

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL
April 1, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
M. Bardecki
M. Black
M. Booth
V. Bowman
L. Braverman
I. Bryan
M. Creery
W. Cukier
M. Dewson
M. Dowler
J. Easton
E. Friesen
L. Grayson
L. Harrison
B. Hartley
J. Waalen for S. Heath
D. Elder for A. Heisey
J. Johnson
S. Kelman
C. Lajeunesse
I. Levine
B. Scott for L. Lewis
R. Malinski
M. Maskow
D. Mason
M. Mayo
J. McGowan
R. Mendelson
E.S. Mesbur
M. Miller
D. Mock
J. Monro
M. Morriss
A. Pettypiece
C. Sam-Foh
J. Sandys
D. Smith
J. Swain
W. White
L. Wilson
P. Wong
J. Wu

1. President's Report

MEMBERS ABSENT

S. Balakrishnan
C. Bowman
B. Clarence (Regrets)
A. Doucette
D. Dutchak
P. Jensen (Regrets)
S. Karim
A. Kelley
A. Kittler
J. Nickason
F. Ohadi
N. Psiloyenis
S. Rawat
M. Richard
D. Shaw
J. Turtle (Regrets)
R. Wallace

The President began his report by introducing Mr. Frederic Lebrun, Aerospace Engineering student and

congratulating him on being awarded the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Award. This award is made to a student studying in official language other than their own, in an Institution whose programs are delivered in the other official language. Only a maximum of six such awards may be made each year. This year only three have been awarded. The amount of the award is \$5,000. plus one round trip transportation from home to the university.

He also congratulated Professor David Mason who has been given an award of \$63,000 over three years by NSERC.

With regard to the donation of the Ministry of Labour Library to Ryerson, he congratulated librarians at Ryerson for having been instrumental in bringing the collection to us.

He noted that copies of the 1996 annual report have been completed and are being circulated. This year's report features prominently the work of four faculty members, Professor Judy Britnell of the School of Nursing, Professor George Swede of the Department of Psychology, Professor Mary Black of the School of Graphic Communications Management and Professor Ken Jones of the Department of Geography and Centre for Study of Commercial Activity.

The Stuart MacKay award for Communicator of the Year being made this year to Mr. Johnny Lombardi. Mr. Lombardi is the second recipient of the award. The first was Pierre Juneau.

The Board of Governors has approved the appointment as of Dr. Derek Northwood Dean of Engineering. Dr. Northwood brings to Ryerson a wealth of experience in teaching, academic administration and scholarship. He represents an important new asset in our Faculty of Engineering and a worthy successor to Dr. Bill White, whose excellent work on behalf of the Faculty of Engineering is well known.

He also announced the approval of the re-appointment of Dean of Arts, Dr. Errol Aspevig, as well as the re-appointment for an additional year of Dr. Rena Mendelson as Associate Vice President, Academic.

He informed Council that the budget recommended to the Board has been approved. He noted however that the budget as approved contains certain unknowns. For example we do not yet know the size of the government grant. The budget provides for an overall 10 percent increase in day student fees and a small increase in fees for Continuing Education students.

With reference to Ryerson's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 1998, he noted the appointment of Dr. Frank Abbott, retired professor of History, to work on coordination and consultation regarding this project.

He then turned the gavel over to Ms. L. Braverman, Vice-Chair of Council for the Good of the University portion of the meeting.

2. The Good of the University

Mr. Don Elder, representing CUPE 3904, was recognized by the Vice Chair. He informed Council that members of CUPE 3904 do 24 percent of the teaching at Ryerson but receive 9 percent of the faculty pay.

James Johnson informed Council that students attending classes in large classrooms in East Kerr Hall experience noisy disruptions at class change time, and asked that steps be taken to maintain a reasonable level of quiet in the hallways.

D. Mock took this matter under advisement.

L. Harrison stated that she wished to ask certain questions on behalf of the group that has worked on a proposal for a Liberal Studies Minor in Caribbean Studies. She noted that the group has invested a great deal of time and energy in developing a series of courses that would compose the minor. However, it now seems that the Chairs of the Faculty of Arts have decided collectively that they do not approve of the offering of such a Minor or, for that matter, any other Minor in liberal studies.

Her basic concerns are that a great deal of funding has been provided for the development of the courses for Caribbean Studies Minor, a great investment of energy has been made in the development of the courses and all of this now would seem to be a waste. Would it not have been more appropriate if the prohibition against Liberal Studies Minors had been communicated much earlier?

She noted that there is a large Caribbean community here at Ryerson, consisting of both faculty and students. She noted as well that the University of Toronto has established such a minor among its studies and that Caribbean Studies Minor could play a significant role in the internationalization initiatives that Ryerson has undertaken.

She noted in particular, with reference to pages 358-363 of the Calendar, that the Minors Policy contains no prohibition against Liberal Studies Minors. She concluded by asking whether the issue of a Caribbean Studies Minor should now be considered to be closed or whether it can be re-opened and re-considered.

