagement Impact Award; and
- Jonathan Weiss - Dean's Award for Excellence in Service & Engagement Impact Award.





[Penelope Guevara](#), a first-year student in the criminology at program, is the winner of this year's first-year free tuition contest.

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## APPOINTMENTS



[Jack Leong](#) was appointed associate dean, research and open scholarship at the York University Libraries.

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Professor [Gregory Chin](#) was appointed to the Advisory Group of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to advise on the UNOSSC South-South Ideas Paper Series, which collects evidence-based empirical research focused on advancing the increased understanding of pertinent international development issues in the global south.

# Executive Committee – Report to Senate

At its meeting of October 22, 2020

## FOR ACTION

### 1. Establishment of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Faculty Council

Having provided *Notice of the Motion* in September, Senate Executive recommends:

that Senate approve the establishment of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Faculty Council, effective 1 September 2020.

#### Rationale

Faculty Councils are dissolved and established by Senate on a statutory motion proposed by the Executive Committee. Senate approved an interim Faculty Council for Environmental and Urban Change in October 2019 to allow members of the new Faculty to take full responsibility for developing proposals and implementation plans until it becomes operational on 1 September 2020. One important task for the Interim Council was the development of the structure, rules and procedures for its permanent Council. Senate Executive has consented to the Council proceeding with the Rules as prepared, with one matter to be finalized to bring consistency with principles of collegial governance and practices with Faculty Councils across the University. The Rules and Procedures in effect are set out in Appendix A.

The legislative history of the new Faculty is as follows:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| November 2019 | Senate approval of the establishment of the new Faculty   |
|               | Senate approval of the disestablishment of the Faculty of Environmental Studies   |
|               | Senate approval of the transfer of the constituent academic programs and curricula from the Faculty of Environmental Studies to the new Faculty, effective 1 September 2020 |
|               | Senate approval of the disestablishment of the Department of Geography, LA&PS, effective 31 August 2020   |
|               | Senate approval of the transfer of the constituent academic programs and curricula from the Department of Geography, LA&PS, to the new Faculty, effective 1 September 2020  |
| December 2019 | Board of Governors approval of the establishment of the new Faculty   |

### 2. Election of Members of Non-Designated Senate Committees

The Senate Executive Committee recommends the following candidate for election to Senate committees with non-designated seats for the remainder of a three-year term beginning immediately and ending 30 June 2023.

## Executive Committee – Report to Senate

Nominations are also accepted “from the floor” if the nominee has consented and is available for the published meeting time of the committee. Under Senate Rules, nominators must report prospective nominees to the Secretary **prior** to the start of the meeting in order to determine their eligibility. Additional nominees may be forwarded prior to the Senate meeting of 22 October 2020.

Final approval for a slate of nominees is given by Senate on a motion “that nominations be closed” as moved by the Vice-Chair of Senate.

**Tenure & Promotions** (Full-time faculty members; 3 vacancies; meets in panels at Thursdays at 3:00 when Senate is not in session; members participate in the deliberations of committees constituted at the Faculty level; candidates must fulfil all membership criteria).

Jeffrey S. Everett, Professor, Schulich School of Business

### FOR INFORMATION

#### 3. Monitoring the Disruption

The Senate Executive Committee continues to discharge its mandate of monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on academic activities at the University. The Provost provides regular reports to Executive and works in collaboration with the Committee on decisions to manage the impact and provide needed adjustments to academic regulations, deadlines and schedules.

A comprehensive written update was provided to the Committee this month. A copy of the communication is being shared with Senate to keep it fully apprised of the planning and developments pertaining to academic continuity; it is attached as Appendix B of this report.

In September, Executive advised Senate that deferred final exams / final assessments from the Winter 2020 term remain a pending matter for which arrangements will be needed to facilitate the completion of the students’ courses as restrictions on in-person academic activities continue. At its regular meeting in October, the Committee approved the following recommendations from the Provost:

- a. Convey the expectation that all outstanding final exams or assessments from FW 2019-2020 must be brought to completion using online or other remote means, including but not limited to, online exams with or without proctoring services, the quizzes function in Moodle, take-home exams, etc. (subject to extenuating circumstances in paragraph c. below).

## Executive Committee – Report to Senate

- b. Establish a deferred virtual exam period on the days of 17 and 24 January 2021, to be centrally managed by the Office of the University Registrar to ensure a conflict-free schedule for students.<sup>1</sup>
- c. Authorize Deans' Offices to approve in-person assessments in extenuating circumstances where they cannot reasonably be completed virtually or remotely, including performance or other hands-on demonstration forms of course assessment, subject to compliance with health and safety protocols.
- d. Re-authorize the accommodation made available by Executive on 16 March 2020 to revise the original grading scheme of a course - including the option of an assessed grade - as a form of accommodation to students who were offered but chose not to accept that option in the winter 2020 term, with a new deadline for those students to choose the option by 8 December 2020.
- e. Extend to 5 February 2021 the deadline to drop a FW 2019-2020 course without receiving a grade (without a W notation) for students granted deferred standing in the Winter 2020 term who do not complete their deferred exam / assessment by 31 January 2021.
- f. Maintain the temporary suspension of the *Senate Policy on Pass/Fail Grades* originally authorized by Senate Executive in March and April 2020 for undergraduate and graduate students, as an option for students with deferred standing in FW 2019-2020 courses, or who completed their deferred exam / assessment in such courses prior to 1 September 2020, as follows:
  - o The number of credits for which pass/fail is chosen for the FW2019-2020 and W2020 will not be added to a student's total number of pass / fail credits
  - o BEd, JD, BScN and Nurse Practitioner (PHCNP) and MScN courses continue to be exceptions to the Pass / Fail Grades Policy
  - o The new deadline for students to choose the pass / fail grading option is 5 February 2021

These decisions were shared with Senators on 14 October 2020, and they have been posted on Senate's COVID-19 information webpage at <https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/covid-19-information-and-decisions-pertaining-to-academic-activities/>. The Committee will continue to keep Senate apprised of the impact of the disruption on academic activities and any decisions taken thereon.

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<sup>1</sup> The virtual exam period would not apply to the JD program at Osgoode; in accordance with its Faculty academic rules and procedures, the Law School administered a deferral period immediately following the regular exam period in Spring 2020 and there are no outstanding exams.



# Executive Committee – Report to Senate

## 3. Approval of Committee Members Nominated by Faculty Councils

The Executive Committee has approved the following individuals nominated by Faculty Councils for membership on Senate committees with terms beginning 1 July 2020 and ending 30 June 2023.

