

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Members Present:

C. Lajeunesse	K. Duplisea
E. Aspevig	G. Mothersill
L. Grayson	C. Zamaria
M. Dewson	D. Day
R. Mendelson	G. Inwood
J. Sandys	T. Barbiero
M. Booth	K. Penny
D. Northwood	D. Martin
K. Alnwick	P. Pille
C. Matthews	F. Hare
T. Knowlton	Y. Yuan
S. Williams	J. Yee
M. Creery	M. Miller
B. Jackson	R. Ravindran
K. Behdinan	D. Glynn
J. Hicks	K. Marciniac
B. Lozano	O. Bay
N. Zaver	M. Butko
J. Ellimoottil	

Members Absent:

M. McCrae	J. Chavy
Sandra Tullio-Pow	M. Finn
P. Morrison	A. Kaplan
T. Sly	J. Carvalho
S. Quigley	S. Singh
G. Cressy	D. Herder
C. McCracken	J. Tersigni
M. Siemiatycki	J. Okten
J. Davenport	D. Hornik
R. Elliott	E. Doolaar
A. Aziz	M. Farrugia

Regrets:

I. Levine
M. Truelove
J. Pearce
C. Wright

1. President's Report

The President began his report with the following announcements:

- Jane Langdon, a Ryerson graduate and member of the Board of Governors since 1997, has been elected Chair of the Board for a two-year term; the Board is also in the process of selecting a Vice-Chair.
- The 10th Annual Ryerson Faculty Conference, a joint effort of GREET and NSERC, is slated for May 16 and 17, 2001. He encouraged all to attend. He congratulated J. Britnell and R. Rosen for their contribution in organizing the conference.
- The Vice-President of the SuperBuild Corporation, Geoff Hare, and a colleague visited Ryerson to discuss Ryerson's part of the SuperBuild program. He called on L. Grayson to speak further on the visit. She informed Council that they were very impressed with the work done so far.

The President then called on Dr. J. Sandys, Interim Associate Vice President, Academic, to announce the recipients of the Sarwan Sahota Ryerson Distinguished Scholar Award. Dr. Sandys informed Council that the award will be presented to Professor Frank Duerden, Department of Geography, and Professor John Shields, Department of Politics and Public Administration at the May Faculty Conference.

The President asked T. Knowlton, Dean, Faculty of Business, to extend congratulations to Dr. D. Fels, who was selected as one of the top "under 40" young Canadians, by the Report on Business Magazine. Dr. Fels, a researcher from Information Technology Management, created the "Pebbles" device, which is an interactive communications system that allows children in hospital to participate in class activities at their school.

The President announced that the Ontario Budget speech, will be delivered on May 9. He stated that although there will be some sort of adjustment to the overall Ryerson budget he was not sure at this point how the adjustment will be made. He also informed Council that any adjustment will be distributed in accordance with Ryerson priorities.

The President called on E. Aspevig to speak about the exceptional developments with applications for admission to Ryerson.

E. Aspevig stated that as of April 30, 2001, applications to full-time degree programs showed a substantial 10.6 % increase, year over year. This represents a 9.8% increase of first-choice applicants over last year. He highlighted various increases in applications in the undergraduate programs, for example, Architectural Science (12.9%); Aerospace (6.8%); Business (8.4%); Applied Computer Science (170 students); Interior Design (88 students); Fashion Design (94 students); Image Arts (164 students); International Economics (294%); Information Technology (33.3%); and Journalism (153%). He also informed Council of the following decreases: Fashion Marketing (29%); Mechanical Engineering (33%); Retail

Management (45%); Journalism post-graduate (32%) and Post RN (35%). Regarding international students, the applications for Fall 2000, were 1759 and there are 2148 this year, which is an increase of 23%. There is also encouraging news from the graduate programs. For example, the Masters in Communication and Culture program showed an application increase from 64 to 101; applications for PhDs in Communication and Culture increased from 3 to 18; applications for the Masters in Environmental and Applied Science increased by 4; and applications for the Masters in Computer and Electrical Engineering increased to 55. E. Aspevig congratulated D. Northwood, Dean of Engineering and Applied Science, and faculty and chairs in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science for the work they have done in promoting high levels of interest in their graduate programs.

The President congratulated O. Bay on her appointment as RYESAC's President and her election to the Board of Governors as student representatives, along with N. Zaver and C. West.

The President concluded his report with the following announcements:

- Paul Godfrey will receive the Honorary Doctorate of Engineering and Applied Science at Spring Convocation;
- Dr. C. Cassidy has been appointed Dean of Arts.
- This year, Ryerson will have its first graduands of the Level 1 Certificate in Public Administration, which was delivered off-campus to members of the Native Community.
- Dale Patterson, former Chair of the Ryerson Board of Governors, has been appointed Chair of the Province's Quality Assurance Board. The Board is charged with assessing applications from outside Ontario to establish universities in Ontario.

