

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

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

Regrets:

V. Campbell
J. Dianda
S. Marshall
J. Monro
R. Rodrigues
F. Salustri
E. Sullivan

Faculty:

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

M. Mazerolle
D. McKessock
R. Mendelson
B. Murray
S. O'Neill
K. Penny
A. Pevec
K. Raahemifar
R. Ravindran
P. Schneiderman
D. Shipley
D. Snyder
E. Trott

Absent:

Moyeed Uddin Ahmed
G. Diamantakos
P. George

Students:

A. Cherrie
A. Deslauriers
N. Felorzabihi
Z. Khan
B. Lewis
C. Livett
D. Luther
K. Marciniac
S. Mirowski
R. Nazareth

Alumni:

J. Gryn
V. O'Brien

1. President's Report – Pre-budget consultations will be held with the government on March 5. The issues of the \$15M in unfunded BIUs and the need to address the increase in operating budgets will be raised. There will be radio ads sponsored by COU about the contributions universities make to society.

David McLean, the new RyeSAC president was introduced.

C. Matthews informed Council about the new Library hours. Beginning this week the library will be open until 8pm on Fridays.

P. Stenton distributed and presented a report on Progress Indicators. These indicators were developed in the late 1990s and have been updated annually. Indicators have been added over time. Another year of information has been added and the indicators now include 2002-03. Additions were made to the following areas: Retention and graduation rates and gender and geographic origin for students in part-time programs; retention rates for four-year, full-time, first-entry programs irrespective of program of study; CE indicators on enrolment on a term-by-term basis and a distribution by gender; graduate studies data on enrolment and related statistics, applicant to registration ratios, and graduation rates. There are a number of encouraging trends. For example, the number of students with a clear standing in their first year has increased. If there are questions on the information in the report, they can be addressed at the next meeting. It was asked if equity data (in addition to gender) could be included in the report for faculty and students, and it was responded that student data would be difficult to obtain since it relies on self-reports, but it will be investigated.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council – D. Schulman presented the report as outlined in the agenda.

Corrections were made to the report on elected representatives: Dan Mahoney will be the Faculty of Community Services representative not Rena Mendelson; students are elected to Academic Council for 2004-05 not 2004-06.

It was stated that all students received an email with the results of the on-line student elections, which had gone well. It was also clarified that the actual results of the elections were not normally given, but that the results indicated clear winners and there were no tie votes. L. Stewart will supply RyeSAC with contact information for new student representatives.

3. Good of the University – Katherine Penny chaired.

D. Elder announced CUPE video screening of “Double Cohort Double Cross” and “My Student Loan”.

M. Barber announced the School of Journalism's Atkinson Lecture by British Journalist, Roy Greenslade.

C Matthews announced that the virtual chat reference has been extended to midnight until the end of March.

K. Marciniac announced dance performances of the Ryerson Theatre School. He also presented information on the tuition freeze, public transit and International Women's Day. The President noted that the Premier has not committed to a fully funded tuition freeze.

S. O'Neill reminded Council of the GREET teaching awards, the McConnell award and the calls for nominations. She stated that the student production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" was excellent.

Z. Khan asked why there are midterms held prior to Reading Week. E. Aspevig responded that decisions on testing are made by professors based on their own judgement and that there is no particular policy on whether exams are before or after study week. E. Trott responded that Reading Week is also used by faculty to grade exams.

4. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2004 meeting.

Moved by C. Matthews, seconded by K. Raahemifar

It was noted that in paragraph one of the minutes, Dr. Aspevig did not assist in the presentation of the awards.

K. Marciniac stated that he had reported that 400 toques had been sold by volunteers of the RyeSAC Community Food Room on February 3 and that toques would be available for sale to members of Council following the meeting. He also reported that Ryerson students, along with 450,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students across the country, would be participating in the National Student Day of Action on February 4. On campus events for the Day of Action include a student debt carnival in the upper level of the Hub cafeteria.

Marciniac mentioned that Paul Martin's first Speech from the Throne as Prime Minister would not make post-secondary education more accessible for low and middle income families and would result in more student debt. He distributed copies of students' September 2003 written submissions to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance noting that students have been clear in their lobbying that any increases to student loan limits will not be welcomed. He reported that Ryerson students have borrowed \$41 million in government student loans this year alone and more than \$100 million over the last four years (excluding credit card debt, private bank loans, lines of credit and loans from family) and that Ryerson students see the mention in the Throne Speech of some grants for first year students as a good but very modest step in the right direction.

Minutes approved.

5. Business Arising out of the Minutes

The Report of the Nominating Committee was moved to Business Arising.

