

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 13, 2004

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
S. Boctor
C. Cassidy
M. Dewson
L. Grayson
A. Kahan
C. Lajeunesse
C. Matthews
J. Sandys
P. Stenton
S. Williams
M. Yeates

Faculty:

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

Students:

A. Cherrie
A. Deslauriers
N. Felorzabihi
Z. Khan
B. Lewis
C. Livett
K. Marciniec
S. Marshall
S. Mirowski
R. Nazareth
R. Rodrigues
E. Sullivan

Alumni:

J. Gryn

Regrets:

M. Booth
V. Campbell
T. Knowlton
A. Lohi
V. O'Brien
K. Penny
K. Raahemifar
K. Tucker Scott

Absent:

Moyeed Uddin Ahmed
G. Diamantakos
P. George
I. Levine
D. McKessock

1. President's Report – The President welcomed members back to Academic Council for 2004. He reported that he was meeting with the government caucus during the last meeting of Academic Council. He raised the issues of ensuring Ryerson's \$12.5 M SuperBuild funding and the continuance of the quality assurance funds. He was given strong reassurances on the SuperBuild funds. He also discussed the continuation of the Ontario Students Opportunity Trust Fund which provides for student bursaries. He announced that a cheque for \$1M had been received from a donor, which was based on matching this fund. He also discussed the effect of a tuition freeze and the need for compensation to the university. He believes there was some understanding of the needs of the university.

The President announced that he would be attending a pre-budget meeting with Federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, and that he would be commenting on the need for increased research support. Ryerson is disadvantaged by some of the government distribution methods. He would also like the federal government to review its student assistance program.

As there has been much discussion about essay writing services, the President was pleased to report that the *Eyeopener* has agreed to discontinue advertisement of these services.

The President announced that there is now a contract in place for the acquisition of a student information system (SIS). K. Alnwick and K. Scullion were commended for their work on this committee. E. Aspevig commented on the important role of the SIS in the administration of the University and commended the other members of the SIS steering committee: I. Marlatt, I. Levine, J. Winton, J. Corallo, M. Booth, M. Creery, P. Stenton, R. Lemieux; the Team Leaders: R. Oolup, B. Soutar, M. Riqueza, C. Posa, D. Ossher, and K. Scullion; and the Negotiating Team D. Ossher, P. Gee, L. Lemieux, J. Harness, W. Pitman, K. Scullion.

The Ryerson Business Forum, which is an exceptional student-run initiative, will be held on January 21, 2004. The forum brings together community Business leaders.

There was an Infoline message sent on succession planning. There will not be a search for a Provost and Vice President Academic at this time, as the President and Provost would be leaving at the same time. An acting Provost will be appointed for up to two years.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council – D. Schulman reported that G. Roberts-Fiaiti, who was on sabbatical, would be replaced on Council by R. Mendelson and on the Nominating Committee by D. Shipley. She also presented the guidelines for Academic Council Elections, announcing that student elections would be held on-line, and asking that anyone who was not continuing for a second year of his or her term inform her and their Dean.

3. Good of the University – In the absence of Vice Chair, K. Penny, D. Martin presided.

K. Marciniec distributed three documents. Two articles concerned turnitin.com, and he reported that he had met with Drs. Dewson, Aspevig and Schulman regarding the service. The third article concerned full student funding and a meeting with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on the matter.

R. Rodrigues announced the Equity Conference on March 19-20 and that more information was available from CESAR Office.

D. Checkland asked if the interim Provost could be a candidate for the position. The President responded that there is no limitation.

C. Matthews reported that the Library will be extending its hours to 8pm on Fridays as soon as staff are available.

4. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2003 meeting.

R. Ravindran, seconded by M. Yeates

Correction to minutes: Page 12 should read: “NCFS02 instead of NCFS03”

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising out of the Minutes

5.1 New members of Academic Council were announced

5.2 It was announced that the “Summary of Discussion” form had been amended as requested.

5.3 Clarification of course change forms presented at the December 2, 2003 meeting were presented in the agenda.

5.4 Amendment to the Student Code of Academic Conduct.

Motion: That Academic Council amend the Student Code of Academic Conduct by the addition of the following clause to section A1.a: Plagiarism: iv. Presenting another's substantial or compositional changes to an assignment as your own.