2. Good of the University

N. Zaver was selected to chair this portion of the meeting.

O. Bay announced to Council that Maude Barlow, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, will be at Ryerson on Friday, May 25 to meet with members of the Ryerson Community. She encouraged members to attend. She also announced the support the RYESAC has received from the Ryerson Community in its fight against free trade at the recent Summit of the Americas in Quebec City.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The following correction to the minutes of meeting of April 3, 2001 was made: D. Martin, not B. Martin seconded the recommendation on page 9, section v).

G. Mothersill moved and C. Matthews seconded that the minutes, as amended, be adopted. All were in favour.

4. Business Arising out of the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

These were received for information as presented in the Agenda.

7. Reports of Committees

a) Academic Standards Committee (Report #W2001-5)

i) Proposed Degree in Computer Engineering:-

E. Aspevig reviewed this proposal. The proposal calls for the establishment of Computer Engineering as a free-standing degree program, leading to a Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering), rather than as an option within the Electrical and Computer Engineering Program. He informed Council that this should be viewed as a program restructuring that will result in minimal impact on current faculty, resources and curriculum. Implementation of the Program will begin in Fall, 2002.

E. Aspevig moved and D. Northwood seconded the motion: “**That Academic Council approve the program in Computer Engineering leading to the Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering)**”.

The motion was passed.

ii) Proposed Changes to the Economics and Management Science Major (Business Management Program):-

E. Aspevig informed Council that this proposal enhances the curriculum modifications to the Economics and Management Science (EMS) major approved by Academic Council at its November, 2000 meeting. He informed Council that the Academic Standards Committee sees the proposed changes as providing students with a richer, more flexible curriculum and also as being consistent with the modifications introduced in November, 2000.

E. Aspevig moved and T. Barbiero seconded the motion: **“That Academic Council approve the proposed modifications to the Economics and Management Science major”**.

The motion was passed.

iii) Proposed Certificate in Fashion Co-ordination and Styling:-

E. Aspevig informed Council that the main purpose of this certificate is to prepare students for careers as Fashion Coordination and Design consultants and in related fields. The Certificate is to be offered by the School of Fashion in association with Continuing Education and will enable the School of Fashion to extend its current linkages and partnerships with the Fashion industry.

E. Aspevig moved and M. Booth seconded the motion: **“That Academic Council approve the proposed certificate in Fashion Coordination and Styling”**.

The motion was passed.

b) Learning and Teaching Committee (Report #W2001-1)

R. Rosen spoke to the report. She informed Council that this document reports on current practices in the assignment of the “Conditional” academic status and makes recommendations to address limitations in these practices. The Learning and Teaching Committee consulted widely with Chairs, faculty, the Registrar, and students on this issue. Most schools/departments take a proactive role with students on probation, but with conditional students, the role normally is reactive. Hence, students are informed of a conditional status but are given no indication of what to do about it. The Committee recommends a more systematic approach regarding counseling of conditional students.

K. Alnwick stated that the Registrar’s office is taking action in accordance with the Committee’s recommendation by adding to a student’s grade report additional information on the meaning of conditional status. This information will also be available on the website. He also informed Council that he would advise the Deans to talk to their Departments on this issue.

The Learning and Teaching Committee recommends that:

- All grade reports for students with conditional standing indicate emphatically and in a clearly readable format that their standing is conditional.

- In addition to identifying conditional standing, grade reports should indicate that students **MUST** contact their schools or departments and specify whom they are to contact to address their standing.
- Each School/Department appoint someone who is specifically responsible for advising students related to their conditional standing (this could be part of a broader advising responsibility).

F. Hare inquired as to the ways by which one could achieve Conditional Standing.
K. Alnwick offered to give further information on this matter prior to the next Academic Council meeting.

K. Marciniac inquired as to the number of students who responded and which departments were involved in the survey. R. Rosen indicated that she would present information on this issue to be included in the next Academic Council minutes.

J. Sandys moved and M. Miller seconded the Committee’s recommendations. The motion was passed.

c) Laptop Adoption Committee

Proposed Policy on Student Acquisition of Laptop Computers as a Mandatory Academic Program Requirement (Report #W2001-1):

M. Dewson informed Council that this proposal was developed by the Laptop Adoption Policy Committee and is provided for information to the Vice President, Academic and for discussion at this meeting. He stated that this policy would enhance learning and teaching, which must be the primary rationale for introducing a laptop requirement. He submitted guidelines, which list the technical and resource criteria that must be considered in assessing a laptop proposal. These guidelines will be subject to review and modification by the Vice President, Academic.

C. Matthews commented in favour of the proposal, stating that the Library is a high-tech place and indicated interest in assisting faculty to use this project to communicate with the Library regarding course content. She suggested that digital content could be purchased once through the Library.

K. Marciniac inquired as to how many schools/universities have adopted the laptop and what benefits have been derived from its use.

M. Dewson responded that laptop programs have been established in a number of Canadian universities, sometimes for individual academic programs and sometimes for the whole university. He informed Council that Ryerson is not

breaking new ground in this issue and offered to get a listing of other universities with such programs.

