

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
S. Boctor
M. Booth
C. Cassidy
L. Grayson
T. Knowlton
I. Levine
C. Matthews
P. Stenton
S. Williams
M. Yeates

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

Faculty:

D. Mason
M. Mazerolle
D. McKessock
R. Mendelson
B. Murray
S. O'Neill
K. Penny
A. Pevec
F. Salustri
P. Schneiderman
D. Shipley
E. Trott

Students:

V. Campbell
A. Deslauriers
B. Lewis
C. Livett
S. Marshall
S. Mirowski
R. Rodrigues
R. Rose

Alumni:

J. Gryn

Regrets:

M. Dewson
A. Kahan
G. Inwood
Z. Khan
C. Lajeunesse
J. Monro
R. Nazareth
K. Raahemifar
R. Ravindran
J. Sandys
D. Snyder

Absent:

M. Ahmed
A. Cherrie
G. Diamantakos
N. Felorzabihi
P. George
D. Luther
V. O'Brien
E. Sullivan

Consultation with Presidential Search Committee

M. Guerriere, M. Dionne, M. Mazerolle, K. Scullion, C. Ribiero, P. Schneiderman, S. Williams and G. Honigshause, members of the search committee, attended an hour long consultation with Academic Council on the mandate and attributes of a new Ryerson President. Consultant J. Trypuc also attended.

It was explained that an RFP had gone out for a search firm, and the consultation process has begun. There will be consultations with 30 internal groups and about 50 outside people to determine the attributes and mandate of the President. There is an open invitation for written submissions. The following comments were made by Council members:

- There should be consideration of equity hiring.
- There should be mechanisms to recognize diversity among the students and the faculty.
- The Faculty Association agrees that a President should have a scholarly background and the ability to work in a scholarly environment.
- A President should:
 - foster the maturation of Ryerson, and should have had a strong academic career;
 - have a good understanding of the increased demand on faculty workload;
 - be capable of giving voice to the diversity of opinion and ways of being at Ryerson; be someone who can encourage and participate in debates, promoting a free exchange of ideas; and understand the role of Academic Council and the collegial nature of the university;
 - have excellent communication skills and be able to explain why things are done;
 - understand the challenges that students face in terms of tuition fees and debt;
 - be able to create a collegial process to make students and faculty feel part of the institution;
 - like people, teachers and departments and must like to visit offices and get to know what the university is really like;
 - be a leader who will capture the imagination and lead the university forward;
 - be able to give an effective speech, perhaps on his/her own vision of the University;
 - be aware of how important teaching is at Ryerson, and its centrality to the mission;
 - understand that Ryerson is a different university from most and must be able to appreciate the arts;
 - have a commitment to innovative leadership and research;
 - be asked about the university model they most admire; and
 - have an awareness of Canadian content.

Mandate:

- Clean up the physical plant to improve the image.
- Improve Ryerson's image in the community as "not a real university"
- Improve Ryerson's position in the world, not just Canada
- Regenerate morale on campus and bridge the disconnect between the various campus groups.

- Broaden Ryerson's view of itself.
- Be an aggressive leader in the broader community, acting as a champion and advocate of the university with government, industry and others who have the ability to impact the university and strengthening the relationships with both government and industry.
- Advocate for appropriate and increased funding.
- Cope with the challenges which will increase as the campus expands beyond the current borders.
- Know and understand the community while recognizing the unique characteristics within the university.
- Be aware of the changing world of communication and the impact on university education and understand the limitations of technology as a solution to educational issues.
- Be aware of challenges of being a university in the city of Toronto
- Understand faculty workload issues and the impact of that on the accomplishment of other objectives and have the ability to deal with collective bargaining issues.
- Develop a sustained plan for recruitment of faculty.
- Understand the new face of Ryerson in the university community.

Dr. Guerriere summed up. There will be a draft statement of attributes and mandate forwarded to Academic Council and the Board for comments. This will probably be before September. Academic Council can decide on how it wishes to comment. The recommendation of a candidate to the Board should be made in January 2005. There is discussion about developing a website for updates on the search process.

The regular meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m.

1. President's Report – E. Aspevig reported. The President sends regrets, as he is on his way to Shanghai University for their anniversary celebrations.