### Academic Policy, Planning and Research

Evan Light, Assistant Professor, Glendon / Faculty of Graduate Studies

Anna Zalik, Associate Professor, Environmental & Urban Change

### Executive Committee

Jennifer Connolly, Professor, Health

There is also a correction to the Executive Committee membership to report. After a change of sabbatical plans, Ric Wildes, appointed to the Executive Committee as the elected nominee from the Lassonde School of Engineering in 2019-2020, will remain on the Committee this academic year. Lassonde Council has advised that the earlier nomination of Aleksander Czekanski to succeed Professor Wildes has been retroactively withdrawn.

## 4. Senate Committee Priorities for 2020-2021

The Senate Committees engage in an annual exercise of identifying a concise list of priorities that are primarily focused on the advancement of priorities set out in the *University Academic Plan* coincident with their respective mandates and terms of reference.

The Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC), the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP), and the Awards Committee have transmitted their respective 2020-2021 priorities. The initiatives identified by these committees reflect themes and goals articulated in the new *University Academic Plan 2020-2025*. Their priorities also convey a focus this year on measures to entrench equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI) principles in adjudicative responsibilities or within policies and processes. The committee priorities for APPRC, ASCP, and Awards may be found in Appendix C to the Executive report

The Senate Tenure & Promotions and Student Appeals committees, which most often meet in panels, will each convene the full membership in the coming weeks to discuss priorities, including avenues to integrate EDI principles and practices.

The Executive Committee priorities were shared with Senate in September.

## Executive Committee – Report to Senate

### 5. Addressing Anti-Black Racism and Advancing EDI in the Collegial Governance Realm

A communication was sent to Senate Executive from Senator Leslie Sanders calling on the Committee to decide how the President’s agenda to effect a robust anti-Black racism program at the University will be implemented within the Senate and Faculty academic collegial governance frameworks. Enthusiastic to examine the topic, the Committee invited Senator Sanders, the *Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation to the University*, Carl E. James, the *Special Advisor on the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies’ Anti-Black Racism Strategy*, Andrea Davis, and the *Vice-President Equity, People & Culture (EPC)*, Sheila Cote-Meek to join the Committee for an informed and inclusive discussion.

The discourse surfaced information on initiatives in progress being led by the Vice-President EPC, directions being taken by Faculties and types of concrete actions Senate and Faculty Council committees could explore. There is agreement that embedding anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism activities in Senate policies and practices will ensure they become part of the culture. There was also agreement that with the many parallel tracks being pursued across the University strengthen governance structures, processes, and practices to address anti-racism and advance EDI, that a coordination of efforts is needed.

Strong support was recorded to have the Senate Executive Sub-Committee on Equity take up that task. A long-standing governance body under the auspices of the Executive Committee, the Equity Sub-committee is:

“responsible for reviewing, recommending revisions to, and proposing and pursuing policies in the domain of equity that are within Senate’s mandate, either through its own initiative or by coordinating the work of Senate committees. It shall facilitate the consideration of equity matters and serve for Executive as Senate’s liaison with other bodies of the University. The Sub-Committee will report twice-annually to Senate on equity issues and to the President’s Advisory Council on Human Rights. The Sub-Committee shall also ensure that other Senate committees act and report on aspects of their mandates that relate to equity. In discharging its mandate, the Sub-Committee shall seek such advice as is necessary and desirable.”

Composed of the Chair of Senate (or delegate), other members of Executive (normally including a student), a member of the Senate Academic Policy, Planning & Research Committee and also the Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy Committee, it is a representative body of Senate well-positioned to lead the exercise of defining how the collegium will take up the call to operationalize anti-Black racism and EDI measures within academic governance.

Regular reports on this work will be brought to Senate as the Sub-committee embarks on its work.

# **Executive Committee – Report to Senate**

## **6. Review of Faculty Council Rules and Procedures**

The Committee recently reviewed changes to the Faculty Council rules and procedures of the Lassonde School of Engineering – which include a newly established Graduate Learning, Curriculum & Students Committee - and confirmed that they are all generally consistent with principles of collegial governance and practices elsewhere in the University.

Over the past two years, Faculty Councils have been instituting structural changes to reflect the evolution of graduate studies at the University. AMPD, Glendon, Health, LA&PS, Osgoode, Science, Schulich, and now Lassonde and Environmental and Urban Change too, have all confirmed structures in place to bring authority for graduate programs into their Faculty Council’s legislative framework. Education has a governance review process in progress with plans to complete the exercise this academic year.

## **7. Temporary Actions Taken by Executive to aid Faculty Council Governance**

Senate Executive was apprised in September of ongoing uncertainty about governance matters in the Faculty of Education. From time to time Faculty Councils need governance support as they grapple with procedural matters and challenging circumstances. Often described as “creatures of Senate”, Faculty Councils fall under the purview of Senate Executive. Where Executive sees a need to support a Council dealing with a procedural or process setback, it does so to help right the course for the Council, leaving it to carry on with its business.

Several issues surfaced that needed to be addressed for the assurance of both the Faculty of Education and Senate that Council is functioning under proper rules and processes. Taking up its responsibility to provide oversight to Councils on their rules and their application, Executive effected a set of temporary actions to provide a bridge to transition Council from an impasse to a duly constituted and functioning governance body. The actions taken provided the assistance needed. Executive has been advised that the Council and its committees are being duly constituted, the set of rules and procedures in effect have been confirmed, and a Chair selected; Council meetings will now proceed as scheduled.

## **8. Senate Executive Temporary Sub-committee: Mandate Completed**

In June 2019, Senate Executive established a Temporary Sub-Committee to review and resolve the remaining cases of students with outstanding provisional grades assigned as a result of the labour disruption in Winter 2018 in order to finalize the status of the students’ degrees conferred in spring 2019. Periodic progress reports were provided to Senate throughout the 2019-2020 academic year on the work of the Temporary Sub-committee.

In September of this year, the Chair of the Senate Executive Temporary Sub-committee - Senator Mazen Hamadeh - advised that this past summer the body brought to conclusion

## **Executive Committee – Report to Senate**

the task mandated by Senate Executive. The 13 cases of provisional grades were resolved, with all but one of the provisionally conferred degrees confirmed.

### **9. Senate in 2019-2020: Year-End Report on Actions**

A consolidated report on actions taken by Senate in 2019-2020 is attached as Appendix D. The document may be particularly helpful in providing new Senators with a sense of the nature and breadth of actions during the year. Senate Executive is sincerely grateful to members of Senate committees and Faculty Councils for their efforts over the past year.

