

Secretary's Note: The meeting of Academic Council for February 4, 1997 was cancelled.

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL
March 3, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
M. Black
M. Booth
C. Bowman
L. Braverman
I. Bryan
B. Clarence
W. Cukier
M. Dewson
A. Doucette
M. Dowler
J. Easton
L. Grayson
L. Harrison
B. Hartley
S. Heath
D. Elder for A. Heisey
P. Jensen
S. Karim
A. Kelley
S. Kelman
C. Lajeunesse
I. Levine
R. Malinski
M. Maskow
D. Mason
R. Mendelson
C. McCarthy for E.S. Mesbur
M. Miller
D. Mock
M. Morriss
F. Cappadocia for J. Nickason
F. Ohadi
S. Rawat
M. Richard
C. Sam Foh
J. Sandys
D. Smith
J. Swain
J. Turtle
L. Wilson
P. Wong
J. Wu

MEMBERS ABSENT

S. Balakrishnan
M. Bardecki (Regrets)
V. Bowman
M. Creery
D. Dutchak
E. Friesen (Regrets)
J. Johnson
A. Kittler
L. Lewis
M. Mayo (Regrets)
J. McGowan (Regrets)
J. Monro (Regrets)
A. Pettypiece (Regrets)
N. Psiloyenis
D. Shaw
R. Wallace
W. White

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Michael Miller, Chair, Department of Architectural

Science and Landscape Architecture and Frank Bowen, a Technician in the department, presented to Academic Council, through President Lajeunesse, a new gavel. The gavel is crafted from mahogany with a striker plate made of the same material. It was presented in its own case of European white oak, complete with a brass plaque which reads: "Contributed by the Department of Architectural Science and Landscape Architecture, February, 1997."

The President thanked Professor Miller and especially Mr. Bowen, whose meticulous craftsmanship is reflected in the gavel and its carrying case.

1. President's Report

The President began his report by announcing the names of those who will be awarded honorary degrees at the June 1997 convocations:

Applied Arts	Monday June 16, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.	Linda Lundstrom
Applied Arts	Monday June 16, 1997 at 2:30 p.m.	Jacques Hebert
Business	Tuesday June 17, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.	Judd Buchanan
Business	Tuesday June 17, 1997 at 2:30 p.m.	Sam Sniderman
Engineering	Thursday June 19, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.	Marion Packham
Engineering	Thursday June 19, 1997 at 2:30 p.m.	Peter Laughton
Community Services	Friday June 20, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.	Murray Enkin
Community Services	Friday June 20, 1997 at 2:30 p.m.	Anne Golden

He then turned to the status of applications for admission to Ryerson programs. Basically, the overall total of applications to date is down slightly from what it was last year. The number of applicants from secondary schools is down from last year, although the number of applicants making Ryerson their first choice after high school is up from last year. The other category of applicants, those who transfer to Ryerson after some post high school education, is up slightly from last year.

The Registrar was asked to elaborate on the application picture. In his comments he stressed that while the volume of applications for admission is down slightly overall, the improvement in the number of applications from those who are not coming directly from high school and the increased number of applicants from high school making Ryerson their first choice suggests that, in reality, the application picture for this year may be stronger than that for last year.

The President advised Council that as of March 31st, in accordance with government legislation, Ryerson will be disclosing employees incomes which exceed \$100,000. including salaries and taxable benefits. As was the case last year, this data will be verified with individuals to whom it refers prior to its publication.

With reference to the federal budget, he noted that there were three developments that are of significant interest to universities. The first involves the establishment of a Foundation for

Innovation to be chaired by Dr. John Evans, formerly President of the University of Toronto and now chief executive officer of a private sector firm. The foundation will be funded at the rate of \$160 million dollars per year for five years, ie. a total of \$800 million dollars. The funds to be dispensed by the foundation are intended to be used to modernize research infrastructure and for new investment in university and university hospital based research. He noted that this initiative has been promoted by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada for the last five years.

The second budget initiative of interest to universities involves students. The changes that benefit students result from a concerted effort of the Canadian Federation of Students and other student groups, the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. They illustrate the benefits of all members of the university educational community working together toward changes in government policy. Students will benefit specifically from an increase in the tax credit for university to students from \$100 to \$150 per month, the inclusion of mandatory ancillary fees with tuition as a tax deductible expense, an increase of \$2,000 to \$4,000 in the annual limit of contributions to registered savings programs for students, an increase in the interest forgiveness period on student loans from 18 months to 30 months and a choice to students of either the current system of repayment of student loans or an income contingent repayment scheme. The details of this last provision are yet to be worked out.

A final change involves more favourable tax treatment for donations of items to universities that may appreciate in value.

He then invited T. Grier, President Emeritus, and Chair of the Vision Task Group (VTG), to speak to the Interim Report of the VTG which is about to be released.

President Emeritus Terence Grier began his comments by saying that the interim report of the Vision Task Group will be available, quite likely, as of March 4th and should be in the mailboxes of members of the community within a day or two of that. He noted that the VTG has met some thirty times. All members of the group have taken part in the writing of the interim report and or/in shaping the direction of the thinking reflected in the report. It is intended that the interim report be a catalyst for discussions and responses in the second round of consultations by the VTG, leading to a final report. The group has received twenty eight separate submissions and has conducted focus group discussions with a number of groups. He invited any and all members of Council and the community to respond to the interim report by writing, calling or e- mailing the committee or speaking to the group, or speaking to one of its members.

He noted that he and other members of the VTG were impressed by the written submissions to the group. These have been pulled together and made available in a permanent form as appendices to the interim report, available in a range of locations including the Library.