The provincial budget is coming on May 18. As Council knows, tuition for regulated and deregulated programs has been frozen for one year only and that is not base. There is concern about the lack of funding for inflation, the discontinuation of the Quality Assurance Fund and commitments regarding the Accessibility Funding Envelope. Ryerson's budget will go to the Finance Committee and the Board for approval later this month.

The results of the 2001 Ontario University Employment rates indicate that the employment rate for Ryerson 6 months after graduation is 93.6%, which is exactly the same as for the system, and 95.9% after 2 years, compared to 95.8% for the system. Members were reminded that the annual Faculty conference will be held on May 18 and 19. Sheila O'Neill and Judy Britnell were thanked for their contributions, as were all the faculty who share and contribute their knowledge. This conference is a distinguishing feature of Ryerson, integrating the ideas of research and teaching.

There have been several successful year-end events: Fashions "Mass Exodus," which was supported by the Theatre School; the Interior Design open house which was well attended, including industry leaders; "Maximum Exposure" hosted by Image Arts; and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Design open house.

The “Invest in Futures” Campaign Launch is to be held on May 13. Responses have been greater than expected.

Convocation is up-coming and dates are available on the web.

Members were thanked for their work on Council this year.

1.2 Academic Planning Update – E. Aspevig reported on the implementation of the Academic Plan one year after its approval. Departments have become fully engaged in the planning process, even though it has been a lot of work. It has been useful to stand back and look at goals and objectives. The implementation is a three stage process. First, the Faculties, Library and CE each developed preliminary plans including: a 5 page narrative; a brief statement of mission; an inventory of programs and research; strengths, weaknesses and opportunities; and strategic directions and rationale. The strategic goals were rank ordered and resource implications outlined. These preliminary plans were submitted to the Provost on November 29, were reviewed and responded to on December 21. Second, the departments and schools utilized the preliminary Faculty plans and the responses to develop a plan for their unit, complete with objectives, strategies and assessable outcomes, along with resource implications. Third, these department/school plans were reviewed by the Deans and integrated into comprehensive Faculty plans. These are in the process of being reviewed, and responses will be out in the next few weeks. The Faculty plans will inform the budget allocations of \$1.2 M in strategic funds. This year’s \$1.2M in funds was supplemented by the Provost to \$2M. Funds were allocated based on strategic plans of the departments. All were thanked for their contributions to the process.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council

Robert Hudyma has been appointed to replace Alex Pevac on Academic Council for 2004-05

The Academic Council schedule for 2004-05 was presented, and amended such that the date for final Academic Council approval of degree program changes for 2005/06 is December 7, 2004, and the submission date is November 16. This information will be sent to the departments/schools.

3. Good of the University

D. Checkland reported that Janet Chappell has been named Ryerson Professor of the Year and Stephanie Blake Ryersonian of the Year.

B. Lewis commented that students are pleased about the tuition freeze, but they will work to ensure that universities receive sufficient funding and to see the tuition freeze extended to international students.

4. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2004 meeting

S. Williams moved, C. Matthews seconded

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Rewording of the Course Management Policy

Motion: That Academic Council approve the wording of section 4.3.a.i of the *Course Management Policy* as presented in the report.

E Aspevig moved, S. Boctor seconded.

There was extensive discussion of the wording of the last paragraph regarding the allowance for the submission of an individual piece of work to a plagiarism detection service if an instructor suspects plagiarism. It was argued that there was no process outlined and no criteria stated for what qualifies as a reasonable suspicion. It was suggested that if students select an opt-out and comply with that opt-out, instructors should not be permitted to submit work, despite their suspicion of plagiarism.

The Provost responded that in his experience and the experience of his colleagues, faculty are not generally suspicious of student submissions. He could imagine a circumstance where a process has been agreed upon, but a piece of work is completely out of character from work done in a controlled situation. This leads to a suspicion that this is not the student's work. Faculty must often go to extreme lengths to determine plagiarism. Checking for plagiarism is designed to protect the standards of the University and the integrity of the work being done. He did not agree to accept an amendment to the wording of the paragraph.

