

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Members Present:			
Ex-Officio:	Faculty:	Students:	
K. Alnwick	H. Alighanbari	J. Lassaline	A.Chaleff-Freudenthaler
E. Aspevig	J. P. Boudreau	N.M. Lister	L. Bichler
S. Boctor	S. Cody	A. Lohi	L. Brown
C. Cassidy	J. Dianda	D. Lee	M. Brzoska
M. Dewson	M. Dionne	D. Mahoney	A. Ganuelas
D. Doz	F. Duerden	D. Mason	P. Lewkowicz
L. Grayson	S. Edwards	D. McKessock	N. Loreto
K. Jones	D. Elder	J. Morgan	S. Persaud
A. Kahan	C. Evans	C. O'Brien	T. Spencer
S. Levy	E. Evans	R. Ravindran	N. Yiu
C. Matthews	C. Farrell	S. Rosen	L. Yung
Z. Murphy	M. Greig	P. Schneiderman	
J. Sandys	R. Hudyma	D. Shipley	
P. Stenton	A. Johnson	K. Tucker Scott	
S. Williams	D. Johnston		
M. Yeates			Alumni:
			J. Gryn
			L. Merali
Regrets:			
S. Anderson			
M. Booth			
T. Dewan			
M. Kamali			
G. Mothersill			
Absent:			
G. Brown			
E. Hunking			
V. Tighe			

1. President's Report – The President welcomed everyone and moved the agenda to the election of Vice Chair so that ballots could be counted before the “Good of the University”. Nora Loreto, Catherine Matthews and Ravi Ravindran, the candidates for Vice Chair, each spoke concerning their qualification for the position. Ballots were distributed and collected. (Following the President's Report, the Secretary reported that there was a tie vote. A second ballot was distributed to break the tie between N. Loreto and C. Matthews, and C. Matthews was elected.)

The President commended the student orientation program and the students who organized the club day. He reported that he has been attending the Academic Planning Group (APG) and has created the Academic Leadership Team (ALT) to increase communication. He has also been meeting individually with Deans and attending faculty and staff meetings, and has appreciated being invited.

The VP Research and Innovation search committee has been selected and will be announced shortly. There is a process review on centralized and decentralized responsibilities and decision making. Bill Found, former VP Academic at York University, has been engaged to help identify a few key areas.

President Levy indicated that he has initiated efforts to clean up the campus, and thanked Linda Grayson. He noted that there had been a fire just as Claude Lajeunesse was leaving Office as President and as he was assuming that Office. The situation was handled well.

There was a meeting with Minister Bentley, both on campus and at COU, concerning this year's grant allocation and the commitments that come with the funding. This year a report on expected results will be required. There is also active discussion on tuition fees, and the Premier has said that the freeze will end. The President reported that the motion circulated to members regarding tuition fees would be discussed later in the meeting.

The President reported that he had been to Ottawa, along with Judith Sandys, to discuss the allocation of CRCs, which currently go disproportionately to those universities with medical schools. The Prime Minister's deputy chief of staff – Policy was interested in receiving a discussion paper on these allocations, and this was sent.

The President reported on the Ryerson Act review. There was an initial set of responses from the Board dealing with a length of term for Board members. Other responses followed, including suggestions from students and faculty. He was bringing forward for discussion the proposed changes that directly impact Academic Council: a change of name from “Academic Council” to “Senate”, which had been suggested by several people, and an increase in the number of Council seats to 51 to include an elected librarian, which had been previously endorsed by Council. He solicited comments.

N. Loreto commented that she had written a submission and her suggestions were not being brought forward. It was responded that some of the suggested changes could be classified as By Law changes and others would require lengthy debate and discussion.

Z. Murphy spoke in favor of the recommendation on the inclusion of an elected librarian, noting that at the May 9, 2005 meeting President Lajeunesse committed to including a librarian as a voting member when the Act was reviewed. There are 25 professional librarians and other Senates have representation. Librarians are participants on Academic Council committees. Others spoke in support of an elected librarian.

N. Loreto spoke in favor of renaming Academic Council the Senate.

The President thanked everyone for their input, noting the support for both items and that he would bring this to the Board of Governors.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council

- 2.1 Election of the Vice Chair had been moved to the beginning of the agenda
- 2.2 Attached documents were announced. Corrections: Lukas Bichler is a graduate student in Mechanical Engineering and some of the Academic Council agenda deadlines are incorrect. Changes will be made on the Academic Council website.
- 2.3 The deadline for the submission of Honorary Doctorate Nominations was announced.
- 2.4 The establishment of the Academic Integrity Office was announced and Donna Bell, Academic Integrity Officer, introduced. Members were informed of the Academic Integrity website.

