

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL
January 14, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
M. Bardecki
M. Booth
C. Bowman
V. Bowman
B. Clarence
M. Creery
W. Cukier
M. Dewson
M. Dowler
J. Easton
E. Friesen
L. Grayson
L. Harrison
S. Heath
D. Elder for A. Heisey
J. Johnson
S. Karim
A. Kelley
S. Kelman
A. Kittler
C. Lajeunesse
I. Levine
R. Malinski
M. Maskow
D. Mason
M. Mayo
J. McGowan
R. Mendelson
E.S. Mesbur
M. Miller
D. Mock
M. Morriss
F. Cappadocia for J. Nickason
A. Pettypiece
J. Sandys
D. Shaw
J. Turtle
W. White
L. Wilson
P. Wong
J. Wu

1. President's Report

MEMBERS ABSENT

S. Balakrishnan
M. Black
I. Bryan (Regrets)
A. Doucette
D. Dutchak
B. Hartley
P. Jensen (Regrets)
L. Lewis
J. Monro
F. Ohadi
N. Psiloyenis
S. Rawat
M. Richard
C. Sam Foh
D. Smith
J. Swain
R. Wallace

The President began his report by wishing all members of Council a Happy New Year and saying that he is looking forward to working with Council members to meet the very difficult challenges faced by Ryerson in the coming period.

He offered congratulations on Ryerson's having been awarded funding for two projects in a competition that involved a college and university consortium. The first award was for a proposal to develop a multi-institution collaborative baccalaureate program in Nursing. Involved with Ryerson in this project are Centennial, George Brown and Humber Colleges. The second award was for the development of the degree completion program in Disability Studies. Ryerson is partnered with Centennial College in this project.

Judith Sandys added that the collaborative baccalaureate Nursing program represents a continuation of work that the School of Nursing has been doing with the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology for some time. The Disability Studies program, with which she has been much more closely associated in terms of her own professional interest, is intended to provide opportunities for upgrading qualifications to a baccalaureate level for developmental service workers coming out of the colleges and employed across the province.

With respect to the recent government announcement about funding of colleges and universities, the President noted that the announcement lacks clarity insofar as the detailed implications for Ryerson. Clarification is expected in the next several weeks, including clarification on the amount of flexibility on tuition fees that will be allowed.

He informed Council that a meeting of the Finance Committee the Board has been scheduled for late February. At that meeting it is expected that we will be in a position to provide the Board with detailed implications of the province's funding decisions.

He then turned to the Smith Commission Report. He reminded members that David Cameron, Chair, Department of Politics, Dalhousie University, and a member of the Smith Commission, will be in attendance at Ryerson on Thursday, January 16, over the noon hour, in the Eaton Auditorium. He encouraged members of Council to attend Dr. Cameron's presentation.

He then turned to the Smith Commission Report itself. He said the report generally is supportive of universities, particularly in calling for a maintenance of current funding levels and then a restoration of funding to universities in Ontario to at least the Canadian average. He cautioned, however, that the report needs to be considered as a whole. Selective support of some of the recommendations but not others of them could have a deleterious effect on the province's universities.

He noted that the Smith Commission also makes some recommendations which are intended to be acted upon by the province's universities. One calls for the establishment, if they do not already exist, of appropriate evaluation processes for faculty, with a requirement that results of such processes be acted upon.

He noted that a report on university status funding has been prepared and widely circulated within Ryerson. He acknowledged with thanks the work of the Vice President, Academic in the preparation of this document.

He noted that the Vision Task Group has issued a schedule of meetings and described ways in which the community can make input to the work of the Task Group.

He offered congratulations to the Continuing Education Division on its having been awarded a prize for the excellence of its collaborative program with the Board of Education of the City of York and Vaughan Road Collegiate. This work involves a program intended to facilitate access to higher education by students in secondary schools who might not otherwise normally be expected to go on to higher education.

At that point he turned the gavel over to L. Braverman, Vice-Chair of Council, to chair the next section of the meeting.

2. The Good of the University

J. Johnson asked for information on whether and how Ryerson is promoting greater involvement of alumni with the university, beyond the current efforts in fund raising.