Moved by Fil Salustri, seconded by E. Sullivan.

D. Schulman reported that the ad hoc committee had met for two hours, had a lively discussion of the matter and was presenting the proposed wording. There was discussion of the following matters:

- It is important that the writing skills of graduating students have been evaluated based on their own ability. The contribution of others to students' work should be limited.
- The difference between the word “substantial” and “substantive” in the context of the proposal was discussed.
- The need for the word “or” in the proposal was discussed.

- It was asserted that many great literary works were the result of substantial editing by others.

Motion to amend the original motion: That the wording be changed to “substantive compositional changes”.

M. Barber moved, J. Gryn seconded.

Motion to amend defeated.

Motion to amend the original motion: That the word “or” be removed from the statements so that it reads: “Substantial compositional changes”

J. Sandys moved, M. Dowler seconded

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23 for 19 against

Motion to amend approved.

Motion to amend the original motion: That the wording be amended to “presenting another’s content or editorial changes to an assignment as your own”.

S. Cody moved, K. Alnwick seconded.

A friendly amendment was accepted to amend the wording to “presenting another’s *substantial* content or editorial changes to an assignment as your own”.

There was discussion of the motion to amend.

Motion to amend defeated.

Council then returned to the main motion as amended.

Motion: That Academic Council amend the Student Code of Academic Conduct by the addition of the following clause to section A1.a: Plagiarism: iv. Presenting another’s substantial compositional changes to an assignment as your own.

Motion approved.

There was further discussion of timing for the implementation of the new policy. It was suggested that the policy needed to be communicated prior to implementation. D. Schulman responded that an email would be sent to students, and an Academic Update message sent. It would also be communicated to CE students through *Nightviews* and/or other means.

Motion: That the policy be implemented in 20 days.

Moved by E. Sullivan, seconded by M. Dowler

Motion approved.

5.5 Revision to Suspension policy – the changes from the previously submitted motion were outlined by K. Alnwick. The new items are italicized in the proposal. One concerned the allowance of transfer to another program and the other concerned the specification of courses to be taken while under suspension.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the amendment of section 2.4.4 of the Policy on Grading, Promotion and Academic Standing as outlined in the report.

K. Alnwick moved, S. Williams seconded.

Motion: To amend the third line on page 21 to read: However, students who *have the permission of their program representative to complete these courses during their period of suspension...*

Moved by J. Dianda, seconded by C. Cassidy.

A friendly amendment to add “advance” permission was accepted.

Amended wording would read: However, students who have the advance permission of their program representative to complete these courses during their period of suspension...

Motion to amend was approved.

A friendly amendment to amend line 4 of page 21 to read “may have two one-semester courses *or their equivalent...*” was accepted.

J. Monro moved that approval of the suspending program be required for a student to transfer to another program. There was no seconder.

Motion to approve the changes to the policy on suspension as amended.

Motion approved.

6. Correspondence

The letter from Dr. Michael Guerriere, Chair of the Board of Governors was included in the agenda. E. Valin, Secretary of the Board was present to respond to questions. He clarified the following points:

- The letter from the Chair states that: “For purposes of continuity, I would request that these nominees be members who would retain Council status through 2004-05.”
- Although student terms are for only one year, a student may run for re-election for a second term.
- It was his understanding that the Board would nominate its members after Academic Council decided on its nominees.

The following statements were made:

- K. Marciniec asked that there be more than one student on the search committee.
- S. Cody asked that Academic Council nominate at least one teaching faculty member.
- D. Checkland asked if Dr. Guerriere could speak to Academic Council prior to the selection of the slate of Academic Council members of the search committee.

7. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional

Councils – E. Aspevig reported that the items presented were brought to Council for its information and invited questions.