### **10. Committee and Sub-Committee Membership 2020-2021**

The Committee is pleased to welcome Professor Jennifer Connolly, nominee from the Faculty of Health. It is awaiting additional information with respect to student members.

*Alison Macpherson, Chair*

*Mario Roy, Vice-Chair*

# Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

## Report to Senate

At its meeting of 22 October 2020

### FOR INFORMATION

#### 1. Provost's Autumn Report on Complement and Enrolment

As is customary, the Provost's autumn report to APPRC and Senate focusses on enrolments and complements. This year the report includes an update on the University budget as well, as was indicated last June. The uncertainties about FW 2020-2021 enrolments caused by the pandemic led to contingency plans being prepared for the operating budget last spring. With fuller knowledge emerging on the enrolment picture, more accurate budget information is being shared. Provost Philipps previewed the report with APPRC earlier this month and gathered feedback from members. The presentation slides are attached as Appendix A.

Complements are rebuilding, with an upward trend of tenure stream appointments since 2016-2017, net of departures. The strategy is for continued investment in faculty complement renewal to support the goals of reducing the student-faculty ratios and diversifying the faculty population; the latter in alignment with UAP priorities. The patterns in the equity data reveal early progress emerging from recent measures implemented to advance diversification.

On enrolments there is mixed news. The worst-case scenario of a pandemic-related dramatic decline in enrolments did not surface. Overall, undergraduate enrolments are slightly ahead of targets, owing to high retention of continuing students. The downside is there has been a significant drop in the new student intake this year, and also a drop in graduate enrolments. APPRC noted with concern the multi-year flow-through effect of the decreased first-year cohort and urged early development of strategies to mitigate the impact on the outer-years (2021 – 2024). Plans to recapture York's market share of domestic undergraduate students and address the aggressive admission strategies of universities were encouraged. Enrolment management will be increasingly complex in the still fluid context that contains several pressure points.

The discussion at APPRC also raised other pandemic-related challenges outside of enrolments and budgets: what are the experiences of students and course directors with online / remote course delivery; and preparing for the high-school entrants in the ensuing years who will have had uneven learning experiences. Plans are in progress to gather both students and faculty members' experiences with online teaching in the

## **Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee Report to Senate (cont'd)**

current context to harvest and share the learnings. Careful thinking will need to be undertaken on preparing to receive and support future cohorts of direct-entry students.

### **2. 2020-2021 Priorities Confirmed**

APPRC confirmed its substantive priorities for this academic year and has transmitted them to Senate Executive. The committee is now developing implementation plans for the various initiatives.

A key focus will be setting the stage to advance and track progress on the University Academic Plan 2020-2025 priorities. Specifically, a primary task is the identification of a set of broad indicators for each of the six UAP priorities and the SDGs to inform planning at the local levels, and to identify indicators by which APPRC will track that progress. Various forms of community consultation will be facilitated over the course of this academic year – including an open forum (virtual) – to engage the collegium in discussions of what defines success on the Plan's priorities and the SDGs. The input from the community consultation will provide the basis for APPRC to identify inclusive indicators – as a combination of broad criteria to be assessed and quantitative data to be weighted numerically – for its monitoring of UAP progress.

Having said that, the Committee is keenly aware that at the University, in the lives of our community members, in our cities, across the country and the globe we are in extraordinary circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many aspects of the teaching, research, governance, student life, and campus operations are occurring in very different landscapes, at different paces. This is the very challenging context shaping our academic activities. With incredible resiliency, the University is successfully continuing to deliver its programming, support students, conduct scholarship and sustain collegial governance processes. APPRC acknowledges the time and energy it has taken – and is continuing to take - to be able to sustain these activities in the new and difficult terrain. Discussions of progress towards priorities must naturally be situated within the realities of this context.

Also, in focus for APPRC this year will be ways to inform academic policies and directions to address anti-Black racism, and further access and principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. Specific actions to this end need to be honed, which will be a topic the Committee's representative on the Senate Executive Sub-committee on Equity will be actively exploring with that body.

# Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee Report to Senate (cont'd)

## 3. Markham Centre Campus

Senators will be aware of the recent announcement of the Province's approval for the University to proceed with the Markham Centre Campus, with a launch date of FW 2023-2024. Anchor Faculties are actively working on program development and complement planning for their degree program offerings at the Markham campus, concurrent with local and central operational planning for the provision of student services on the campus.

Consistent with its responsibility for the articulation of research, teaching and programmatic principles for academic planning, and the criteria for assessment of major initiatives and their resourcing, APPRC includes the Markham campus among both its priorities this year and as a standing agenda item for every meeting. It will have discussions and provide input into the academic dimensions of the campus including research, curriculum, and pedagogy; confirm the academic processes to be invoked in the preparations for the new campus; and ensure Senate is fully informed of developments and engaged in the planning of the initiative.

The Committee received a briefing from the Provost at its 1 October meeting on the status of campus planning. Key developments to share include:

- the Campus vision: it will be urban, connected and integrated with local and global communities. Academic programs and research will revolve around core themes of technology and entrepreneurship, as applied in different contexts and professional fields; students will acquire knowledge and skills to contribute to a rapidly changing economy and society through innovative programs and research opportunities where they interact directly with employers and community partners
- scheduled to launch in September 2023, planned enrolments for the campus are 4,200 students within the first seven years
- Markham will not be a new Faculty, rather it will host degree programs offered by existing Faculties, commencing with AMPD, Lassonde, LA&PS, and Science, and FGS supporting graduate offerings, and non-degree programs offered through the School of Continuing Studies. Additionally, the York University Libraries will have a significant space at MCC and a major role in supporting learning and research.
- all curriculum, governance, and other academic decisions and approvals pertaining to the new campus will proceed through normal governance channels
- The Provost has authorized participating Faculties to advertise this fall seven tenure stream faculty positions to support programming offered at the Markham

## **Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee Report to Senate (cont'd)**

campus (three professorial, four teaching-stream). Additional complement planning and hiring will follow in upcoming years. Four professional staff hires are also in progress.