D. Mock confirmed that there has been an investment of funds in the development of courses which were intended to be part of Caribbean Studies Minor. With respect to the Minors Policy and its application to date, all Minors at Ryerson are in the professionally-related field. A Liberal Studies Minor must be considered within the Liberal Studies Council before it can be approved.

Dean of Arts Errol Aspevig elaborated on Dr. Mock's comments. He said that \$13,000 has been invested in the development of courses for the Caribbean Studies Minor. He noted that this investment should not be considered as having been wasted in that Caribbean Studies courses have been approved and will be running. But the full minor as originally conceived has not been approved. He added that the issue of a Minor in Liberal Studies is a complex one. When the idea of Minor in Caribbean Studies came up, the norm for liberal studies courses in Ryerson programs was eight. The norm now is only six. The addition of courses in Caribbean Studies or in language studies, both of which have been approved, creates additional pressure on the Faculty of Arts and its capacity to maintain its commitment to a basic repertoire disciplines with cohorts of faculty in them sufficient to support their continued existence at an adequate level.

He stressed that the commitment to the area of Caribbean Studies is in place and remains. But given the reduction in the norm of liberal studies from eight to six, the introduction of a Caribbean Studies Minor would make it extremely difficult if not impossible to achieve the breadth requirement that is part of our Liberal Studies Policy.

L. Harrison stressed that in her initial comments the disappointment about the lack of communication is part of the concern of those involved in the development of the proposal of a Caribbean Studies Minor. These people feel particularly let down because they did not learn early enough about the problems.

E. Aspevig replied that the problems which he had identified and the potential of the difficulty for a proposal for Caribbean Studies Minor has been communicated from day one to those who led the process of the development of the Minor.

D. Mason noted that a resolution to this problem in the case of a mathematics minor involves a requirement of two courses above the present full course load for students who want to earn the minor.

V. Bowman noted that the approval of tuition increases by the Board is unfortunate, from RyeSAC's perspective. But the decision to raise tuition fees now having made, RyeSAC believes that there is a need to determine which students are most hurt by the increase and to try and focus a financial and other supports on those with the greatest needs. She asked for support from members of Council and their colleagues in responding to a survey being sponsored by RyeSAC. This survey is intended to establish which students have the greatest need.

She also asked members of Council to support the Food Bank Program run by RyeSAC. There is a desperate need for protein and she cited examples of peanut butter and canned tuna as donations that would help meet this need.

W. Cukier noted that at the last AIM department council meeting students expressed concern about access to elective courses. Access to these courses during the day is limited. Access to the courses in the evening is even more restricted. She asked for review of the policy and procedure governing access to the courses when they are run in the evening.

D. Mock noted that there is a policy and a procedure for allowing access to such courses in the evening. The problem for Ryerson is that if open access is given, Ryerson will lose a considerable amount of fee revenue upon which it now depends. He undertook however to review the policy and procedures in this area again.

James Johnson related a story whereby he learned that he had been overcharged in student fees and he said that he was told by the person who helped him discover this problem that if he had not discovered it nothing would have been done. He wanted assurance that students who are entitled to fee refunds are given the refunds to which they are entitled.

L. Grayson replied that Ryerson regularly issues refunds of fees to students who inadvertently have been charged an excessive amount.

L. Grayson also replied to some written questions that had been submitted by Patricia Jensen, who could not be in attendance at the meeting.

With reference to the practice on the "Sears" parking lot of increasing rates when there is an event at Maple Leaf Gardens, she noted that the lot is operated privately and Ryerson does not control the rates charged.

With reference to a question on the level of maintenance in computer labs which are operated by CCS, she acknowledged that there are problems in maintenance of the equipment. The equipment is old but the maintenance program in place is the best possible. She also noted that there is a problem with damage to the existing equipment. She stressed that maintenance of the computing lab resources is a high priority within the resources that are available.

With reference to a question regarding the prices of text books in the Ryerson Bookstore and some being sold at higher than the suggested list price, she explained that in such cases the Bookstore has had to pay list price and is charging a minimum amount to cover the overheads in bringing a book in for distribution through the Bookstore.

L. Hoffman, Ryerson's Student Ombudsperson, was then introduced and given an opportunity to explain the role of her office and some experiences to date.

She noted that since arriving at Ryerson on February 1st that she has had a wonderful reception. She is pleased to be at Ryerson and to have an opportunity to carry out her work on behalf of the students.

She noted that some members of the community may have certain misconceptions about the role of an Ombudsoffice. The first point to understand is an Ombudsoffice is not an advocacy office. Rather, it seeks to ensure that fair and just treatment is accorded to its clients. Also, contrary to some impressions, the Ombudsoffice will not take every case that is presented to it.

