

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Members Present:

Ex officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
S. Boctor
M. Booth
C. Cassidy
M. Dewson
L. Grayson
A. Kahan
T. Knowlton
I. Levine
J. Sandys
P. Stenton
S. Williams
M. Yeates

Faculty:

M. Barber
D. Checkland
S. Cody
J. Cook
M. Dionne
M. Dowler
C. Evans
G. Inwood
N. Lister
A. Lohi
L. Lum
D. Martin
D. Mason

Students:

V. Campbell
N. Felorzabihi
J. Gryn
Z. Khan
B. Lewis
C. Livett
S. Marshall
S. Mirowski
V. O'Brien
R. Rodrigues
E. Sullivan

Regrets:

M. Ahmed
J. Dianda
C. Flores
C. Lajeunesse
C. Matthews
R. Ravindran
G. Roberts-Fiat
F. Salustri
P. Schneiderman

Members Absent:

A. Cherrie
R. Dutt
D. Elder
P. George
M. Sabri
K. Tucker Scott

President's Report - E. Aspevig brought regrets from the President who was unable to attend. He called attention to the Ryerson Achievement Report. K. Penny, Vice-Chair of Academic Council chaired the meeting.

Report of the Secretary of Academic Council – D. Schulman reported that the schedule for the Faculty Course Survey was included in the agenda for Council's information.

Good of the University - B. Lewis, the representative of Academic Council on RyeSAC, announced the Graduate students appointed to the RyeSAC Executive Board. He further reported that RyeSAC was carrying on an informational campaign for the upcoming municipal election which was similar to that held for the provincial election. Also, staff and faculty, as well as students, are eligible to save on the Metropass.

B. Lewis enquired about the status of the University's contract for Turnitin.com and D. Schulman responded that the contract was renewable annually.

A student from the audience commented that the lateness of second semester timetables causes difficulty for working students. K. Alnwick responded that not all information has been received about teaching schedules, and that early timetables would require an increase in the number of sections offered. This issue is also being addressed by the *ad hoc* committee discussing the Fall semester break.

Minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2003 meeting.

Moved by A Pevec and seconded by D. Snyder

Discussion: B. Lewis, noted that on page 13 the word “sever” should read “severe”. It was asked that his questions regarding Turnitin.com be deferred to “Business Arising out of the Minutes”.

Motion approved.

Business Arising out of the Minutes

In response to a question by B. Lewis, D. Schulman clarified that the legal advice on providing alternatives to Turnitin.com was obtained both from Turnitin.com and from Canadian legal counsel at a conference on Turnitin.com held at York University.

Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional Councils

Errol Aspevig outlined changes as presented in the agenda from:

Faculty of Arts (Course changes in Liberal Studies, Politics and Public Administration and Sociology)

Faculty of Business – (Name change of major from “Management and Enterprise Development” to “Management”, and course changes in Business Management and ITM)

Faculty of Communication and Design (Course changes in Fashion)

- IRH010 is replacing FSN100, and a form will be submitted to correct that at the next meeting

Faculty of Community Services (Course changes in Nutrition)

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (Course changes in Chemical Engineering, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering and an additional page distributed on changes in Aerospace Engineering).

The reports regarding the *Curriculum Prerequisite Structure in the Engineering Programs and Academic Policy on Language Competency for Engineering Students* were presented as correspondence from the Dean of Engineering to Academic Council for its information on directions being considered by that Faculty. There will be follow-up with the Dean of Engineering and other appropriate people.

- A question was raised regarding whether students would be given advanced notification regarding the mandatory language proficiency. It was responded that advanced notification was given this year when the proficiency testing was optional.
- It was requested that testing be done in the week prior to orientation, rather than the week of orientation as was done this year, so students could participate fully in orientation activities.
- It was suggested that there be more description in the proposal regarding the teaching of writing.