M. Dewson moved and T. Barbiero seconded that proposal that Council approved the proposed policy on Student Acquisition of Laptop Computers as a Mandatory Academic Program Requirement.

In response to a question from K. Alnwick regarding the status of the guidelines, M. Dewson stated that the Vice President, Academic was responsible for maintaining the guidelines and that issues need to be considered before a specific proposal could come to Council.

F. Hare inquired whether the word “laptop” was defined in the guidelines and if not, whether it would be useful to do so.

M. Dewson responded that he could not see the importance of doing so as it is sufficiently clear what “laptop” means.

K. Marciniec added that it would be useful to differentiate between laptop and, say, desktop.

M. Dewson stated that the resolution to clarify this wording would be to create a definition in the guidelines in which the wording used in the guidelines would adapt to reality as technology evolves.

M. Dewson added further that the Laptop Adoption Policy Committee consulted with the Vice President, Academic on the mandatory laptop issue, and informed Council that the critical part of the advice of the Committee was what was presented to Council.

R. Ravindran was concerned about the additional cost that students would have to incur. M. Dewson responded that the cost is significant but the Committee did consider the expense as acceptable, relative to potential benefits.

J. Hicks suggested an amendment to the third paragraph under “Principles”, page 34, bulleted item 3 – that the wording “review and revision of the program curriculum” be changed, as this could be a burden to students not in the core programs. M. Dewson informed Council that this was not the intent of the policy.

D. Glynn inquired whether those taking full programs and those taking a few courses from the program would be adversely affected if a program were to require laptops.

J. Sandys pointed out that this is an instance of having different formats for delivery. She then called the question and a vote was taken.

The majority was in favour, with seven abstentions. The proposed policy was adopted.

d) Nomination Committee (Report W2001-4):-

K. Penny presented the report listing the nominees for Council of the School of Graduate Studies and for COU Academic Colleague. There were two amendments: “Communication and Culture” should read “Communication and Design” and the name “Greg Kawa” should read “Greg Kawal”.

K. Penny moved and R. Ravindran seconded the approval of the list of nominees. **The motion was passed by the majority, with one abstention.**

e) The Composition Committee (Report #W2001-1):-

The President presented the report, stating that the Ryerson Act defines who can be on Academic Council, that the number of elected members cannot exceed 50 and that there may be only three types of elected members (teaching faculty, students, and alumni). There is no provision for new classes of ex-officio members under the Ryerson Act, so that ex-officio representatives from OPSEU, MAC and the RFA would contravene the Act. He also informed Council that there was no provision in the Act for representation of graduate students. In the circumstance, the Composition Committee can find room for graduate student representation only from among existing classes of elected members. As a medium-term solution, the Committee is proposing reducing from four to three, the number of alumni members on Council, since for the last six years some of these positions have not been filled. In the next academic year, the Composition Committee will review the composition of Council and recommend a longer-term solution to this problem.

K. Behdinan moved and R. Ravindran seconded the motion: **that Academic Council approve an amendment to Council’s by-laws as follows:** Section 1.4.6, which reads:

“Four representatives from the Alumni Association who respectively shall be drawn from and elected by the members of the Alumni Association, in each of : Applied Arts, Arts and Community Services (combined), Business, and Engineering, and Applied Science faculties for a term of two years; such representatives, to be eligible to hold office, shall have obtained at least one certificate, diploma or degree offered by the University, and to no longer be registered as students.”

be deleted and replaced by:

“Three representatives from alumni of Ryerson drawn from and elected by the members of the Alumni Association for a term of two years; such representatives,

to be eligible to hold office, shall have obtained at least one certificate, diploma or degree offered by the University, and to no longer be registered as students.”

and a new by-law, to be numbered 1.4.7, be added:

“One representative from the students of the University enrolled in a graduate study program, who shall be elected by and from the graduate students of the University, for a term of one year.” **The motion was passed.**

M. Butko and J. Ellimoottil were in favour of the motion, but the latter said that he hopes steps will be taken to address the longer-term solutions as soon as possible.

M. Doucet inquired about a letter from K. Kwan, former Secretary of Council, dated April 19, 2000, concerning representation by RFA. The President responded that there was no provision in the Act regarding RFA representation and that such ex-officio representation would require a modification of the Act.

C. Zamaria stated that he appreciates the need of having alumni on Committee, but was suggested that with seven diverse schools, we need vocal and proactive participation from all schools. He suggested a friendly amendment of electing two alumni and two graduate students.

The President stated that this should be a formal amendment. K. Marciniec then seconded the motion made by C. Zamaria that there should be two of each rather than three alumni and one graduate student.

O. Bay spoke for the motion, stating that student representation on Council is of vital importance.

N. Zaver spoke against the motion stating that it would be grossly inequitable, as there is only one student for Continuing Education.

Four members voted in favour of the motion to amend. The amendment was defeated.

The main motion to approve the amendment to Council’s by-laws, section 1.4.6 and to add a new by-law 1.4.7, as stated above, was passed.

There was one member against and one abstention.

8. There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.