- Detailed research planning is also underway for the new campus to intensify York's research and support the experiential education and community partnership goals for the new campus; a core set of multidisciplinary research themes have been identified which map York's research strengths and the emerging areas of demand for education and career readiness, particularly in Markham and York Region.
- A coordinating committee chaired by the Provost is overseeing the planning across the office of the Deans, the Vice-President Research & Innovation, the Division of Students and administrative units to ensure the academic programming and support services at the new campus will be ready for September 2023

With four different Faculties offering programs under different curriculum frameworks for their majors, general education and elective components, upcoming discussions with the Provost will focus on key aspects of degree programming at the Markham campus, as well as the academic support services to be available to its student body.

The Committee will be pleased to discuss any of the above-noted matters, or to receive Senators' questions on any aspects of the campus plans that they believe require the attention of APPRC or Senate.

### **4. Senate Committee and Senator Surveys**

The Committee reviewed the results of the 2019-2020 Senator and Senate committee member surveys. It was agreed that the Committee used the data – especially those related to items of greatest interest to the collegium -- to help frame its priorities and agenda planning for the coming year.

### **5. Welcome to New Members**

The Committee is pleased to welcome new members Anna Zalik (Environmental & Urban Change) and Evan Light (School of Translation, Glendon and Faculty of Graduate Studies). We also look forward to welcoming the two student members once they have been confirmed by Senate Executive.

Brenda Spotton Visano  
Chair of APPRC



# Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

## Report to Senate

At its meeting of 22 October 2020

### For Action

#### 1. Revisions to the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties and Honours Progression Requirements*

ASCP recommends that,

Senate approve, effective FW 2023-2024,

1. The establishment of the *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*, as set out in Appendix A;
2. The rescission of the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties, Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing, and Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing in Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)*, provided as Appendix B; and
3. The establishment of corresponding qualitative descriptors for the Undergraduate Grading Scheme as an appendix to the *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*, as set out in Appendix C.

### Rationale

Having originally made the above recommendations at the 24 September Senate meeting and withdrawn them in response to the discussion, ASCP brings them back to Senate for review and approval. Details about adjustments made to the Policy framework in response to feedback from Senators at the September meeting is covered below.

In November 2017, Senate approved in principle the following revisions to the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties*:

- change the undergraduate 9-point letter grade to a 13-point letter grade scale to include minus grades and eliminate the “E” grade, with grades to be calculated to a weighted GPA based on a 4.0 maximum

# Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

## Report to Senate

- establish corresponding numerical ranges for each letter grade and qualitative descriptors for each letter-numerical pair
- broaden the scope of the grading scheme to apply to undergraduate and graduate programs, and align the letter grade scales for both up to “C-”
- retain the grading scale in use for the JD program housed in the Osgoode Hall Law School (no minus grades) but convert its numerical scale to a 4.0 maximum
- retain the Pass / Fail grading scheme for graduate programs housed in the Faculty of Environmental Studies
- change the name of the legislation to the *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*

The rationale for the change to the grading scheme is set out in the ASCP Report in the [November 2017 Senate agenda package](#). Senators are reminded that the November 2017 approval in principle encompassed the Undergraduate, Graduate and Osgoode grading schemes set out in section 4.1 of the Policy.

Following Senate’s approval in principle of the transition to the new grading scheme, ASCP was tasked with shepherding the implementation of the transition. Since then, ASCP has been working in collaboration with the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) and Faculty partners to prepare the policy and academic regulations framework to implement the new scheme. The implications of the change are not limited to central policy and systems, but extend to policies, academic regulations, requirements and procedures that are based on the 9.0 letter grading scale and GPA calculations. For example, changes to be made concurrently with the revised grading scheme include degree and progression requirements; program admissions requirements; criteria for awards and other academic honours; and criteria for monetary scholarships, bursaries and awards tied to a GPA requirement.

In Fall 2019, ASCP agreed that the transition to the new grading scheme presents a timely opportunity to review the University’s approach to Honours progression and to establish University-wide standards for academic standing and sanctions. An Academic Standing Working Group, comprised of registrarial staff and academic advisors from each Faculty, was tasked with considering approaches to academic standing, progression requirements and academic sanctions in the new scheme with a view to making a recommendation to the Committee. Over the course of Fall 2019 and

# **Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee**

## **Report to Senate**

Winter 2020, the Working Group, in consultation with ASCP and its Coordinating & Planning (C&P) Sub-Committee, developed preliminary new models, articulated in the *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*.

Consultations on the proposed Policy were launched with the University community by way of a memo to Associate Deans Academic and Academic Advisors, discussions at the June and September 2020 Senate meetings, and meetings with students and administrative staff in the Faculties. Through these outreach activities, ASCP received thoughtful and helpful comments and questions, and confirmation of overall support for the proposed new approach. The Committee is extremely grateful to all who have shared their perspectives on the Policy. In response to the comments and questions that surfaced, the Committee has:

- incorporated language into the Policy regarding Honours progression assessment for students admitted to York with transfer credit (Sections 4.3.a.iii. and 4.3.b.)
- strengthened the language in the Policy about its intended goal of serving as a retentive tool
- confirmed the inclusion of the percent ranges in the Undergraduate Grading Scheme, as was approved in principle by Senate in November 2017
- committed to providing clear communications and support for Faculties and/or programs about required implementation actions and timelines, and to facilitating clear communications to all community members to help ensure a smooth transition

Following on from the original rationale for the revision to the Grading Scheme, the review of academic standing, Honours progression and academic sanctions was underpinned by the twin principles of enhancing student success, tempered by maintaining rigorous academic standards, and enhancing internal consistency across the University. In terms of enhancing student success, the proposed Policy seeks to promote retention and simplify Honours progression by de-linking it from students' study level, enabling students to remain in an Honours program for a longer period of time with a view to giving them opportunities to master content and progress in their learning. While the number of assessments of students' eligibility to progress in an Honours program will be reduced in the new model, their academic standing will

# **Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee**

## **Report to Senate**

continue to be assessed after each academic session once they have taken 18 credits at York, keeping them regularly apprised of their standing. Further, by introducing a pan-University definition of good academic standing, a cumulative GPA of 1.70, students will have a range of opportunities to complete a degree program at York if they are not able to meet the requirements of their original program. With respect to enhancing internal consistency, the Policy harmonizes the variation in academic regulations and terminology that currently exists across the Faculties.

In addition to the two core principles, an important consideration in the review was balancing a respect for the customs and culture within York regarding academic standards with consideration of practices at other universities and external perceptions of the relative value of a York degree. Accordingly, the minimum cumulative GPA to progress and graduate from an Honours program at York is set at 2.00 / C / 63%, comparable both to the 5.0 / C+ / 65% in the current scheme and to graduation requirements at other Canadian universities. In recognition of the need or desire of some academic programs to maintain higher standards for Honours progression, the Policy allows for programs to set requirements above and beyond the University-wide standard.

