

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 5, 2002

Members Present:

E. Aspevig	M. Dewson	S. Boctor
I. Levine	T. Knowlton	S. Marshall
J. Cook	K. Alnwick	L. Merali
C. Matthews	L. Grayson	M. Verticchio
G. Inwood	S. Williams	B. Yoon
M. Creery	B. Abalos	J. Sandys
R. Rodrigues	T. Nguyen	J. Dianda
M. Yeates	S. Sutherland	D. Martin
B. Jackson	D. Heyd	A. Pevec
K. Marciniac	A. Cross	V. Berkeley
M. Potter	G. Meti	M. Dowler
D. McKessock	D. Snyder	M. Koc
A. Furman	E. Trott	C. Cassidy
J. Monro	M. Mazerolle	D. Smith
S. Kumar	J. Welsh	D. Elder
P. George	K. Raahemifar	G. Turcotte
S. Cody	A. Lohi	C. Desouza
M. Booth		

Members Absent:

R. Kup
A. Tam
G. Roberts-Fiati
G. Cressy

Regrets:

C. Lajeunesse
M. Ward
M. Barber
M. McCrae
L. Lum
F. Salustri
K. Tucker Scott
R. Ravindran
J. Sandys
R. Fleming

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair, Darrick Heyd.

1. President's Report – Errol Aspevig reported for the President.

- Discover Engineering was congratulated as a winner of the Michael Smith Award which honours individuals and groups who make an outstanding contribution to the promotion of science in Canada.
- Catherine Frazee, Professor in the School of Disability Studies was congratulated for receiving an Honorary Doctorate (D. Litt.) from the University of New Brunswick on October 24 for her work in human rights and advocacy for people with disabilities.
- The President has been asked by the Government of Canada to participate in the Summit on Innovation and Learning on November 18-19. He will serve as co-chair with Ms. Anne Golden, CEO of the Conference Board of Canada. Also participating in the summit will be Prime Minister, Jean Chretien; the Minister of Human Resources and Development Canada, Jane Stewart; and the Minister of Industry, Allan Rock.
- The President has had five media interviews in the last two weeks concerning the double cohort.
- The Social Work Accreditation team visited Ryerson last week. They met with members of the School, the President and the Vice President, Academic. They appeared impressed with the program and the faculty.
- Last week the Board of Governors and the Senior Executives held a day and a half long session on priorities and planning. The theme was *The Changing Post-Secondary Landscape: Threats and Opportunities*.
- The *National Post* insert report on Canada's Top 50 Research Institutions by Research Infosource Inc. ranks Ryerson as number 32 and in the top 5 among primarily undergraduate institutions. This is excellent considering Ryerson is relatively new to the area. The ranking is based on funded research, and there is much unfunded research at Ryerson as well. Ryerson also achieved the third highest growth in sponsored research of any university in Canada. Investments in research at Ryerson increased by 74.4% between 2000 and 2001, to just over \$9M.

Academic Planning Working Paper

E. Aspevig presented the Working Paper, which was attached. He reported that he had discussed the Paper with the Academic Planning Group (APG), consisting of the Associate Vice Presidents, Deans, Registrar, Vice-Chair of the Academic Standards Committee, the Director of University Planning and the Secretary of Academic Council, had four meetings with the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee (PPAC), which is a standing committee of Academic Council; and had other informal consultations. Further community consultations are planned for Monday, November 11, 4-6 p.m., in A-250; and Monday, November 18 and Wednesday, November 20, 4-6 p.m. in A1402. In addition he, Ron Goldsmith and Paul Stenton would be available to attend meetings of various groups upon request. He will be attending a meeting in the School of Business.

Planning was announced last year, and since the process has normally taken 18 months at other institutions, the process is proceeding well. At that time, a budget shortfall of \$14M

was predicted over the next three years. This followed a 3.7% across-the board reduction, with strategic decisions made at the Faculty level to institute cuts. Further cuts could not be across-the-board.

Consultations revealed that the community felt the anticipated budget shortfall should be addressed through additional revenue generation. The University worked to increase student intake, retain students and support Continuing Education. This strategy was successful, with increases in all of these areas. The government has also agreed to fully fund additional students. The budget situation has, therefore, improved at least in the near term. There are still 2000 unfunded BIUs and there is no inflation protection. However, strategic academic planning may now proceed without the constraint of short-term budget reductions. Ryerson now has the freedom to do strategic planning thoughtfully.