5.1 D. Schulman suggested that the consultation on the Presidential search should be held before the May 4, 2004 meeting, between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 5:00 p.m. The formal meeting could begin at 6:30 p.m. K. Penny, Vice Chair of Academic Council, would facilitate the session. The Board would be invited to attend. It was asked if the Board can be available for the March 30 meeting. Ed Valin, Secretary of the Board of Governors, responded that the Board Chair is unavailable on that date. Academic Council agreed to the arrangements for the consultation.

5.2 L. Grayson addressed the issue of Academic Assistants' (AA) scholarships and pay. The matter of timely refunds of scholarships was well in hand when the issue was raised at the last meeting. Graduate Studies and Financial Services were working on a proposal that is now in place and refunds will be turned around in seven days. The next peak period for refunds will be the fall. Further adjustments to the process may be required at that time. The issue concerning AA pay involves Human Resources and academic departments. Two changes have been made in Human Resources to ensure AAs are paid quickly. In the short term, information on processing and hiring is on Human Resources website and those responsible can register and get timely reminders of deadlines, etc. For a longer-term solution, forms will be completed on-line and work flow will be handled on-line. This will be implemented by September 2004. Both York and U of T pay TAs monthly; Ryerson pays bi-weekly.

5.3 Space allocation – E. Aspevig reported in response to the question by J. Cook at the last meeting on space for the Faculty of Arts and the process followed in allocating space. There are two different processes. If space has been vacated, the Backfill Committee, which is composed of resource people and stakeholders, assists in the re-allocation. If there is growth occurring and the allocation requires someone else to move, there must be an impartial process which assures that all interested parties are protected. The process is generally informal. The Dean of Arts had written a document outlining needs for the Faculty. These were being analyzed and there was an extensive process involved in identifying options. The options were reviewed by E. Aspevig and L. Grayson in consultation with the Dean and others. The agreed upon solution is that the Faculty of Arts will move into the second floor of Jorgenson Hall and University Advancement will move to rented space at 415 Yonge Street. Arts will also be able to move into the first floor of Jorgenson Hall when the space becomes available, if needed. There are advantages and sacrifices for University Advancement, and Adam Kahan and UA were thanked for willingly participating in the move. Dr. Aspevig further thanked L. Grayson for all of the time she spent finding a solution to the problem. Adam Kahan commented that University Advancement was pleased with the solution as they are currently split between the basement and the second floor and they will now be brought together. J. Cook also thanked L. Grayson and A. Kahan, and thanked E. Aspevig for answering his question. C. Cassidy also thanked L. Grayson and E. Aspevig and said that she was delighted.

I. Levine commented that, while he was pleased for his colleagues, there have been space commitments made to schools and faculties who have responded to the double cohort and

that there is still no knowledge about critical decisions on space. He asked if there will be a cohesive presentation by the Backfill Committee. P Stenton responded for the committee, stating that 126 proposals have been received for space needs. The committee is working to get a comprehensive plan as quickly as possible.

5.4 Term Committee Report – K. Alnwick presented the report. As noted, there are few Canadian universities that have a fall study break. There are 108-114 days between Labour Day and Christmas. There is a very strong commitment to 13 weeks of instruction, which has been repeatedly confirmed. There is no way to maintain thirteen weeks with any study break. A variety of alternatives were discussed and none can be recommended. Unless classes begin before Labour Day, which no other universities do, or promotions are moved to January, no way can be found to build in a break.

Motion to accept the report.

Moved by K. Alnwick, seconded by R. Ravindran.

Discussion: Only Moncton and Trent have fall study breaks, but they do not have 13 weeks of instruction.

J. Cook discussed the lack of symmetry between the two semesters and the impact he believes the semesterization of courses has had on the intellectual climate of Ryerson.

J. Gryn suggested that students be polled to see if they would favor starting the semester earlier.

B. Lewis commented that the amount of time he has to spend on classes this semester has been valuable.

E. Trott asked if variations were considered with a shorter break. K. Alnwick responded that a series of alternatives were considered.

Motion to approve was passed.

5.5 Report of the Nominating Committee - C. Cassidy outlined the report. The slate presented at the last meeting represented as wide a range of constituencies, expertise and complementary experience as could be achieved within the constraints of only four positions. Because of a lack of quorum at the Board of Governors meeting on February 27, the issue of amending their By-Laws was not resolved. It was felt by the Nominating Committee that further delay in selecting its nominees would undermine the Search Committee's ability to consult and complete its search in a timely manner. As Academic Council will not meet until the end of March, delaying nominations until then would mean the committee could not be struck until April.

The Nominating Committee reconsidered its slate, this time including members of Academic Council who are ineligible under the current rules. If a currently ineligible member was

selected and the By-Law continues as is, the representative would need to be replaced. It was the committee's decision to confirm the slate as originally presented.