3. Good of the University – C. Matthews chaired.

N. Loreto announced the multicultural show to benefit victims of both hurricane Katrina and the recent earthquake in Parkistan.

P. Lewkowicz asked about the possibility of releasing fall and winter timetables at the same time. K. Alnwick replied that there was no intention to do this but that the timetables and exam schedules would be out in a more timely way.

D. Mason asked if faculty timetables will also be timelier and if there is a commitment to releasing fall and winter faculty timetables earlier. He also asked about Sunday exams. K. Alnwick said that this year timetables will not be out as early as they will be in the future and that Sunday exam dates would not be used in the first iteration of the exam schedule. Sunday will be one of a series of alternative dates if there are issues that arise or times that need to be changed.

A. Ganuelas asked if the Canadian flag and the Ryerson flag could be displayed at Kerr Hall South where there are flagpoles with no flags. The President replied that he would follow up on the issue.

P. Lewkowicz asked if classes could begin later than 8am, and it was replied that this presented space problems. He also asked if minors could be noted on diplomas. It was replied that the practice at most universities is to have minors indicated on the transcript and not on the degree and there is not sufficient space on the degree document.

4. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2005.

D. Mason moved, C. Farrell seconded.

Motion approved.

Motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2005.

K. Jones moved, M. Yeates seconded.

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes – L. Grayson reported on the events surrounding Wendy Maxwell as required by a motion made at the May 9, 2005 meeting.

C.A. O'Brien presented some background to the report and stated that the arrest was unprecedented in other universities. It was her understanding that there was no criminal conviction as stated in the summary of facts. L. Grayson reported that she has documentation confirming a conviction and that whether the arrest was unprecedented or not is unknown.

D. Mason stated that CKLN, where Ms. Maxwell was first reported to be, is a separate organization, and noted that she was later arrested at a Women's Day Ryerson community event. L. Grayson responded that when the police were contacted Ms. Maxwell was seeking access to CKLN and was not seeking access to the community event. Between the time when the police were called and arrived, she had moved to the event. D. Mason stated that deportation orders are not handled in this way at other universities and L. Grayson replied that in the contacts with other urban universities staff did not find any university with a written policy on this or a process.

N. Loreto stated that she did not need to provide identification to get access to Jorgenson Hall and L. Grayson replied that Jorgenson tends to be open, but private areas and offices are not.

J. Morgan asked about what information was shared by senior management between February 4 and March 5. L. Grayson responded that the matter was not brought to senior management at that time, as the standard process was being followed, and that the process has been changed so that this sort of issue is brought to senior management's attention at the outset. He further asked if it is normally the role of Security to act in concert with police in some matters (assaults, murders, etc.) L. Grayson responded that typically Security works cooperatively with Toronto Police Services on safety issues at Ryerson. For example, Security took the lead role in the hate crimes issue in the summer of 2004. Sometimes it is appropriate and sometimes it is not.

J. Gryn asked why it is assumed that Ryerson is a safe harbor for someone with a criminal record. L. Grayson replied that it is important to recall that, as a university, we must be mindful of academic freedom and the sociopolitical leadership within the university that supports a civil society. These basic principles should not be compromised lightly.

R. Hudyma asked about the policy on working with other law enforcement agencies such as process servers, Canada Border Services or the RCMP, and it was replied that on page 65 of the report it is indicated that all such inquiries will automatically be referred to the Associate Director, Centre for Environmental Health, Safety and Security Management and as needed to the Vice President, Administration and Student Affairs. The President agreed that, if it is not too lengthy, the University policy on requests for information could be distributed with the next agenda. It was clarified that the university is required to comply with a court order requesting information.

J. Sandys asked if Border Services would be called today if Wendy Maxwell were to show up at an event. It was responded that the Associate Director and if needed, the VP Administration and Student Affairs, would be contacted, but would not have acted without additional information. Since the University does not have full information on the Wendy Maxwell deportation warrant it is not possible to speculate on the outcome. What can be said is that much more information would have been required, legal advice would have been sought and consultation would have occurred. The process to ensure this happens has been put in place and the accountability for decisions is more transparent.

A student who was present when Wendy Maxwell was arrested spoke from the audience. She asked what is planned to be communicated to Wendy Maxwell. The Chair stated that there has been no contact with her and the concern will be taken under advisement before an answer is given.

