

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL
May 6, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
M. Bardecki
M. Booth
C. Bowman
A. DeLuca for V. Bowman
L. Braverman
I. Bryan
B. Clarence
M. Creery
W. Cukier
M. Dewson
M. Dowler
J. Easton
E. Friesen
L. Grayson
B. Hartley
D. Elder for A. Heisey
P. Jensen
S. Kelman
A. Kittler
C. Lajeunesse
I. Levine
R. Scott for L. Lewis
R. Malinski
M. Maskow
J. McGowan
R. Mendelson
E.S. Mesbur
M. Miller
D. Mock
J. Monro
M. Morriss
A. Pettypiece
M. Richard
C. Sam Foh
J. Sandys
J. Turtle
L. Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

S. Balakrishnan
M. Black
A. Doucette
D. Dutchak
L. Harrison
S. Heath (Regrets)
J. Johnson
S. Karim
A. Kelley
D. Mason (Regrets)
M. Mayo
J. Nickason
F. Ohadi
N. Psiloyenis
S. Rawat
D. Shaw
D. Smith (Regrets)
J. Swain
R. Wallace
W. White
P. Wong
J. Wu

1. President's Report

The President began his report by offering congratulations on behalf of Academic Council to Jean Kennedy of the Athletics Department, who has been named Ryersonian of the Year, Raja Nagendra of the Department of Mathematics, Physics & Computer Science, who has been named Professor of the Year, and Joe Springer who has been given a special award by the Ryerson Faculty Association.

The Report of the Vision Task Group has been presented, as promised, on schedule. The President expressed appreciation to Terence Grier, President Emeritus and Chair of the Vision Task Group, and other members of the group, for their efforts on behalf of Ryerson over the last several months. The report contains 48 recommendations. These are now in the process of being assessed and reviewed. Members of Council and members of the Board should anticipate a detailed response from the President in the Fall.

The President described the SRC Poster Event that he attended along with many other members of the Ryerson community. It is a rendition of the kinds of SRC activities Ryerson faculty and students have been undertaking.

He attended displays of student work put on by the School of Interior Design and the Film & Photography Department. As he moved around the displays, he was struck by the very favourable comments made by external visitors.

He noted the success of the recent round table on aboriginal education and the kinds of support that might be expected for aboriginal students who attend Ryerson. Thanks went to Janet Mays, Wendy Roberts, and Ginny Boisseneau, as well as Shenaz Modi, Monica McKay and Dan David, for their successful effort.

Ryerson recently hosted a full day at the Roger's Communication Centre for the GTA Guidance Counsellors and 35 representatives from Ontario universities. This program was most successful and thanks are due to Keith Alnwick and Gene Logel.

The Ontario budget information respecting universities is now official and final for 1997-1998. Although the funding made available to universities is stable in total, there has been a reallocation of funds between operating and research grants, such that Ryerson's income in the form of grants will be reduced by \$397,000 for the year.

The Finance Minister has also announced a ten year, three billion dollar research and development fund for universities in Ontario. The President noted that there is some confusion

about mathematical details of the announcement and further clarification will be required. Essentially, funding for research and development initiatives in Ontario universities will be enhanced, with a third of the support coming from government, a third from the institutions and a third from partners. An intent of the proposal is to help Ontario universities compete for funds flowing from the Canada Innovations Foundation.

The Ontario government will also grant better tax treatment than has been available in the past to individuals and organizations who partner with universities.

He noted that the Ontario Student Trust Fund has raised some \$250 million for the university system. This money will be matched dollar for dollar by the Ontario government which will result in an endowment of \$500 million dollars in support of student needs at Ontario universities.

A similar program at the CAATS has been extended for one year because of the low returns to date.

He then invited Dr. Rena Mendelson, Associate Vice President, Academic, to report on her tenure as academic colleague at COU.

Dr. Mendelson began her report by saying it is necessary that she leave her post as academic colleague because she has now become a full-time academic administrator. She noted that at COU, progress is being made in resolving differences between universities regarding funding of operating and research expenses. Professor Smith (Smith Commission) will be working towards advising the province further on the final details of a policy in support of improved research funding in Ontario.

The decision of the Ontario government in this year's budget to keep the total of funds flowing to Ontario universities stable for 1997-1998 is regarded generally as a victory, after a number of years of significant declines in the level of funding.

COU has been engaged in the last year in strongly lobbying the Federal government regarding copyright legislation. Copyright legislation has now been passed in an unamended form and this will have some significant implications for universities.

A new system for electronic transfer credits has been developed among Ontario universities.

At the conclusion of her report, the President thanked Dr. Mendelson for the tremendous job she has done at COU. He noted that Ryerson's profile has been significantly enhanced by the high quality of Dr. Mendelson's work. This is reflected in the respect shown to her by her election to

the Executive Committee of COU for the latter part of her tenure.

On a motion from K. Alnwick, seconded by P. Jensen, Academic Council congratulated Dr. Mendelson for her excellent service at COU on behalf of Ontario universities and her exemplary reflection of Ryerson while she was carrying out that work.

2. The Good of the University

The President turned the gavel over to L. Braverman, Vice Chair of Council, for this portion of the meeting.

P. Jensen was recognized. She thanked Ryerson for its support of the department and the family of Brenda Ball, a student in NCFCS who died suddenly. She thanked in particular Michael Dewson and his office for attending to so many difficult details of the memorial service that was held.