The Vice President then briefly reviewed the goals and strategic priorities as presented in the paper (also available at www.ryerson.ca/vpac) and the series of propositions and corollaries which were presented for discussion purposes. He highlighted comments which had been received from APG, PPAC and others on some of the issues, and asked that members of Academic Council take the paper into the community for further discussion. There will be a draft strategic plan in December which will incorporate all community input.

Discussion:

- The use of the word “should” in the corollaries was questioned, as it seemed to lack force. It was explained that the corollaries were written to generate discussion and did not represent the actual strategic plan. They were meant not to be too directive.
- The University should be viewed as a learning community including the faculty, staff, students and administration, but alumni and practitioners should also be included.
- Consultations from 4-6 p.m. on three days should be reconsidered. One in the middle of the day might be advisable.

Report of the Task Force on Student Success and Retention

E. Aspevig presented the report of the Task Force on Student Success and Retention. The Chair of the Task Force, J. Britnell and D. Schulman, who served as resource person to the Task Force were available for questions. The Task Force has been working since March and met over the summer. It reviewed what is done at Ryerson and other universities to retain students and help them succeed, and did an extensive literature search which is available on the Learning & Teaching and VP, Academic websites. They had consultations with various departments and schools, and had submissions from a variety of areas. The result was a set of goals and objectives reported as recommendations to the University. Student success depends upon getting into the appropriate program, understanding academic expectations, being prepared for university life, getting appropriate advisement and counselling, being able to transfer between programs when needed, being able to meet the non-academic demands of university life, adjusting to the first year of study, and connecting to the faculty and peers within a program.

The Task Force gave some suggestions as to assignees and target dates for the various objectives, but these are not final. It is also recognized that many areas are already doing many of the activities suggested. Student Services was commended for their activities in the area of retention and success.

It was asked that the report be used as a reflective piece for departments/schools and other areas to consider. There would be some budget support for activities.

J. Britnell commented that the 14 person committee, which was asked to present its report by September, wanted assurances that the report would not just be “put on the shelf” but would be implemented. Meetings were held early on with the Vice President, who assured the Task Force that there would be implementation. She asked that those reading the recommendations read it as if they were a student to gain a student perspective. The report represented a course of study for the Task Force, and an implementation committee would be established to assist departments/schools in their efforts.

Discussion:

- The Task Force was commended and applauded for its work.
- It was noted that the report properly utilized the terms “goals” and “objectives”.
- Implementation will be difficult if there is not proper funding. Priorities need to be determined from the 60 objectives listed, and should be related to their cost.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council

- A copy of the revised *Ryerson Act* was attached to the agenda.
- Policy 106 would be removed as policy if Policy 156 was approved later in the meeting.
- The change to electronic agenda for non-members of Academic Council had already resulted in 40 less printed copies.

3. Good of the University

M. Dowler commended the activities of the Learning & Teaching Office and recommended that GREET seminars be promoted. She was, however, distressed by the closing of several classrooms on the first floor of the library building in the middle of the semester. These are to be turned into offices for the Registrar. This was done without prior warning, without consideration for testing at mid-term, without assurance that technology would be available at the SHE Centre classrooms being assigned, or the inconvenience and disruption to students. K. Alnwick responded that he regretted the situation, and that it had been understood that the new classrooms were ready for classes. All possible steps will be taken to ensure the rooms being used are acceptable, and the University will also work to ensure this situation does not occur in future. There was, however, not a lot of flexibility in the timing of the move, as an additional 15,000 applications, for a total of 60,000, are expected within the next few months and space is needed to deal with the increased demand.

D. Elder commented on the need for maintenance of the washrooms, and on the “flushing technology” being used in one in particular. Linda Grayson replied that there was indeed a

problem, but that no solution has been found. It has been shown that the washrooms are messy within an hour after cleaning, and it is not possible to clean them all every hour. She will continue to seek remedies.