6. Correspondence – The announcement regarding Honorary Doctorates for Fall Convocation was included.

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

Items were presented. Regarding the submission from Communication and Design, a question was asked about whether Journalism students can retroactively include minors, and K. Alnwick stated that normally they cannot, but in the case of students who are between the new and old curriculum this could be discussed. The motion from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science was taken off the table until the next meeting.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report of the Animal Care Committee - A statement regarding the extent of animal research at Ryerson was requested for the next meeting.

8.2 Report of the Awards & Ceremonials Committee – The report was attached.

8.3 Report of the Composition and By Laws Committee – M. Dionne presented the report and made the motions.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the By Laws of the Department of Mathematics Council

Seconded by D. Mason

Section 3.1.4, stating that one program student would be included when the department had a program, was questioned. It was explained that service departments, which have no program students, were not required to have students on their Councils. D. Mason noted that when there is a program, the requirement is that the number of students be between one-third and one-half the number of faculty. After discussion, a friendly amendment was made to alter section 3.1.4, to be the same as section 1.2e in the Physics Council By-Laws (Agenda page 102) with the addition that when and if a program comes into effect, the By-Laws will be amended to include the correct number of students.

The amendment was accepted and approved.

Motion approved.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the By Laws of the Department of Physics Council
Seconded by D. Mason

A friendly amendment was accepted and approved to amend section 1.2e as indicated for the Mathematics By-Laws.

J. Morgan suggested that there is not enough guidance given for the inclusion of students on councils. P. Lewkowicz, a member of the Composition and By-laws committee, stated that there should be students on the curriculum committee of the department. The Chair noted that the departments did follow the policy in the development of their By Laws and that the policy itself was another issue. D. Mason commented that it is hard to recruit students for service department committees. It was asked if there could be a committee to address increase in student engagement. The President said he would take this under advisement. A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler also requested information relating to current student engagement, such as the number of students on university bodies.

Motion approved.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the revision of its By Laws with respect to the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Research Ethics Board.
Seconded by S. Williams

It was confirmed that members of the GREC would be members of SGS. F. Duerden asked about the statement in the Terms of Reference with regard to the facilitation of research. S. Cody replied that the REB does facilitate the research effort, and S. Williams stated that research is facilitated through the ethical review of the research. F. Duerden asked where the mandate and responsibility of the REB ends. D. Schulman commented that the section of the Terms of Reference being discussed was not being amended, and J. Morgan commented that discussion is in order as it is now stated that the GREC would also do the same.

J. Morgan made a point of order stating he was unable to locate anything in the By-laws or in Robert's Rules for a standing sub-committee. The Chair noted that there were two ways to handle the issue – take it under advisement and come back, or put forward the motion and look back to see if there were any problems. S. Williams stated that she appreciated the issues raised by J. Morgan, but that the REB needs the assistance of the GREC to review the graduate proposals.

It was suggested that the GREC could be a committee that answers to the REB or that it could be established as a new committee of Council that reports to the REB. S. Cody stated that the proposal fit the rules of the Tri-Council policy, and that the protocols need to be addressed.

The motion was taken off the floor and will be brought back to council at the next meeting.

With respect to the earlier motions approving Departmental Council By Laws, D. Mason stated that there are a large number of Departments that do not have By Laws registered with Academic Council. He encourages everyone to move forward with By Laws consistent with Policy 45 or that the policy be revised as soon as possible.

8.4 Report of the Learning & Teaching Committee – There were no comments.

8.5 Report of the Nominating Committee

Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominations for 2005-06

M. Dionne moved, noting that the members of the GREC were removed from the list for approval. She further noted that the nominees were to replace resignations and to fill unfilled positions on committees.

N. Loreto seconded.

The nomination of a student representative who had not attended the September meeting and was not present for the current meeting was questioned. The Secretary replied that as he was not yet a member this was not an issue and that there was an attendance policy which would be carefully followed.

S. Williams clarified that she is seeking a student representative to fill a vacancy in Community Services.

8.5 Report of the Academic Standards Committee

Motion: That Academic Council approve the Periodic Program Review submitted by the School of Radio and Television Arts.

E. Aspevig moved, C. Matthews seconded.

M. Zeytinoglu presented the report. T. Spencer asked about funding. M. Zeytinoglu stated the funding has been found for equipment (corporate and university) for a HDTV studio. N. Loreto asked if there were strings attached to the donation. M. Zeytinoglu stated that donations need to conform to university policy.