ASCP also is recommending the adoption of corresponding qualitative descriptors for the Undergraduate Grading Scheme as an appendix to the Policy, set out in Appendix C. While the November 2017 recommendation to Senate imagined the establishment of descriptors for each letter-numerical grade pair, after much consideration, efforts to define each pair and a survey of practices at other Ontario Universities, ASCP recommends a different approach whereby the descriptors define grade clusters using single words in combination with brief phrases. The descriptors were provided to Senate for discussion at the June 2020 meeting and presented at various consultation sessions over the spring and summer.

### ***Implementation Plan***

Following Senate's approval of the policy framework, implementation efforts will be monitored by ASCP, with the C&P Sub-Committee overseeing the majority of activities and keeping the full Committee regularly apprised and engaged. Included among ASCP's implementation activities are:

# **Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee**

## **Report to Senate**

- Monitoring and/or supporting Faculty- and program-level academic regulation changes required by the move to the new scheme, including the development of a process by which these changes can be reported to ASCP in a straightforward manner.
- Working with Faculties or programs that wish to create academic standing or Honours progression requirements in addition to the minimum University standard.
- Updating Senate policies that reference a GPA value to reflect the conversion and recommending amendments to Senate.
- Liaising with Student Financial Services and Faculties to initiate a review of the Awards Manual and other awards criteria referencing a GPA value.
- Providing guidance to the OUR on systems updates as appropriate, particularly on the development of principles regarding the impact of the transition on continuing students and changes to the transcript.
- Providing ongoing updates to Senate about implementation efforts, including reporting or recommending Faculty- and program-level academic regulation changes as appropriate.

The process for the reporting of Faculty- and program-level academic regulation changes will be as follows.

- Regulation changes may be reported to ASCP for information if they meet the following criteria: 1) the change consists of a mathematical conversion of GPA requirements from the 9.0 to the 4.0 scale, or 2) the regulation change aligns with the minimum thresholds outlined in the Policy.
- Regulation changes that do not meet these criteria will be required to undergo review and approval through the usual Faculty- and Senate-level governance process.

Following Senate approval of the policy framework, ASCP will send a communication to Faculties outlining the details and timelines associated with this process, with an anticipated deadline of April 2021.

# Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

## Report to Senate

### *Chronology*

A chronology of major milestones in the grading scheme transition to date are listed in the table below.

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Activity</b>
November 2017	Senate approval in principle of transition to new grading scheme
2018-2019	ASCP's review of mathematical conversion to new grading scheme and implications on Honours progression
January 2019	Transmission of written report from ASCP to Senate on implementation activities
April 2019	Consultation with Associate Deans on the possibility of reviewing Honours progression
Fall 2019	Academic Standing Working Group established
December 2019	Transmission of verbal report from ASCP to Senate on implementation activities
Winter 2020	Academic Standing Working Group recommendation confirmed by ASCP C&P Sub-Committee
March 2020	ASCP confirmation of new models and draft Policy
May to August 2020	University-wide consultations on draft Policy and qualitative descriptors (e.g. Associate Deans Academic, Academic Advisors, students, non-academic staff)
June 2020	Facilitated discussion of draft Policy and qualitative descriptors at Senate
16 September 2020	ASCP review of community feedback and approval of Policy and qualitative descriptors
21-22 September 2020	ASCP review and approval of editorial revision via electronic canvas
24 September 2020	Senate review of Policy and qualitative descriptors for approval; recommendation withdrawn
7 October 2020	ASCP review and approval of revised Policy incorporating language re students with transfer credit
22 October 2020	Senate review of revised Policy and qualitative descriptors for approval

In addition to the three appendices, supplementary documentation, including charts depicting a visual representation of the Policy, is available on the Senate website.

# **Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee**

## **Report to Senate**

**Approvals:** ASCP 16 and 22 September and 7 October 2020

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **2. Changes to coursework and language requirements for the PhD program in English • Graduate Program in English • Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies • Faculty of Graduate Studies**

ASCP recommends that,

Senate approve the following changes to degree requirements for the PhD program in English, housed within the Graduate Program in English, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Faculty of Graduates Studies, effective FW2020-2021:

- Enhanced flexibility regarding the timing of the completion of coursework, allowing students to satisfy coursework requirements by no later than their fourth year;
- An adjustment to the manner in which the historical coursework requirement is satisfied, enabling students to do so by way of the completion of two transhistorical courses rather than one course in pre-1798 material; and
- Changes to the language requirements including the removal of the option to complete two French Studies courses and a shift in the timing of the translation exam from no later than the end of the fifth to no later than the end of the ninth term.

### **Rationale**

Currently, coursework must be completed by the end of students' second year in the program but, to offer students enhanced flexibility in terms of course selection and the distribution of requirements over their degree, it is proposed to maintain the expectation that students normally complete coursework in their first and second years while allowing them to do so until the end of their fourth year. In terms of the transhistorical requirement, there has been a shift in the approach of the program from courses focused on a specific historical period towards transgeneric and transhistorical courses with a view to enhancing students' understandings of literary movements,

# Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

## Report to Senate

periods and forms. Accordingly, a reconceptualization of the manner by which students complete the requirement is proposed, whereby two courses must be completed with at least half of the content covering the period prior to 1798. Currently, one course must be based on pre-1798 writings. Students will be responsible for self-reporting their completion of the requirement, with the program administrator seeking confirmation from course directors as needed.

With respect to the language requirements, currently, students must successfully complete one of two French Studies courses, the basic and intermediate iterations of French Reading Course for Academic Purposes, or a translation exam. To more closely reflect the spirit of the language requirement, it is proposed to remove the two French Studies courses and maintain the completion of the translation exam. Students will have greater flexibility around how they prepare for the exam, with plans to secure permission for students to enroll in undergraduate language courses at York at no charge.

As the proposed changes to coursework and language requirements are a reconceptualization of current requirements and continue to meet their original spirit, there are no changes to the program learning outcomes.

ASCP recommends that the changes be approved retroactively to apply to students entering in FW2020-2021 as they primarily relate to requirements completed in the later years of the program and are not anticipated to have a significant impact on incoming students.