While one professor stated that there are other ways to check for plagiarism, another who has used turnitin.com for two years has found it helpful, especially in showing students where they have gone wrong with their references. She believes that, if anything, the wording is not strong enough. It is clear that papers get recycled and those who want to cheat will simply not agree to submit papers. No student has objected to the use of turnitin.com. Ultimately, the alternative arrangements might be to ask students to only write papers in class.

One member who is a TA found that 30% of a class had the same answer to a question. He proposed that a one-week notice be given to students for them to prove that they have not plagiarized the work. The Secretary commented that this is contrary to policy, as students should not have to prove their innocence.

The Secretary commented that the issue seemed to be the storage of a paper in a database. The issue was not that there are ways to detect plagiarism. If a paper is plagiarized it is already in the database. She had checked with turnitin.com, and it was possible for an instructor to request the removal of a single paper from the database with good justification. Papers cannot be excluded up front.

Motion approved.

5.2 Motions regarding Academic Council Elections

Notice of motion had been given at the last meeting regarding a request for the number of votes received by each candidate in the 2004 Academic Council Election and a change to the election procedures.

The Secretary pointed out that there were errors in wording and fact in the motions as presented.

- The Board of Governors does not publicly disclose the votes in an election but will give the results upon request.
- Academic Council does not have by-laws and policies related to elections, but rather procedures, administered by the Secretary of Academic Council as chief elections officer.
- Since there is no policy, Academic Council can only adopt a change in procedure.
- The motions only apply to student elections.
- The word “faculty” should be replaced by “Faculty”.

The Secretary further stated that she was opposed to the disclosure of the results for 2004, as they would be embarrassing to members present in the room, and there was no understanding at the time of the election that they would be disclosed.

It was agreed that there are actually two motions.

B. Lewis moved, A. Deslauriers seconded.

The friendly amendments to the language were accepted.

The Secretary stated that anyone who requests the outcome of the election is entitled to that information. It was asked why, given this fact, it was necessary to disclose the result publicly. The Secretary confirmed that the results were sent to the Deans for communication to the students.

D. Checkland proposed that the motion be amended to include all votes, including faculty. This was seconded J. Cook.

Motion to amend approved.

Motion: Be it resolved that Academic Council adopt a procedure requiring full and detailed election results to be provided to council in writing following Academic Council elections. These results shall include a list of all candidates, the number of votes per candidate, the voter turn-out by Faculty, and the number of ballots and votes cast in total.

Motion approved.

Motion: Be it further resolved that the Secretary of Academic Council be directed to prepare such a report based on the 2004 elections for presentation at the final council meeting of 2003/2004.

B. Lewis moved, A. Deslauriers seconded.

Members spoke against the disclosure of the 2004 results, as this was not the understanding at the time of the election. Members present might be embarrassed by the results of the elections disclosed at this time. B. Lewis stated that he had asked as many candidates as possible if they wished the results disclosed and that they approved of the motion.

Motion defeated.

6. Correspondence

The Secretary reported that other than the letter from Dr. Guerriere regarding the Presidential search consultation, there was no correspondence.

7. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departments and Division Councils

E. Aspevig presented course changes in Continuing Education and Graduate Studies.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report of the Nominating Committee – M. Dionne presented.

The report includes the names of the nominated and re-nominated members of the standing committees. The spelling of the name of Deirdre Taylor should be corrected. Report should include the nomination of Jim Dianda as COU Colleague

Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominees for Standing Committee membership for 2004-05 as outlined in the report.

M. Dionne moved, S. Williams seconded.

Motion approved.

K. Penny asked that those members who are not returning to Academic Council next year stand and be recognized.

8.2 Report of the Academic Standards Committee

E. Aspevig thanked all members of the committee for the extraordinary amount of work they have done over the semester.

E. Aspevig moved and M. Zeytinoglu reported. Members of the programs were available to answer any questions.

Motion #1: That Academic Council approve the periodic program review of the Applied Chemistry and Biology Program as conducted by the Department of Chemistry and Biology.

Seconded by S. Boctor

It was commented that the lab issues addressed in the program review had been attended to by the department.

Motion approved.

Motion #2: That Academic Council approve the new Minor in Biology.

Seconded by A. Pevec.

Motion approved

Motion #3: That Academic Council approve the new Minor in Chemistry.