7.1 From Arts:

- Course additions in Arts & Contemporary Studies
- Course changes in Psychology
- Course deletion in Public Administration and Governance
- Course changes in Sociology (*form distributed at the meeting, but withdrawn*)

7.2 From Business Management:

- Course changes in Information Technology Management

7.3 From Communication and Design:

- Course addition in Fashion (*forms distributed at the meeting*)
- Course changes in Theatre (*forms distributed at the meeting*)

7.4 From Community Services:

- Course change in Nutrition
- Course change in Urban and Regional Planning

7.5 From Engineering & Applied Science:

- Memorandum of Understanding (re Applied Chemistry & Biology degree completion agreement with Centennial College)
- Name change – “Applied Computer Science” to “Computer Science” (This change applies to the program name and not the degree name.)
- Course changes in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Course changes in MPSC and Applied Chemistry & Biology
- Curriculum Prerequisite Structure in the Engineering Program (It was explained that the changes presented would normally have come on individual Course Change forms. The changes recognize that math is a prerequisite for success in engineering courses. The changes are being made to a prerequisite structure comparable to that in other Engineering programs.)

Academic policy on Language Competency for Engineering students

Motion: That Academic Council approve the Language Competency Policy for all undergraduate Engineering programs as outlined in the attached report.

Moved by S. Boctor, seconded by C. Cassidy.

Dean Boctor outlined the four elements of the policy. C. Cassidy stated that this is an exciting collaboration which can be used as a model for other programs. There are separate courses for ESL students and native English speakers.

D. Checkland asked about the cost of the 4-6 week intensive ESL course. D. Glynn responded that the cost of the academic skills program offered through the Faculty of Arts is \$949 for 145 hours.

S. Cody enquired, as she had at the last meeting, how the courses create the foundation for the competencies stated in the proposal and why engineering students only take one course in professional communication, given their roles upon graduation. C. Cassidy responded that the selection of courses is preliminary. The courses are ones where there are smaller assignments and where students get a series of feedback. Students will be in writing intensive sections. Since the initiative is coming from Liberal Studies, the courses offered are in that area.

It was clarified that students will be able to take the test 4 times: at orientation in their first year, in May of their first year, and at orientation and in May of the following year. It was also clarified that once students take what is required, they can only be strongly advised to take further courses. These courses could, however, be put in probationary contracts when they are needed. There is also a commitment that writing will be part of engineering courses.

All programs with “engineering” in their title are affected. It was also clarified that “other proficiency tests” referred to tests in English. The policy does not apply to graduate programs as there is already an English proficiency requirement in place in Graduate Studies.

Motion approved.

8. Report of Committees

8.1 Report of the SRC Committee J. Sandys presented. The report informs Academic Council about the nature of the SRC Committee, some of the issues the committee has dealt with and the relationship between SRC representatives and the committee.

8.2 Report of the Academic Standards Committee

Motions made by E. Aspevig. M. Zeytinoglu reported.

Motion #1: That Academic Council approve the periodic Program Review as conducted by the School of Social Work.

S. Williams seconded

It was noted that on page 57, the second line “self-reflexivity” should be replaced by “self-reflectivity”.

The report was outlined as presented.

Motion approved.

Motion #2: That Academic Council approve the periodic program review as conducted by the Department of Geography.

Seconded by C. Cassidy

The report was outlined as presented.

Motion approved.

Motion #3: That Academic Council approve the proposed curriculum restructuring in Geographic Analysis.

Seconded by C. Cassidy

The report was outlined as presented.

Discussion: M. Barber asked about a change from 4 to 3 course hours. It was responded that this makes the structure more uniform and allows for more student choice.

Motion approved.

Motion #4: That Academic Council approve the proposed change to the admission requirements to the Post RN degree program.

Seconded by S. Williams

The report was outlined as presented.

Discussion: R. Mendelson asked if this restricted international candidates from entering the field. At the present time, nurses entering Canada with a degree considered equivalent can write the exam. Other students must enter a bridging program. The requirement is not unique to Ryerson.

Motion approved.

Motion #5: That Academic Council approve the certificate program in Advanced Safety Management.

Seconded by D. Martin

The report was outlined as presented.

Motion approved.

Motion #6: That Academic Council approve the certificate program in Fundraising Management.

Seconded by A. Kahan

The report was outlined as presented.

Motion approved.

9. New Business – There was no new business.

10. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, PhD
Secretary of Academic Council