**Approvals:** FGS Academic Planning & Policy Committee on behalf of FGS Council 9 September 2020 (summer authority) • ASCP 7 October 2020

## For Information

### a. Sessional Dates SU2021 to SU2024

Provided as Appendix D are the sessional dates for three academic years, from SU2021 to SU2024. They are based on the [Senate Policy on Sessional Dates and the Scheduling of Examinations](#), revised in October 2017 as approved by Senate, to provide for a four-day Fall Reading Week during the week of Thanksgiving.



# **Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee**

## **Report to Senate**

In previous years, ASCP confirmed the sessional dates for the next immediate Summer and Fall/Winter sessions and reviewed the dates for the subsequent two years for information. This year, on a recommendation from the Office of the University Registrar (OUR), ASCP confirmed the sessional dates for the next three academic years to assist with planning in the years ahead.

ASCP has confirmed that the dates are in alignment with the requirements of the Senate Policy. However, ASCP's discussion surfaced that orientation activities in Fall 2021 had been scheduled on the same date as Rosh Hashanah. In view of this, the OUR will consider alternative options for the scheduling of orientation activities in consultation with the University community and report back to ASCP and Senate.

### **b. Minor Modifications to Curriculum**

#### ***Faculty of Graduate Studies***

Changes to Leaves of Absence and Registration Status Regulations

Chloë Brushwood Rose, Chair

## Senate Committee on Awards

### Report to Senate

At its meeting of 22 October 2020

#### FOR INFORMATION

##### 1. President's Research Awards: Call for Nominations

The Call for Nominations for the President's Research Awards was issued at the beginning of October. Descriptions of the three Research Awards are provided below and additional details are available on the [Awards Committee website](#).

Senators are encouraged to submit nominations for the Research Awards and promote the submission of nominations among their colleagues.

The **President's Emerging Research Leadership Award** recognizes two full-time faculty members within five to 10 years of their first academic appointment, who have had a notable impact on their field(s) and made a significant contribution to advancing the University's international reputation for research excellence while significantly and positively contributing to one or more aspects of the York community's intellectual life.

Each year, one award is made to a researcher in the disciplines or fields related to Engineering, Science, Technology, Health and Biomedicine (Cluster 1), and a second award is made to a researcher in the disciplines or fields related to Social Sciences, Arts & Design, Humanities, Business, Law and Education (Cluster 2).

The **President's Research Impact Award** recognizes full-time, active faculty members whose body of research or scholarship has translated into a notable impact on communities, individuals, public policies or practice beyond academe, or translated successfully into impactful commercial or other applications, while significantly and positively contributing to the University's research culture and reputation.

The **President's Research Excellence Award** recognizes senior established, full-time, active faculty members at the rank of Professor, with distinguished scholarly achievements, who have had a notable impact on their field(s) and made a significant contribution to advancing the University's international reputation for research excellence while significantly and positively contributing to one or more aspects of the York community's intellectual life.

This Award is conferred annually, on an alternating basis, between the two disciplinary clusters. This year, the competition is open to researchers in the disciplines or fields related to Social Sciences, Arts & Design, Humanities, Business, Law and Education (Cluster 2).

Shayna Rosenbaum, Chair

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

**Zoom Meeting:** Thursday, September 24, 2020, 3:00 pm

A. Macpherson (Chair)	M. Giudice	N. Morales Caceres
M. Roy (Vice-Chair)	J. Goodyer	C. Mounts
P. Robichaud (Secretary)	S. Grace	S. Murphy
N. Agrawal	C. Graham	A. Norway
J. Amanatides	J. Grant	J. O’Hagan
A. Annisette	R. Grinspun	R. Ophir
M. Armour	D. Gruspier	S. Paradis
J. Aryaan	S. Gururani	L. Philipps
A. Asif	M. Guzman	W. Pietro
J. Audette	M. Hamadeh	M. Poon
A. Bajic	A. Hatamnejad	S. Premji
T. Baumgartner	M. Herbert.	A. Pyee
S. Bay-Cheng	Z. Hong Zhu	S. Rehaag
A. Belcastro	R. Hornsey	A. Redding
D. Berbecel	D. Hosale	M. Reisenleitner
K. Bird	A. Hovorka	I. Roberge
S. Brooke	I. Jamma	B. Ryder
C. Brushwood -Rose	M. Karakul	L. Sanders
D. Cabianca	S. Karimi	K. Saningong Azinwi
N. Canefe	M. Kazubowski-Houston	D. Scott
C. Chapdelaine-Feliciati	P. Kholer	M. Schweitzer
K. Chung Lo	A. Kimakova	T. Shanahan
J. Clark	T. Knight	P. Singh
E. Clements	L. Korrick	L. Sloniowski
J. Conder	K. Krasny	B. Spotton Visano
M. Condon	R. Lastimosa	K. Tasa
J. Connolly	F. Latchford	P. Theophanidis
S. Cote-Meek	V. Lehan- Streisel	P. Timmerman
J. Crocker	R. Lenton	R. Tsushima
A. Czekanski	S. Liaskos	C. van Daalen-Smith
C. Da Silva	T. Loebel	G. Vanstone
S. Day	N. Madras	A. Veins
S. Dinyarian	N. Mammoliti	R. Wang
M. Dodman	J. Marchessault	S. Watson
C. Douglas	D. Matten	N. Waweru
J. Etcheverry	L. Martin	R. Wellen
L. Fawcett	A. Maxwell	M. Winfield
D. Fernandez	C. McAulay	S. Winton
R. Fournier	K. Michasiw	L. Wood
L. Fromowitz	J. McMurtry	R. Zacharias
D. Gelb	K. Michasiw	D. Zwick
L. Ginsburg		

# The Senate of York University – Minutes

## 1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair of Senate, Professor Alison Macpherson of the Faculty of Health, welcomed continuing and new Senators to the first meeting of the academic year, continuing to be facilitated virtually in view of the ongoing disruption to University activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair expressed thanks to Senators for their commitment and resiliency during these challenging times, and good wishes for success in research, teaching and learning over the coming academic year.

The Chair acknowledged with sorrow the passing over the summer months of Professor Hélène Massam, a longtime faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Professor Gabriele Scardellato, a faculty member with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics; and Professor Gregory Malszecki, a longtime faculty member in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science.

At the request of a Senator, a friendly amendment was made to the Minutes of the Senate meeting of June 25, 2020, to enhance clarity around the implementation of the recommendations of the Cromwell Report in Item 4, President's Items. The amended text was displayed to Senators on screen and, in the absence of any other requests to discuss the minutes, they were deemed to be approved along with the other items on the Consent Agenda.

