

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 9, 2004

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

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

Faculty:

H. Alighanbari
J. P. Boudreau
S. Cody
J. Dianda
M. Dionne
M. Dowler
D. Elder
C. Evans
C. Farrell
M. Greig
R. Hudyma
A. Johnson
N. Lister
D. Mahoney
M. Malone
D. Mason
M. Mazerolle
G. Mothersill
B. Murray
M. Nicholson
C. O'Brien
S. Rosen
F. Salustri
P. Schneiderman
D. Shipley
K. Tucker Scott

Students:

R. Akhavan
M. Anecchini
D. Ayub
A. Bridges
F. Gorospe
L. Islam
A. Jurczak
A. Ladhani
S. Mirowski
S. Norrie
T. Nguyen
R. Rose
V. Tighe

Regrets:

M. Booth
D. Checkland
A. Kahan
L. Merali
S. O'Neill

Absent:

F. Duerden
D. McKessock
K. Medri
B. Murray

Alumni:

J. Gryn

1. President's Report

The Maclean's survey has rated Ryerson two ranks higher than last year, and Ryerson has regained its number one position as a University that produces Leaders of Tomorrow. Ryerson also rates well in the Most Innovative and Best Overall, and Highest Quality among primarily undergraduate institutions categories. Under-funding of universities remains an issue and it is hoped that this will be addressed in light of the Rae Review. It is noted that it is impossible to numerically compare universities that have widely different mandates and program types.

The President commended the School of Criminal Justice, Tammy Landau and the faculty who participated in the Youth at Risk Conference held at Ryerson on October 30 under the leadership of the Hon. Roy McMurtry and in the presence of Mayor David Miller.

Rae Task Force - E. Aspevig reported on the Rae Review response and consultation. A draft response is in process. The response is divided in two parts, giving a clear perspective on what Ryerson needs. The first part is divided into three sections. First, the under-funding of universities, particularly the unfunded students at Ryerson, is addressed. Unfunded BIUs are a matter of equity. Students who choose to go to a university for which the grants are less are getting fewer services, and that is not fair. Secondly, the government needs to be aware of Ryerson's development in research and graduate studies since becoming a university. These cannot be separated from undergraduate funding, as they impact the quality of faculty which can be attracted. It is recommended that the government support universities that show capacity in that area. Thirdly, the importance of accessibility in the GTA is addressed. The greatest population increase in the next decade will be in the GTA. Students will want to live at home as costs increase.

The second part of the response deals with the five thematic areas of the Review – accessibility, quality, system design, funding and accountability. Tiering of institutions would be a mistake. There is support for transfer between colleges and universities based on the existing accord which already works quite well. Funding needs are clear, although there are different ideas on the source of funding. There may be support for a buffer body to stand between post-secondary institutions and government and, if so, it needs to be ensured that it is advisory and that universities can deal directly with the relevant ministries. Economic studies show that there is a difference when there is an investment in the knowledge economy, but universities do more than feed economies. They have an important integrative effect on communities, etc. which are important to the GTA.

There were two two-hour Town Hall meetings with input from students, faculty and staff. The input has been reviewed as the response is prepared.

The roundtables will be held on December 8. There will be representation from students, staff, faculty (RFA and CUPE), administration and the Board. The sessions will be at George Brown College in the morning and at OCAD in the afternoon.

Graduating Student Survey – P. Stenton presented a report on the survey, and a summary was distributed. Results are similar to results of 2002. A complete report will be placed in the library and Deans will get Faculty specific results. Satisfaction rates have remained about the same. The figures were reviewed.

It was asked if the results could be benchmarked with surveys that have been done at other universities so that there is a perspective on the issues identified. It has been found that Ryerson is not significantly different from other institutions.

The clarity of the document was commended and it was asked if there could be focus groups to address issues such as students feeling they were not treated as individuals. It was agreed that it would be useful to follow up on the identified issues.