The Vice Chair recognized Donald Elder, CUPE representative on Council. He informed Council that while members of CUPE do 28% of the teaching at Ryerson, they receive only 4.6% of the salaries paid, in contrast to 56.8% of the salaries paid to the RFA.

A. Kittler was recognized. She expressed her view that timetabling at Ryerson is less adequate than it should be. She cited examples of the University of Toronto, McMaster University and Queen's University as having timetables produced at an early date, by April of each year, and basically in all instances, an annual timetable is in place. She suggested that it is time that Ryerson begin to take full advantage of the capacities of modern technology and produce a master timetable, and then, a modified version of a master timetable, much more efficiently and at a much earlier date.

K. Alnwick, Registrar, responsible for timetabling at Ryerson, replied that his office has undertaken a series of steps to improve timetabling efficiency through automation. Part of that process involved a very recent initiative to confirm University-wide principles to govern the timetabling process. He asked members of Council to remember that Ryerson's curriculum is the most structured of any Ontario university and we operate within a highly restricted space environment. He indicated that he would keep Council informed of any further developments to improve the efficiency and quality of timetabling at Ryerson.

M. Creery informed Council that as part of a national, on-line system for facilitating student access to work, the Career Centre will be tying into a job posting program by September. The Vice Chair invited June Pollard, Director of the School of Early Childhood Education, Judy Bernhard, Professor in the School, Katrina Hughes, Coordinator of the Early Learning Centre and Mark Sommer, Teacher/Preceptor in the Early Learning Centre, to make a presentation to Council on the Early Learning Centre. Appended to the minutes are the overheads which were

used in this presentation.

3. Minutes of the April 1, 1997 Meeting

It was noted that on page 8 of the minutes, C. Bowman should be V. Bowman, the Library Studies Committee should read the Liberal Studies Committee and the wording of the paragraph referring to concerns expressed at an AIM departmental council meeting and the resulting motion should be as follows:

W. Cukier was recognized. She indicated that at an AIM departmental council meeting, students raised concerns about selection of electives particularly in telecommunications and the restrictions placed on access to Continuing Education courses. Although it was noted that current policies and chargeback procedures limit accessibility, it was argued that Ryerson should be providing seamless access to courses in response to student needs.

It was moved by Wendy Cuker and seconded by Mike Long

“That policies and procedures be developed to provide day students with better access to continuing education courses and continuing education students with better access to day courses”.

The motion was subsequently carried.

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

A. Course changes to various certificates, revisions to Interior Design Certificate admission requirements, changes to Civil Engineering, policies for replacement of inappropriate degrees in Applied Chemistry and Biology and Environmental Health, additions to the

Food, Nutrition, Consumer and Family Studies Degree Program admission requirements.

These changes were received for information, except for the degree changes, which were the subject of a separate motion below.

B. It was duly moved and seconded

that Academic Council approve the policies for replacement of inappropriate degrees in Applied Chemistry and Biology and Environmental Health as reflected in documents attached to this agenda.

CARRIED.

In discussion it was noted that there was an inconsistency between the title of the document and the text. Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the information contained in the text was correct and the reference in the title was incorrect.

7. Reports of Committees

A. Report #129 of the Academic Standards Committee

This was presented by Dennis Mock, Vice President, Academic.

It was duly moved and seconded that

Academic Council approve the elimination of all remaining diploma exit provisions, save and accept the provision for a diploma exit in the Fashion program.

CARRIED.

It was noted that Council should anticipate a proposal regarding the diploma exit in Fashion by the 1st meeting of Council in the Fall.

It was also noted that the Registrar will develop and communicate a phase-out plan for diploma exits for all current students. In addition, students entering Ryerson for the first time in the Fall 1997 will be informed that they will no longer be eligible to apply for a diploma exit.

B. Report of the Nominating Committee

This was an oral report presented by Dean E. Aspevig, Chair of the committee.

Michael Miller, Chair, Architectural Science & Landscape Architecture, was acclaimed to

replace Rena Mendelson as Academic Colleague at COU.

Council also acclaimed four nominees to serve on a Board Committee to review certain aspects of the Reedyk Policy. The nominees were Cara Bowman, Student, Nutrition, Consumer & Family Studies; Professor Monique Richard, Early Childhood Education; Professor Anne Kittler, Business Management; and Ira Levine, Dean of Applied Arts.

8. New Business

Council undertook to consider a request conveyed to Ryerson from the Principal of Queen's University, William Leggett, that Council endorse a motion passed by the Senate at Queen's University.

The motion passed at Queen's University was:

that whereas increasing tuition fees is not a viable long-term solution to any university's funding crisis, the Senate urges the Council of Ontario Universities to continue its lobbying strategy for increasing government funding as COU's first priority.

After some discussion, Council decided to consider a modified version of this motion. The modified version reads:

that whereas increasing tuition fees is not a viable long-term solution to any university's funding crisis, the Academic Council urges the Council of Ontario Universities to continue its lobbying strategy for increasing government general funding of universities as expressed in recommendation 1 of the Smith Report as COU's first priority.

The motion was moved by A. Kittler and seconded by R. Mendelson.

The motion CARRIED.

Under the new business portion of the meeting, the President made a resolution that Council acknowledge the completion by A. Wargo of twenty five years of service as Secretary of Council, who is leaving this post to become Chair of the Department of History.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.