From a different perspectives the roles of the Ombudsoffice are to:

- 1) provide information
- 2) to make referrals as appropriate
- 3) to try and resolve "red tape" cases
- 4) to identify gaps in policy
- 5) to submit an annual report with recommendations for systemic change

The overall goal of the Ombudsoffice is to make Ryerson the best place it possibly can be. The Ombudsoffice is engaged in its work at Ryerson in the same way as students and faculty are engaged in their work at Ryerson. The objectives overall are the same.

She stressed also that it is part of her role to tell students when they have an unsound perspective on their situation.

In response to a question from James Johnson the Ombudsperson said that the terms of reference of her office currently are limited to students, who provide 100 percent of the funding. She is however tracking cases involving faculty and staff that come to her attention.

C. Bowman indicated that she is happy to see this function established on the Ryerson campus.

3. Minutes of the March 3, 1997 Meeting

The Secretary noted that the final convocation referred to on page 2 of the minutes should read Arts and Community Services, since graduates from programs of both Faculties will be included in that ceremony.

The minutes as corrected were ADOPTED.

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

Council received for information course change forms respecting Civil Engineering and several certificates. In response to a question from the Registrar the Vice President Academic agreed that the

change to the distribution of hours in the Civil course could not appear in the calendar until 1998 -'99.

7A. Report of the Interim Graduate Council

R. Mendelson presented the report.

It was moved by R. Mendelson and seconded by W. White that

Whereas the Interim Graduate Council has been charged with developing a substantial number of policies and procedures, and whereas the following areas need to be more fully developed:

a) a funding policy for graduate students; b) policies and procedures for admissions, promotion, and graduation; c) a formal structure for administering graduate studies and, whereas the continued participation of the current membership of the IGC is essential to provide continuity for the work that is in progress, therefore the following motion is proposed:

that the mandate of the Interim Graduate Council be extended until June 1999 in order to achieve the goals and objectives outlined above.

In response to a question it was noted that adoption to this motion would not delay proposed programs going forward for consideration.

The motion CARRIED

7B. Report of the SRC Committee

This was presented by M. Foster, Chair of the Committee.

M. Foster explained that the policy referred to in the report had been reviewed by the SRC Committee in the light of suggestions for amendments to the original policy made by the granting councils. Ryerson's policy has been amended to:

-specify that it covers all engaged in research

-include guidelines for authorship and for data ownership and retention

-discuss the case of anonymous allegations, whether these will be accepted and how Ryerson will deal with them

-discuss the issue of an investigative member

-cover privacy of investigations

-outline follow-up procedures including how sanctions will be dealt with and if efforts will be made to restore the reputations of those unjustly accused, as well as protection to be provided for whistle blowers.

She noted that the policy as amended and as presented to Council tonight has been reviewed by the RFA and has their support.

In response to a suggestion from I. Bryan that a Dean investigating an allegation should be obliged to advise a person against who in allegations have been made at the outset of the process, it was agreed that should be made explicit in the document.

Subsequently a number of questions and suggestions were raised by L. Braverman. After being spelled out they received responses, one by one, from the Chair of the committee. The form in which this exchange is minuted involves the questions and the responses being brought together below.

Question

Are procedures going to be developed, as they seem to be called for in various sections of the policy?

Response

In consultation with a representative of the Ryerson Faculty Association, the SRC committee determined that the procedures referred to in the policy document should be those spelled out in the Agreement between the Board and the Ryerson Faculty Association.

Question

What does the term "all persons undertaking research" mean? Should we have a specific definition of the term all persons?

Response

The SRC Committee believes that further definition is not needed. The term "all persons" is intended to cover faculty, staff and students.

Question

Should the language in the beginning of section A and section B not be parallel that is, should both not include phrasalogy, includes but is not limited to.

Response

This recommendation for a change was accepted.

Question

Should the word concluding section A iv). not read "manner" rather than "matter"?

Response

The correct word is "manner".

Question

The language used in some sections of the document suggests criminal conduct, for example "accused" and "charges." Other sections of the report use softer language like complainant, allegations and respondent. Would it not be better to be consistent and to use the some what softer language that would be consistent with civil proceedings?

Response

A suggestion that the language be softened and made consistent was accepted.

Question

Why is the Dean the officer to whom complaints are made, rather than the immediate supervisor the person involved?

Response

This provision is consistent with language in the Agreement.

Question

Page 32, section D, paragraph four, makes a provision for evidence, "oral or written"; should it not be oral and written?

Response

This suggestion for a change was accepted.

In response to a suggestion from L. Harrison it was agreed that the phrase "or on behalf of" should be added to the first sentence under section A, to extend the ethics policy to consulting activity.

The Chair then polled members of Council on whether they wished to proceed to decide on the recommendations before Council, on the understanding that the editorial changes that had been suggested would take place, or whether the Council wished to defer final decision until the next meeting. Members of Council clearly indicated that they wish to proceed to decide the matter at this meeting.

The motion before Council was CARRIED, on the understanding that the SRC Committee would make the changes that were agreed at this meeting.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.