Report of the COU Colleague – Jim Dianda reported. COU will be responding to the Rae review. The two topics being addressed this year are collaborative and interdisciplinary programs.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council
No report.

3. The Good of the University – Jim Dianda chaired.
No issues were raised.

4. Minutes of the meeting

Motion: That Academic Council approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2004 meeting.
T. Nguyen moved, D. Mason seconded

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Zita Murphy was invited to join Council as the Library observer for the year.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Reports of Committees

7.1 Report of the Nominating Committee

Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominees as presented in the report of the Nominating Committee.

M. Dionne moved, M. Mazerolle seconded

Motion approved.

7.2 Report of the School of Graduate Studies

Motion: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for an MA in Early Childhood Studies to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

M. Yeates moved, D. Shipley seconded

A correction was made to the second paragraph on page 11. The program will begin in 2006 not 2005. The full brief was available on the website. Judith Bernhard addressed Council on the program development. Demand for people with master's degrees in the area is increasing.

Motion approved.

J. Bernhard and her team were thanked for all the work they put in on this proposal.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a PhD in Chemical Engineering to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

M. Yeates moved, A. Lohi seconded

The OCGS brief has been posted on the School of Graduate Studies website. The program builds on the MASc which has been operational for three years, and there are now theses available for OCGS to review. A. Lohi noted that there are four programs in Montreal and only one in Toronto. Twenty-six students have graduated with MASc, and are eager to start the PhD program.

Motion approved.

A.Lohi was thanked for his work on the program development.

7.3 Report of the Research Ethics Board – R. Rinkoff presented the report as distributed for information. Members are reminded that any REB issues should be directed to his attention.

7.4 Report of the Academic Standards Committee

E. Aspevig moved all motions.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the designation of *Bachelor of Arts (International Economics and Finance)* for students graduating from the International Economics Program offered and administered by the Department of Economics.

Seconded by A. Jurczak.

M. Zeytinoglu presented the report.

Motion approved.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the new minor in Politics.

F. Gorospe seconded.

M. Zeytinoglu presented the report. The minor conforms to the university Minors policy.

Motion approved.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the proposed curriculum restructuring in Retail Management

Seconded by T. Knowlton

M. Zeytinoglu presented the report.

Clarification on the concern about the possible insufficiency of communication skills, due to the elimination of a course, was requested. It was replied that these skills will be presented in modules within other courses. The report requires that the School work with Business and Technical Communication on the modules. S. Cody, the chair of BTC, applauded ASC for its recommendation and will work with the School of Retail Management. It was clarified that if the School does not follow up on the recommendation it would be expected that it be communicated to the Provost for implementation.

It was asked if the change applied to the School of Fashion. It was replied that changes in that School will occur independently.

Motion approve.

8. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Department and Divisional Councils
E. Aspevig presented the changes as outlined in the agenda.

The memo on Page 72 was withdrawn for consideration by the Academic Standards Committee.

On Page 77 POL100, 110 and 210 should read POG. The School of Nutrition will submit a revised form.

S. Boctor reported that the restructuring of the Department of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science was overwhelmingly approved by the department. There has been a move to develop graduate programs in Physics, and Computer Science is working on accreditation. With the advent of the Contemporary Science program, there is a need for more teaching in these areas. The current department is large and each group has a subgroup and a curriculum committee. This leads to many layers of approval.

It was asked if there was any thought given to having a transitional structure where Math was paired with one or the other areas. This was considered but the separation was preferred. It was asked if the separation required more university resources. E. Aspevig responded that he had encouraged the separation and that there have been other areas where there has been a

similar breakup of larger units. There will be a net need for additional support staff which can be handled.

The initiatives of engineering and applied science in the student transition program were recognized and it was asked how successful the transition programs have been. Last year the remedial math was optional. This year, more students have participated. It has been found that high school math skills have not been attained. The students in the current class are staying in the course.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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