M. Doucet commented on the *Globe and Mail* survey which, although the survey was somewhat flawed, ranked Ryerson as 27th overall out of 30 universities, citing problems with course choice and general environment as particular problems. Linda Grayson responded that the survey was indeed flawed, but that any time there were indications of problems there was a need to address. The University cannot alter its downtown location, which one might have assumed was a strength, but would be working to improve the general environment. The administrative budget had suffered in order to strengthen the academic budget, and money was needed for additional administrative resources. Others agreed that there was a need for more support for administrative functions.

M. Koc asked if there was any intention of restructuring the administration. E. Aspevig said that this was not being considered at this time, but that consideration was being given to creating some budget envelopes to be shared by the Vice Presidents, instead of having discrete budgets in all areas.

J. Welsh commented that she would like to see full- time faculty positions for career teachers, and that not all positions needed to be both teaching and research positions.

B. Abalos announced that there were three productions being presented by the Theatre School.

4. Minutes of the October 1, 2002 Meeting

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the minutes of the October 1, 2002 meeting.

K. Alnwick moved, C. Matthews seconded.

Motion passed.

5. Business Arising out of the Minutes

MOTION: That Academic Council approve Policy #156: Removal of Students from Field Placements/Practicums.

S. Williams moved, J. Welsh seconded

D. Schulman explained that there had been minor changes in language made to the policy since it was sent back for review from the last meeting. It now specifically excluded cooperative placements and internships, and was not applied to laboratory settings.

Motion passed.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Reports of Actions & Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional Councils

E. Aspevig presented for information the changes in Arts, Business, Community Services and Graduate Studies.

It was noted that FNF200 should read FNP200 in the report from Disability Studies.

The changes in Chemical Engineering were questioned and it was clarified that the cross-listed graduate courses were comparable to 4th year courses.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Nominating Report (#F2002-02)

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the nominees as presented in the report.

Moved by A. Cross, seconded by D. Martin

Motion passed.

8.2 Awards & Ceremonials Report (#F2002-02) – presented for information by D. Heyd for C. Lajeunesse. The reported stated the number of graduates approved for the Fall convocation and identified the first recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal, given for graduate studies.

8.3 Research Ethics Board Report (#F2002-01) – presented by R. Rinkoff. The report highlighted the main activities of the REB for the last year. It was questioned why two protocols were withdrawn, and it was explained that once the feedback had been received the submitter decided to withdraw the protocol.

8.4 Academic Standards Committee Report (#F2002-02) – E. Aspevig moved.

MOTION: That academic Council approve the Bachelor of Arts designation for Justice Studies, and the extension of the right of degree replacements to all graduates of the program. K. Alnwick seconded.

Discussion: R. Goldsmith reported as Vice-Chair that this was one of a series of degree changes from BAA to BA. The BAA was never appropriate for this program, and since the first students were admitted in 1996 and the curriculum had not changed, the designation was being offered to all graduates of the program.

Motion approved.

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the proposed curriculum changes in Child and Youth Care.

S. Williams seconded.

Discussion: R. Goldsmith stated that the changes were mainly in response to periodic program review. He outlined the four areas in the proposal.

- Elimination of HST 508 and addition of a children's rights course, in keeping with UN guidelines. The course will no longer be offered, but there is a CE equivalent course, which will need to be noted so that it is kept as an equivalent course.
- A category of professional electives is created to allow a degree of specialization.
- Courses are added to the professionally related electives mainly to allow access to minors.
- Restricted professionally related electives are added.

There was some concern about internalization of the program, but the committee was satisfied that this would not be the case as there is still only a maximum of 65% of the program taken in the professional category.

Clarification was requested on the HST508 and the equivalence to COCR923 was explained. The Registrar will need to note that HST508 and the CE equivalent CHST508 will not be offered again after next semester.

It was further clarified that since this is a part-time studies program, students would not be paying higher fees to take a course through CE, as they pay on a per course basis, and CE costs to part-time studies students are lower than normal CE costs.

There was concern about the number of new professional electives being offered and the ability of the program to sustain that number of courses. It was explained that they would be offered on a rotating basis, approximately one a semester. Some are available through distance education, and they were necessary for opening up minors to students. If there were fewer courses in the School, students would have to pay higher fees as they would have to take more courses.

Motion passed.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, Ph.D.
Secretary of Academic Council