Motion to retrieve the original motion from the table.

C. Cassidy, second. K. Raahemifar.

Motion to retrieve approved.

The slate of nominees presented in the report of the committee is:

S. Boctor, Dean Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

Michelle Dionne, Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts

Maurice Mazerolle, Professor, School of Business Management, Faculty of Business

Sue Williams, Dean, Faculty of Community Services

I. Levine stated that he was on the last Presidential Search Committee as a Chair representative and that it is a great obligation. While he believes that all of the nominees would do a good job, he believes there should be a current Chair on the committee. He stated his rationale for including a person representing the Arts and nominated Perry Schneiderman, outlining his qualifications for the position.

Motion to close nominations.

C. Matthews moved J. Sandys seconded.

Motion to close nominations was approved.

Candidates were asked to make short presentations on their own behalf.

S. Boctor joined Ryerson in 1970, served under five Presidents and eight Provost/VP, Academic. He has taught at Ryerson for many years, was a chair for 10 years and was Associate Dean and Dean. He has been through all of the phases of the University's growth. He believes he has been a dynamic part of the development of the University. He has been on a number of search committees and is aware of the needs of such committees. He is consulted by many colleagues and would represent Academic Council and all of its constituencies.

M. Dionne is relatively new to Ryerson –she is in her fourth year. Ryerson was presented to her as new and innovative, with a vision of socially relevant work. She believes that is what attracts new young colleagues and she still believes in this vision. There are significant challenges at Ryerson, and there have been name changes and new logos. She was sorry to see the tag-line “Wisdom Applied” disappear. She would represent all of the voices of Academic Council as she has many friends all over campus and she recognizes there application of wisdom. She is on committees of Academic Council and the RFA. She represents diverse interests and teaches students from all backgrounds as a teacher of Liberal Studies. She will represent the voice of the student. She is committed to the vision of Ryerson.

M. Mazerolle is currently the Director of Research in the Faculty of Business. He is finishing his fourth year at Ryerson but has been at several other universities. He is a fan of Ryerson and likes the opportunity to become involved. He is on the REB, is Chair of the Faculty of Business Appeals Committee, and is on the Awards & Ceremonials Committee. He meets regularly with SRC representatives on research issues. He is involved in many initiatives across the campus. He was previously involved in labor relations. He feels his experience will serve him well.

Perry Schneiderman is in his fourth year as Chair of the Theatre School. He has an open-door policy and works with faculty and students daily. He has a daughter who graduated from RTA, and brings a perspective as a parent. As a recent arrival to Ryerson, he brings a fresh perspective. He has extensive search-committee experience. He believes that there should be support for the artistic voice.

Sue Williams would like to serve Academic Council on the search committee. She has been at Ryerson for 31 years. She has been involved in many aspects, and never looked for an alternative outside the organization. It has nurtured her and her career and she is still deeply committed. She has taught in many levels at the University, and believes deeply in the teaching mission. She still continues to teach. She is now Dean of a Faculty that represents many professional schools. She has contacts across the University because of her wide longtime experience. She was Director of the School of Nursing and fully understands the role of Director. She has never forgotten that perspective. She is involved externally in nursing and is on Boards of Directors, both public and private. She has a diverse academic experience that will bring wisdom linking the past and the future. She comes from a Faculty with the largest proportion of mature students and believes that student voice is critical. She supports experiential learning, is a good listener and is a team player.

Ballots with the names of the slate presented by the Nominating Committee were distributed to members of Academic Council who were instructed to enter the name of Perry Schneiderman. Instructions were to vote for up to four candidates. K. Penny and L. Stewart distributed, collected and tallied the ballots as the meeting continued.

After all other business had been completed, the President reported that the representatives to the search committee would be:

Michelle Dionne, Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts
Maurice Mazerolle, Professor, School of Business Management, Faculty of Business
Perry Schneiderman, Chair, Theatre School, Faculty of Communication and Design
Sue Williams, Dean, Faculty of Community Services

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

E. Aspevig presented the reports from Business Management and Continuing Education for information. A revised form was distributed for the CE submission on Psychology courses.

York University Course Additions were presented as information for the Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report of the Academic Standards Committee.

M. Zeytinoglu, Vice Chair of the Committee presented the report on the Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and GIS.

The motion was corrected to read:

Motion: That Academic Council approve the *Advanced Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and GIS*.

E. Aspevig moved, M. Booth seconded

Motion approved.

9. New Business - J. Cook and D. Checkland presented a notice of motion for the next meeting regarding a seat on Academic Council for an elected Librarian. D. Schulman requested that it be sent as correspondence to her via email.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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