D. Mock spoke to this matter. He indicated that interaction between Ryerson's professional program departments and the alumni of the programs for which the departments are responsible is quite extensive and ongoing. Beyond this alumni liaison is the responsibility of a newly named unit of the university, the Office of University Advancement. On behalf of Bob Crow who heads up that unit, he reported that in addition to the ongoing fund raising programs the office is working systematically to develop and improve relations with the university alumni.

D. Shaw commented she had received the Ryerson *Rambler* recently and was pleased to see that we are beginning work on our first graduate degree. She also expressed thanks for Bob Crow's comments on the *Maclean's* survey and said that she was quite pleased to see the improved coverage of Ryerson in the Toronto media.

The Vice-Chair of Council then invited Laurel Williams to the podium to speak to members on tonight's topic of special interest, Women in Engineering programs at Ryerson.

Laurel Williams was introduced by W. White, Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science. He noted that Laurel is an outstanding graduate of the Electrical Engineering program at Ryerson. She is doing studies towards a masters degree at the University of Western Ontario, while carrying out much of her work towards that degree at Ryerson, as part of our cooperative arrangement with the University of Western Ontario. For some three years she has been Co-ordinator of the Women in Engineering project at Ryerson. In this capacity she reports directly to his office. He stressed that Ms. Williams has done an excellent job in this capacity. He also congratulated her on having received the Canadian Memorial Foundation Scholarship for Graduate Study at the University of Western Ontario. He gave to Ms. Williams substantial portion of the credit for the increase in the numbers of women students in the Engineering programs at Ryerson.

Laurel Williams then spoke to Council about the Women in Engineering programs. She used a series of overheads to bring focus to her talk. Copies of these overheads are appended to the minutes and

give a complete summary of the material drawn to Council's attention. The overheads described the origins, governance structure, staffing, projects and the Discover Engineering Camp, as well as the basic financial and enrolment dimensions of the various Women in Engineering programs conducted at Ryerson.

Laurel Williams also introduced to Council Professor Gosha Zwyno, Electrical Engineering Department, who is Chair of the Women in Engineering committee at Ryerson, as well as Professor Peter Hiscock, Electrical Engineering Department, who established the initial camp.

At the end of her presentation she invited questions and comments from the members.

In response to one question she said that applications for admission to the camp far exceed the number of available spaces, and decisions about who is admitted are based on academic grades.

I. Levine, Dean of Applied Arts, and K. Alnwick, Registrar, both offered congratulations on a fine presentation and the excellent programs for which Ms. Williams is responsible.

R. Mendelson asked what sort of impact these programs have at Ryerson, whether such programs exist elsewhere and whether we know what the impacts are there as well.

G. Zwyno replied that the number of women students in Engineering programs is going up generally and the evidence we have is that they are going up more in the universities that have programs of the kind Ryerson has pioneered.

In response to a question from M. Dowler, L. Williams replied that a long-standing problem in secondary schools on the part of high school counsellors and students is that, traditionally, young men have been advised to pursue engineering and young ladies have been advised to pursue science. One of their objectives is to try and encourage high school counsellors to suggest that women students pursue careers in Engineering as well as careers in science.

M. Dowler asked also whether retention is an issue of concern to those responsible for the Women in Engineering programs at Ryerson. L. Williams replied that there is quite a systematic approach to trying to ensure that the number of women engineering students who enrol stay at the highest possible level. Upon acceptance of an applicant an upper class woman engineering student calls the newly admitted student and provides a source of student based information about Ryerson's programs, life in Toronto and whatever other matters the approved applicant or her family may raise. In addition, there is a welcoming party, a club, and a job shadow program for women in engineering students.

Professor Karim asked whether there are scholarship awards earmarked in particular for women engineering students. L. Williams replied that there were but they no longer exist. W. White explained further that these awards had come to Ryerson through NSERC and they have been victims of NSERC funding cuts.

In response to another question about Ryerson's being below the national average for women students enrolled in Engineering, W. White commented that we are working systematically and with good access to improving that percentage. He also noted that Ryerson deserves credit for having the

highest percentage of women engineering professors in the country.

At the conclusion of this portion of the meeting, L. Braverman expressed thanks to L. Williams for her excellent report and then turned the gavel over to the President.

3. Minutes of the December 3, 1996 meeting

These were approved as circulated.

4. Business arising out of the minutes

There was no business arising out of the minutes.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional Councils

D. Mock presented the course change summary information included with the agenda.

In response to a question from J. Johnson, it was noted that the introduction of the entrepreneurial course for Nursing students is intended to assist graduates of Nursing to work more effectively in the private sector, where most of the job opportunities are anticipated for the future.