He then turned to the text of the interim report, summarizing for Council essentially the information that is in the introduction to the report which will be circulated. A copy of the introduction to the interim report is appended to these minutes. He concluded his comments by stressing that the VTG has a very tight deadline for presenting a final report, so that essentially

only a month is available for members of the community to comment further. He stressed in particular that comments on the “dilemmas” identified by the VTG will be particularly welcome. These are listed on the second page of the interim report, and also appended to these minutes, together with a draft statement from the group entitled “Ryerson’s Position and Profile”.

President Lajeunesse concluded his report by noting that he and other members of the Executive Group have been meeting in open forums with students to hear their concerns about pending increases in tuition fees.

2. The Good of the University

L. Braverman, Vice-Chair of Council, assumed the chair for this portion of the meeting.

S. Rawat noted that the provincial government has permitted the universities to increase tuition fees by up to 10%. He asked what plans Ryerson has in that respect, given the negative effect that such an increase would have on working class students.

C. Lajeunesse replied that Ryerson is currently discussing actively what to do with the authority given by government to increase tuition fees. He noted that there is an uncertainty about the levels of government funding but we know that it will not go up and it may in fact go down. Currently the government is considering a recommendation from the Smith Commission that would result in a separation of grants to universities into grants for teaching and grants for research. If that were done, there is a possibility that universities like Ryerson, which have had a relatively low level of research activity, would receive less by way of research funds than we have in the past.

D. Mock added that all members of the committee should be realistic with respect to the issue of tuition fees. Given the financial state of Ryerson it is certain that tuition fees will go up, perhaps by the full amount that the government is allowing. He added, however, that if tuition fees do go up, support for students who need additional financial resources also will increase. In fact, the government mandate to increase tuition fees includes a requirement that more money be allocated for student financial aid should tuition fees be raised. He also noted that priorities for additional income generated from additional student fees would lie in the area of student services and improving cleanliness of the campus.

S. Rawat asked whether the administration is prepared to take a 10% pay cut in the light of the difficult circumstances the University faces.

The President replied, no.

M. Dowler prefaced a question with contextual comments. The first element of context involved a quotation from Ryerson’s Code of Student Conduct, section III Academic Misconduct, A. ii), “(It is a violation of this code for a student to:) “represent as one’s individual writing and/or final product a jointly written or produced submission of any description, unless the instructor has explicitly approved a co-authored submission.”

A second contextual element to which she referred was the fact that, by her count, over forty groups of individuals are offering services in writing, editing etc. to Ryerson students through posters and other forms of advertising on the Ryerson campus. In her view these services represent a growing industry. Involvement of these services with our students may well be a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. She noted that both the *EyeOpener* and *Ryersonian* have carried advertisements for these services in the past. She asked whether this was ethical practice on the part of these newspapers. She also asked where we stand on editing and proofreading through private essay writing/support services in relation to the Code of Student Conduct and whether there is perhaps a need to rewrite at least this portion of the student conduct code.

With reference to the newspaper advertising, S. Kelman, faculty representative from the Faculty of Applied Arts and the School of Journalism, commented that the Journalism Department has the capacity to reject advertising submitted to the *Ryersonian*.

F. Cappadocia noted that RyeSAC does not have direct control over the *EyeOpener*. However, RyeSAC frowns on promotion of services that are intended to undercut the integrity of Ryerson and would use moral persuasion to try and get the *EyeOpener* to reject such advertising.

D. Mock undertook to have a look at the issue raised by M. Dowler and to consider ways of responding to it.

K. Alnwick reminded Council that he had distributed to the members a copy of the Winter '97 examination timetable. There are very few examinations scheduled on the days in May provided for in the overall schedule. Such exams have been kept to an absolute minimum. He also noted that for students who must write exams in May, arrangements with the Ryerson residence are possible, should additional accommodation be required.

C. Sam Foh asked that Council recognize Liz Hoffman as Ryerson's new Ombudsperson. Liz Hoffman was welcomed to Ryerson on behalf of Council.

V. Bowman, President, RyeSAC, extended thanks to K. Alnwick for his support of University 201, the RyeSAC sponsored Appeals and Complaints seminar, and to the President for having initiated Towne Hall meetings with students on possible fee increases.

The meeting was then turned over to M. Murphy, Academic Director, Rogers Communications Centre.

Dr. Murphy heads a research team involved in media and education within the general framework of the Rogers Communications Centre, which also houses several academic departments and CJRT-FM Inc.

Dr. Murphy described some of the principle areas of investigation and support in the areas of the Rogers Communications Centre for which he is responsible. He used a number of overheads in

his presentation, copies of which are appended.

3. Minutes of the January 14th 1997 meeting

It was duly moved and seconded that these be adopted as circulated.

L. Braverman noted that she was present at the meeting and J. Monro noted she had given her regrets for the meeting.

The minutes as amended were adopted.

4. Business arising out of the minutes

There were no business arising out of the minutes.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

Changes to courses and certificate programs as listed in the agenda were received for information.

7. Report #128 of the Academic Standards Committee

This was presented by D. Mock.

A. Interior Design Certificates

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by E. Aspevig

that Academic Council approve the proposed revisions to Interior Design Certificates as documented in an appendix to this report.

CARRIED.

B. Publishing Certificate

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by D. Mason

that Academic Council approve the proposed revisions to the Publishing Certificate as documented in an appendix to this report.

CARRIED.

C. Certificate in English as a Second Language (ESL)

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by E. Aspevig

that Academic Council approve the proposed revision to the ESL Certificate as documented in an appendix to this report.

CARRIED.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.