Seconded S. Boctor

Motion approved.

Motion #4: That Academic Council approve the revisions to the Minor in Psychology.

Seconded by M. Dionne

Motion approved.

Motion #5: That Academic Council approve the proposed Curriculum restructuring presented by the Department of Chemistry and Biology.

Seconded by S. Boctor

Motion approved.

Motion #6: That Academic Council approve the designation of Bachelor of Science (Biology) and Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) for students graduating respectively from the Biology and Chemistry programs offered by the Department of Chemistry and Biology.

Seconded S. Cody.

Motion approved.

Motion #7: That Academic Council approve the program in Criminal Justice leading to the Bachelor of Arts (Criminal Justice).

Seconded by A. Pevec.

It was asked how many of the courses are new. M. Moshe replied that two of the courses are existing courses the rest are new courses.

Motion approved.

Motion #8: That Academic Council approve the program in Politics and Governance leading to the Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Governance).

Seconded by C. Cassidy

Motion approved.

Motion #9: That Academic Council approve the program in Sociology leading to the Bachelor of Arts (Sociology).

Seconded by C. Evans

Motion approved.

C. Cassidy asked the people who worked hard to bring about the preceding programs to stand and be recognized.

Motion #10: That Academic Council approve the program in Contemporary Science leading to the Bachelor of Science (Contemporary Science).

Seconded by S. Boctor

It was asked if there are professionally related courses in the curriculum. M. Zeytinoglu responded that the evaluation of courses was the same as that used in engineering programs and that the programs do conform with the tripartite curriculum.

Motion approved.

E. Aspevig congratulated all of the people who put the programs together and the Standards Committee which shepherded the programs through the process. The programs represent an evolution for Ryerson, recognizing students' need for flexibility and including core competency courses which equip students for their future careers. The broad foundation of the science programs provides a base for student growth and development. The programs address the younger cohort of students who are not sure what they want to do and need the time to make career decisions. Some very bright students do not come to Ryerson because they have not decided what they want to do. The programs also provide faculty with new opportunities and will allow Ryerson to bring in highly qualified new faculty. The university is being "filled out", adding to the strong programs for which Ryerson is known. Ryerson is not moving away from its mission to give applied education, but rather readdressing the needs of society in new ways. Peer reviewers were impressed with the innovative Ryerson curriculum.

S. Boctor recognized the efforts of the Chemistry and Biology and the MPCS departments who worked together on the proposal, E. Aspevig for his support and the Academic Standards Committee for its assistance.

It was confirmed that the courses in MPCS listed in the Contemporary Science program are identical to those that have been offered in the past.

C. Cassidy thanked all the faculty who worked on the new Arts programs for their excellent work.

M. Zeytinoglu was thanked for his excellent work as Vice Chair of the Academic Standards Committee.

9. New Business

B. Lewis announced the Ryerson University film festival will be held on Thursday night.

D. Checkland presented the following quote from the CAUT "Policy Statement on Academic Status and Governance for Librarians at Canadian Universities," passed October 1993, and revised May 2004, for consideration at the October meeting:

3.1 As academic staff, librarians have both a right and a duty to participate in collegial governance of the university. They must therefore be eligible to serve as elected or appointed members on all university governing councils and committees. Though the chief librarian may serve in an ex officio capacity, all librarians should be eligible to serve as elected members of the university senate, or equivalent body, and its committees. All governance bodies, including but not limited to departmental and divisional councils, must provide for the effective participation of librarians.

He will also be providing the Secretary with information to be sent to the Composition and By-Laws Committee on how Memorial University dealt with the legal limitation regarding electing librarians as members to their senate. The Secretary agreed that this would be forwarded to the Committee for its first meeting in the Fall.

Motion: Whereas his retirement from the teaching faculty of Ryerson University is imminent;

Be it resolved that Academic Council hereby expresses its heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to Professor John Cook for his long and excellent service to Ryerson University, and in particular for his exemplary willingness to regularly bring to the attention of Council those larger, deeper, frequently more difficult, and occasionally unpopular issues and considerations that are central to its mandate, but which are too easily passed over in the daily business of running a large academic institution.

Moved by D. Checkland, seconded D. Mason

Motion approved.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, PhD
Secretary of Academic Council