In presenting the report D. Mock noted that certain changes to the Architectural Science program on page 34 are redundant, in that some were reported at the previous meeting.

In response to a point raised by L. Braverman it was noted that the Computer Science course identified on page 42 of the agenda should show 2 hours of lab and 2 hours of lecture, not 4 hours of lecture.

The proposal on page 43 respecting the Public Relations Certificate was withdrawn from the agenda.

D. Shaw offered congratulations to the Department of English for their initiative in adding the new ESL course.

Council received the reports on course change for information.

7. Reports of Committees

A. Report # 127 of the Academic Standards Committee

This was presented by D. Mock.

a) Proposed Revisions to the Midwifery Program.

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by J. Sandys

that Academic Council approve the proposed changes to the Midwifery Program, as documented in an appendix to this report.

In response to a question from L. Braverman, V. Van Wagner reported that the research methods course referred to in the documentation of the proposed changes to the Midwifery program does in fact involve a lab component, contrary to the impression left by the Ryerson calendar. The Research Methods course comes from McMaster University, as part of the collaborative curricular delivery of the Midwifery program in which Ryerson is involved. The McMaster calendar correctly shows laboratory component.

The motion CARRIED.

b) Proposal to Introduce an Industrial Internship Program in the Department of Mechanical Engineering

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by W. White

that Academic Council approve the introduction of an Industrial Internship Program for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, as described in an appendix to this report.

In response to a question from L. Braverman about why only one of Ryerson's Engineering programs does not have a cooperative or internship dimension, W. White advised Council that no proposal of this kind has yet been developed in the Civil Engineering Department. He noted that the proposals for this kind of educational pattern normally come from academic departments. This has been the pattern for the development of cooperative/internship dimensions of all the other five Engineering programs.

In response to another question from L. Braverman, M. Rosen explained that the proper description of the duration of the internship experience is 12 - 16 not 16 months and that apparent inconsistencies in one part of the information for the calendar will be corrected before the calendar is published.

In response to another question, M. Rosen said that the number of visits to internship sites referred to in the Mechanical internship proposal involves as few as 1 or more than 2 such visits, as appropriate. The point is that the number of visits will be a function of the need with respect to each internship.

In response to another question about the course fee, the Vice President, Academic noted that this is a recommended fee and decisions on the fee for this internship and similar programs will be made by the Board of Governors. He also noted that editing in the Registrariat will catch any inconsistencies or inaccuracies in the documentation that is before Council.

W. White commented as well that the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario are

considering a request from Ryerson that cooperative and internship experience be considered as credits toward a planned four year experience requirement between the time of graduation and the time the professional engineering designation can be used.

The motion CARRIED.

c) Proposal for a Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and Geographic Information Systems.

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by M. Bardecki

that Academic Council approve the proposed Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and Geographic Information Systems as presented to ASC in December, 1996.

In response to a suggestion from one council member, Dr. P. Coppack, Professor, Department of Applied Geography, undertook to try and elaborate on the meaning of the term "related fields" in the admission requirements. D. Mock explained that the proposed certificate requires a certain minimum background and this explains the inclusion this stipulation in the admission requirement.

The motion CARRIED.

B) Report of the Nominating Committee

This was an oral report presented by E. Aspevig, Chair, Nominating Committee.

The following were acclaimed to positions on the committees listed:

SRC - D. Mason, D. Woit

ASC - R. Goldsmith, R. Pushchak

Nominating Committee - C. Sam Foh

Intellectual Property Committee - D. Fels, M. MacMillan, H. Hinton, S. Wilson

8) New Business

There was no new business but V. Bowman was recognized to raise a matter that she indicated she would normally have raised in the Good of the University section of the meeting. She noted that RySAC has received a number of complaints about the examination schedule extending into the month of May. Students face problems with leases that terminate at the end of April and others have expressed concern with work commitments commencing May 1.

K. Alnwick replied that the Registrariat will do everything possible not to use the days in May that are provided. He noted, however, that there is tremendous pressure on the Registrariat with respect to such issues as the number of examinations in total to be scheduled, the number of examinations students should be asked to do per day and so on.

L. Grayson indicated that those who administer the Ryerson residences would be happy to try to accommodate students with special short term problems.

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.