Motion approved.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the new Minor in Criminal Justice.
E. Aspevig moved, C. Matthews seconded.

M. Zeytinolgu presented the report. The submission conforms to the university minors policy.

Motion approved.

9. New Business – The following motion, which was written by student members of the Board of Governors, was circulated to council, moved by A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler, seconded by N. Loreto and read into the minutes:

WHEREAS Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that the Ontario tuition fee freeze will not be extended beyond September, 2006; and

WHEREAS tuition fees have been shown to be the most significant barrier to accessing post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS increasing tuition fees will adversely effect the most marginalized students on campus to the greatest degree; and

WHEREAS recent studies have shown enrollment in post-secondary education by middle-income students has been depressed by increased tuition fees; and

WHEREAS increased tuition means less money for students to eat, pay their rent and live in conditions that are conducive to a healthy learning experience; and

WHEREAS average Ontario undergraduate university tuition fees have increased 195% since 1990; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Academic Council endorse a fully funded tuition fee freeze at Ryerson University and in the province of Ontario until at least September, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Academic Council recommend Board of Governors also support a fully funded tuition fee freeze at Ryerson University and in the province of Ontario until at least September, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Academic Council request the President of Ryerson University to write a letter to Premier Dalton McGuinty, the Honourable Christopher Bentley (Minister of Training, Colleges & Universities) and the Honourable George Smitherman (Member of Provincial Parliament, Toronto Centre-Rosedale) to request that the provincial government maintain a fully funded tuition fee freeze until at least September, 2008.

A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler spoke further to the motion stating that the motion is asking for support to increase access to universities and that tuition increases amount to a student pay decrease. N. Loreto presented statistics on student debt and the effect. The RSU is working with the CFS to ensure that part of the \$6.2 B goes to tuition fee reduction.

P. Lewlowicz asked about the effect of the frozen fees. It was clarified that if tuition fees can go up, universities normally increase the fees by the allowed amount. Tuition is not a trivial amount of the budget.

The President commented on the motion. Part of the \$6.2 B is for financial aid for all students at all universities and he believes that financial aid should be given to those students who need money for food and residence, single mothers, etc. Any money to a fundable freeze will go to all when some students need far more help than others. The increase per student would be \$160-200. He is supportive of giving the next large amount of money to financial aid where it is needed most and limiting the fee increase to the level of the university's inflation. He has been quite consistent on this issue. When financial aid is reviewed, there should be a modest increase in fees. He felt it was fair to state his position.

J. Dianda, who receives updates from COU as Ryerson's COU representative, stated that he would expect that there would be financial aid initiatives in place before the freeze was lifted. P. Stenton corroborated that part of the \$6.2B is a doubling of financial aid. It is expected that this will become clear later. Out of the \$6.2 B, about \$4 B has been earmarked for other initiatives and the rest is for financial aid.

A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler stated that low income is considered \$34,000 a year. There are many people in the room who got highly subsidized educations in the past. The President agreed that current financial aid is not fair and needs to be changed. N. Loreto stated that students were promised that there would be a tuition freeze, and there should be tuition fee consultations. She made further comments on OSAP and the loan system. She does not see the increase of loan debt as a solution. Income contingent loans (ICLRPs) are not the answer. Canadians are taking on too much debt. P. Lewkowicz asked if there would be an increase in grants and bursaries. The President responded that 30% of the increase has to go to student bursaries. A working system would include debt limits and bursaries. The picture of the financial aid system presented is the current model, and it is proposed that a new model would be more progressive.

R. Hudyma asked if this issue is more an item for the Board and commented that in the US there are very high tuitions that provide a high quality of education. The President commented that the motion respects the bicameral nature of the governance.

N. Loreto asked if there could be a roll call vote and the Secretary read section 6.7 of the By-Laws. The Chair ruled that there would not be a roll call vote.

J. Mogan spoke in favour of the motion on tuition freeze.

R. Hudyma moved that there be a ballot, and P Schneiderman seconded. N. Loreto objected to the ballot, stating that she believes that members should be accountable for their votes. There was a debate about the noting of names on the ballot to indicate the way that a member voted. After debate, her objection was withdrawn.

The mover and seconder requested that the resolutions be moved as one motion.

The motion passed 24 -22, with 2 abstentions. It was clarified that the President would take the request under advisement and Academic Council would be copied on any letters sent.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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