School of Graduate Studies: M. Yeates, Dean of Graduate Studies, outlined the internal review process for proposed graduate programs. Once a program has been vetted within the university, Academic Council is asked for permission to send the proposals outside the University for external review by the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies (OCGS), which is an accreditation agency for graduate programs. Each proposal goes to an appraisal committee of seven faculty from other universities. Two consultants are engaged by OCGS to visit the University. The University also hires an internal/external expert consultant to give advice prior to bringing the proposal to Academic Council. Academic Council has the responsibility to ensure that the internal procedures have been followed. Once the program is approved by OCGS it is eligible to go to the Ryerson Board of Governors for approval. The Provost has final authority to approve implementation.

Motion 1: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a *Master of Arts in International Economics and Finance* to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for standard appraisal. Seconded by S. Boctor.

The information submitted in the agenda was reviewed.

Discussion:

- J. Cook commented that the report is very brief and that more detail should have been provided. M. Yeates said that more detail could be provided in the future and that the reports on each program were very long and could not be included in the agenda. These reports are available from the School of Graduate Studies.
- E. Trott asked if there would be support for a named professorship in this program such as the one at the University of Western Ontario. M. Yeates stated that there is nothing in the report that states this, but it is often easier to get named professorships when there is a graduate program.

Motion approved.

M. Yeates reviewed the common elements for all of the proposed PhD programs in Engineering as outlined in the agenda.

Motion 2: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a *Ph.D. in Civil Engineering* to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for standard appraisal. Seconded by S. Boctor.

The information submitted in the agenda was reviewed.

Motion approved.

Motion 3: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a *Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering* to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for standard appraisal. Seconded by S. Boctor.

The information submitted in the agenda was reviewed.

Discussion:

There was a question concerning the need for additional courses to accommodate the 15 PhD students expected in the program. It was explained that there are already a large number of courses at the graduate level (30 or more) and only one or two would be added. Students will take courses they have not taken before. .

Clarification was requested on how long the OCGS process takes, and what can be expected. It was explained that these programs may be on the OCGS agenda by the end of the year and the standard appraisal may take until next April or May. OCGS will identify the areas the consultants will be asked to evaluate. Ryerson will present a written response to the consultants' report to OCGS which will then determine program approval.

It was clarified that the tuition fees for the program are established by the Board of Governors based on what is charged by other programs in the province. Graduate fees are not regulated and are slightly higher than undergraduate fees. It was asked if there a distinction made between undergraduate and graduate BIUs. P. Stenton answered that, unlike undergraduate funding, there is a fixed amount of money available for graduate funding. The weights for Masters BIUs are 3.0 or 4.0 and PhD are 6.0 while undergraduate BIU weights at Ryerson range from 1.0 to 2.0. There is no simple answer about how undergraduate and graduate BIUs are related.

Motion approved.

Motion 4: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a *Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering* to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for standard appraisal. Seconded by S. Boctor.

The information submitted in the agenda was reviewed.

Motion approved.

E. Aspevig congratulated the faculty and Deans who worked on these projects and commented that this was an historical occasion as these are the first stand-alone PhD programs to be proposed from Ryerson.

Motion 5 in the report was withdrawn as it is an issue which involves fees and is, therefore, the responsibility of the Board of Governors. The issue affects only a few students and the equalization of fees paid by part-time and full-time graduate students occurs in virtually all Graduate Schools. D. Checkland commented that no rationale is given as to why students should be assessed the same fees. He asserted that a reason must be given as to why treatment needs to be equal.

M Yeates presented information on the amendment of the School of Graduate Studies By-Laws for the information of Academic Council. The membership of two committees has been increased to share the burden of those committees.

Reports of Committees

Animal Care Committee – No members were present and there was no discussion.

Composition & By Laws Committee – The report and motion were made by A. Lohi.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the amendment to section 3.6.1 of its By-Laws to read “Hearing Panels will also be convened when Disciplinary Withdrawal or Expulsion is recommended”.

Seconded by S. Williams.

D. Schulman explained that the wording amends the By Laws to fit current policy.

Motion passed.

Nominating Committee - The report and motion were made by K. Raahemifar

Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominees brought forward in the report.
Seconded by M. Booth.

D. Schulman clarified that replacements for members of Council are made by appointment by the relevant Dean, as outlined in the Academic Council By-Laws.

Motion passed.

George Diamantakos and Paul Stenton were welcomed to the table by E. Aspevig.

New Business

There was none.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, PhD
Secretary of Academic Council