Reiterating comments made at the June 2020 meeting, the Chair expressed her hope that, as a measure of moving forward progressively in governance at the University in the context of local and global uprisings against anti-Black racism, a diversity of voices be heard during Senate's discussions.

## 2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## 3. Inquiries and Communications

### a. Report of the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities

Speaking to the written report included in the agenda package, the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Senator Brenda Spotton Visano, described the role and function of COU and its activities in support of Ontario universities during the pandemic, and reported on changes in the leadership of the organization, including the appointments of President Lenton as Vice-Chair of Council

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

and Steve Orsini as President. Senator Spotton Visano also reported on the Colleagues' August meeting which featured a discussion on anti-Black racism facilitated by York Professor and Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation Carl James.

### 4. President's Items

Highlighting the importance of continuing to move the University's priorities forward while simultaneously prioritizing the health and safety of community members, President Rhonda Lenton expressed gratitude to Senate for its efforts in support of advancing strategic initiatives such as the approval of the University Academic Plan 2020-2025. Other announcements and updates shared by President Lenton included:

- gratitude to members of the University community for their resilience in the current circumstances and good wishes for health and success in the year ahead
- appreciation for the engagement of those who participated in the community consultations on anti-Black racism and the plans to embark on a number of initiatives to address systemic barriers within the University, including the development of an Anti-Black Racism Framework and funding to support targeted hires to address the underrepresentation of Black faculty members
- the recent disruption to eClass and the efforts of UIT, in collaboration with Oracle, to bring the system back online and continuously improve the reliability of the platform
- an update on the enrolment picture for the University, which has improved considerably in comparison to Spring projections, with the Provost to provide additional details at the next Senate meeting
- thanks to all levels of government for their support of Markham Centre Campus, where the start of construction was marked with a physically distant groundbreaking event on site on September 22, 2020
- an update on the Free Speech Working Group which held its inaugural meeting over the summer
- congratulations to the six faculty members elected to the Royal Society of Canada, Professors Molly Ladd-Taylor, William Wicken, John Greyson, Rui Wang, Mark Terry and Benjamin Berger, as noted in the "Kudos" Report

The following matters surfaced in the questions and comments shared by Senators following President Lenton's briefing:

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

- the administration’s response to an online petition seeking to prohibit a racialized faculty member from teaching human rights courses at York, with President Lenton assuring Senators that the University will not take actions to impede a faculty member’s academic freedom, a core value of the University
- clarification that the University as a whole will meet or exceed the enrolment targets established before the pandemic, with some variation from Faculty to Faculty
- the University’s efforts to address the challenges students residing in other jurisdictions may be experiencing accessing course materials, with Provost Lisa Philipps referring Senators to a communication on Information Security and Remote Teaching circulated earlier in the month

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

### Committee Reports

#### 5. Executive Committee

##### a. Election of Members of Non-Designated Senate Committees

The Vice-Chair reported that no further nominations had been received and presented the nominees to Senators. It was moved, seconded and *carried* **“that nominations be closed”** for the election to Senate Committees. As a result of the vote, Professor Clara Chapdelaine-Feliciati, Glendon, was acclaimed to the Awards Committee, and Professor Nombuso Dlamini, Education, was acclaimed to the Tenure and Promotions Committee.

##### b. Establishment of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Faculty Council (Notice of Motion)

The Executive Committee provided notice of statutory motion for the establishment of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Faculty Council, effective September 1, 2020.

##### c. Information Items

The Executive Committee’s information items included the following:

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

- a request that the chairs of Senate committees take a few moments to describe the role played by their committees on behalf of Senate, how they conduct business, and what major items to expect in the coming year
- the continued animation of the Senate *Disruptions Policy* as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Committee's ongoing monitoring of impacts on academic activities, with actions pertaining to the disruption outlined in its written report
- its decisions on temporary actions to be implemented for a Faculty Council experiencing ongoing uncertainty
- encouragement for Senators to assist in the process of identifying prospective candidates to fill the remaining vacancies on the Tenure and Promotions and Tenure and Promotions Appeals Committees
- its approval of Senate Committee members nominated by Faculty Councils
- its priorities for 2020-2021
- the results of the Senator and Senate committee member surveys conducted in June, and the Committee's planned follow-up activities
- its receipt of a briefing from the University Secretary on the governance support initiatives for 2020-2021 to be taken up by the University Secretariat
- actions taken under Summer Authority
- the report on Senate attendance in 2019-2020
- the 2020-2021 Executive Committee membership
- Senate meeting dates for 2020-2021 with changes approved for December

### 6. Academic Policy, Planning and Research

#### a. Committee Overview and Information Items

On behalf of the Committee, Senator Spotton Visano provided an overview of the Committee's role and function and reported on the following information items:

- encouragement for Senators to review the University Academic Plan 2020-2025 and the Committee's preliminary planning related to the implementation of the Plan, with additional information to be provided to Senate in October
- its intention to provide monthly reports to Senate on Markham Centre Campus planning
- the membership of its Sub-Committees for 2020-2021

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

### 7. Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

- a. Revisions to the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties* and Honours Progression Requirements

It was moved and seconded **“that Senate approve, effective FW2023-2024,**

- 1. The establishment of the *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*;**
- 2. The rescission of the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties, Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing, and Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing in Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)*; and**
- 3. The establishment of corresponding qualitative descriptors for the undergraduate grading scheme as an appendix to the *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*.”**

In introducing the item, Senator Chloë Brushwood Rose, ASCP Chair, advised Senators that the recommendations form a major component of the implementation efforts associated with the transition from the 9.0 to the 4.0 grading scheme, approved in principle by Senate in November 2017. Senator Brushwood Rose thanked Senators and community members for their input on the Policy, conveyed over the spring and summer in various venues, including a facilitated discussion at the June 2020 Senate meeting. Senator Brushwood Rose drew Senators attention to a slightly revised version of the Policy from that circulated in the agenda package, displayed for Senators and filed with these minutes, which incorporated an editorial suggestion made by an academic program to enhance clarity. Following ASCP’s approval of the Policy, the Committee became aware of possible unintended consequences of the policy framework for students admitted to York with transfer credit. While it had not been possible to resolve the matter in time for the Senate meeting, on behalf of the Committee, Senator Brushwood Rose committed to work with the Office of the University Registrar and Faculty partners to address the item in a manner that meets the principles of fairness to students espoused by the Policy.

A discussion about the Policy ensued, in which Senators shared differing views about the extent to which it promotes principles of fairness to students. In the absence of a provision for students admitted with transfer credit, views were expressed that the Senate Committee ought to give more thought to the matter.



## The Senate of York University – Minutes

Hearing the views expressed and questions that remained, Senator Brushwood Rose *withdrew* all three motions, with the concurrence of the seconder, with a view to returning the Policy back to the Committee for further discussion and consultation.

### b. Information Items

ASCP reported on the membership of its sub-committees for 2020-2021 and on its approval of the following items.

#### ***Faculty of Graduate Studies***

Temporary change to admission requirements for the MA and PhD programs in Psychology, Graduate Program in Psychology

Minor changes to promotion standards for the graduate programs housed within the Schulich School of Business

Minor change to English language proficiency requirements for the MASc and PhD programs in Civil Engineering, Graduate Program in Civil Engineering

#### ***Faculty of Health***

A temporary waiver of degree requirements for graduating students in the BA and BSc programs in Kinesiology and Health Science, School of Kinesiology and Health Science

#### ***Schulich School of Business***

Minor changes to promotion standards for the BBA and iBBA programs

## **8. Academic Policy, Planning and Research / Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy**

### a. Information Items

APPRC and ASCP conveyed a joint report in which two reports from the APPRC-ASCP Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance were transmitted to Senate.

## **9. Appeals Committee**

### a. Committee Overview

With the agreement of the Chair and Senators, Professor Saskia van Viegan provided an overview of the Committee's role and function on behalf of the Committee and the Chair who could not attend the meeting. Professor van Viegan also expressed thanks and gratitude to Terry Carter, the former Secretary to the Committee who recently

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

retired from the University, and welcomed Amanda Wassermuhl who has stepped in as Secretary.

### 10. Awards Committee

#### a. Committee Overview

Senator Shayna Rosenbaum provided an overview of the Committee's role and function on behalf of the Committee and advised Senators that the call for nominations for the President's Research Awards will be issued shortly.

### 11. Tenure and Promotions

#### a. Committee Overview

On behalf of the Committee and Co-Chair, Senator Thomas Baumgartner provided an overview of the role and function of the Tenure and Promotions Committee.

### 12. Tenure and Promotion Appeals

#### a. Committee Overview

Senator Baumgartner briefly spoke to the role and function of the Tenure and Promotion Appeals Committee on behalf of the Committee.

### 13. Other Business

There being no further business it was moved, seconded and *carried* **“that Senate adjourn.”**

## Consent Agenda Items

### 14. Minutes of the Meeting of June 25, 2020

The minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2020 were *approved by consent*.

### 15. Exemption from Senate *Policy on Letters of Permission* for BA programs in Jewish Studies, Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and Jewish Teacher Education option within the BEd program

Senate *approved by consent* a revision to the Senate *Policy on Letters of Permission* to exempt the BA programs in Jewish Studies and the Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, housed within the Department of Humanities, Faculty of Liberal

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

Arts & Professional Studies, and the Jewish Teacher Education option within the BEd program, housed within the Faculty of Education, effective FW2020-2021.

### 16. Granting of Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas (Fall 2020 to Spring 2021)

By approving an ASCP recommendation, Senate *authorized*:

- the granting of degrees at the University’s convocations held in Fall 2020, February 2021 (Convocation In Absentia) and Spring 2021, and individually to students at any point during the year who have fulfilled the degree program requirements for receipt of degrees;
- the granting of diplomas and certificates at the University's Convocations held in Fall 2020, February 2021 (Convocation In Absentia) and Spring 2021, and individually to students at any point during the year who have fulfilled the requirements for receipt of diplomas and certificates; and
- the forwarding of recommendations for certification by the Faculty of Education to the Ontario College of Teachers for those students who have been deemed “recommended for certification” by the Council of the Faculty of Education.

### 17. Senators on the Board of Governors re June 2020 Meeting of the Board

A synopsis of the Board meeting of June 23, 2020 as conveyed by Senator Etcheverry was noted.

A. Macpherson, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

P. Robichaud, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

### Synopsis

466th Meeting held on 6 October 2020

#### Appointments/Re-appointments

To the Pension Fund Board of Trustees:

##### Appointments:

Jason Springer, as a CUPE 1356 nominee, effective July 1, 2020 for a three-year term  
Frank D'Agostino, as a CUPE 1356 nominee, effective July 1, 2020 for a three-year term  
Mary Catherine Masciangelo, as a Presidential nominee, effective October 1, 2020 for a three-year term

##### Re-appointments:

Melanie Cao, as a YUFA nominee, effective July 1, 2020 for a three-year term  
Sonny Day, as a YUSA nominee, effective July 1, 2020 for a three-year term

#### Approvals

The President's October Report on Appointments, Tenure and Promotion.

The revised *Brand Stewardship Policy*.

A long-term plan and budget for the Executive Learning Center.

A three-year \$2.2M contract with Ricoh Canada for the supply of workplace print and services effective March 1, 2020, with two optional one-year extensions.

The extension of York University's existing agreement with Sun Life for the provision of administrative services only (ASO) Health, Dental and Long-Term Disability (LTD) benefits, covering the period of May 2, 2020 to April 31, 2025. The approximate value of the contract is \$2M annually (\$10M over 5 years).

The revised *Policy on Alcohol and Cannabis Use*.

An Endowment Distribution rate of \$4.23 per unit for 2020-21, representing an increase of \$0.06 per unit over the 2019-20 distribution rate of \$4.17 per unit.

# York University Board of Governors

## Synopsis

An update to the University's authorized signing officers to reflect the appointment of Terry Shields as AVP Finance and CFO, and the appointment of Ran Lewin as AVP Budgets and Asset Management.

### Presentations

The President's report on setting the stage for 2020-2025, with a focus on implementing the new University Academic Plan 2020 – 2025 and defining opportunities for enhancing our impact on sustainable development goals.

From Susan Webb a presentation on York University's Brand Differentiation Strategy.

From the Vice-President Finance and Administration and the Provost an operating budget update.

### Reports

From the Academic Resources Committee, the report from the APPRC-ASCP Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

From the Finance and Audit Committee, the Annual Report on the York University Pension Plan and Pension Fund.

The annual Board Evaluation Survey results for 2019-2020.

Brief reports from each of the Executive, Academic Resources, External Relations, Finance and Audit, Governance and Human Resources, Investment, and Land and Property committees on matters discussed in their meetings this Board cycle.

The agenda for the meeting is posted on the Board of Governors website:

<https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/board-agenda-20201006.pdf>

Pascal Robichaud, Secretary