

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 31, 2006

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

1. **President's report** – The President introduced Julia Hanigsberg, the new Secretary of the Board and Legal Counsel, and Anita Shilton, Dean of the Chang School of Continuing Education.

External update:

- The interim accountability agreement between Ryerson and the Ontario government has been signed. Normally tuition fees would be known by now but there is no decision on fees at this time.
- Ryerson is advocating for secure capital funding for a library. It is hoped that this will put Ryerson ahead for any future available funds.
- There was a successful all candidates meeting hosted in conjunction with RSU.
- Minister Cordiano was on campus on December 16, and Minister Gerry Phillips was on campus January 24.
- The President has been invited to give a speech at the Canadian Club on March 8. He will speak on “The University as City Builder”.

Internal update:

- The President thanked Sue Williams for chairing the Commission on Student Engagement. S. Williams stated that she had met with the Student Academic Council representatives prior to the meeting. Students may complete a survey online and there will be upcoming Town Hall meetings. Members are asked to encourage student participation.
- The report from Dr. Found on decentralization is now on the Provost's website. The report will be responded to shortly.
- The Vice President, Research and Innovation position has been posted and the committee has finished its profile. Applications are being sought.

Honorary Doctorates – The Honorary Doctorates recommended by the Awards & Ceremonials Committee are exceptional. All candidates who have been called have been excited by the honour, but many require more notice. Some have been asked for next year. The President will be working with the Secretary and the Committee on moving the process forward.

Ryerson has received over 30,000 applications, which is more than any university other than Toronto and York (close to York). Ryerson has the largest increase in total number of applications in the system. However, there is no room for more students. Space is well below the required amount in all categories. There will be a number of strategies to deal with this problem.

It has been announced that Chancellor Eaton is stepping down. He had agreed to serve a year past the end of his term. A committee, chaired by the President, is being struck to recommend a replacement. As per the policy, the Board and Academic Council each select three people to serve on the committee. Three Board members have been asked to serve on the committee and the President asked that Academic Council follow the same process as the Board. He would propose three Academic

Council members to round out the composition of the committee and if there are no other names put forward by Council members, those three nominees would be approved. The President asked for comments but there was no discussion.

E. Aspevig reported on issues related to semester start-up, and invited members to e-mail him and the Registrar if there were other issues that were not addressed. The following is a summary list of the areas in which there were issues: student standings (e.g. students suspended who might not otherwise have been); timetables (e.g. problems with clarity of course selection, course availability, changing courses, re-entering courses if suspended); information on tuition fees (e.g. students in internships and placement courses); and finalizing transcript requests. There have been systemic changes identified for next time. He noted that major system implementation is very difficult and that there were a large number of successes in the new system. He commended everyone at Ryerson for their assistance. He believes that there is a good understanding of what the issues are, and he also believes that it is important to bring these out. K. Alnwick stated that there has been feedback from students and staff, and there will be further efforts to correct problems. He welcomes any further information on other issues. There will be town halls and focus groups with students on needed improvements. He also thanked the community for its work.

M. Dewson reported on the work of the Timetabling *Ad Hoc* Committee, the composition of which is reported under Business Arising. The committee met three times in January. The committee has met with a range of individuals to learn about timetabling. He reported that there will not be a dramatic change in timetabling given the current structure of the curriculum. The committee is looking at what can be done in the short term for next year. There will be broader recommendations for the future.

J. Morgan asked whether other universities keep reports on error rates in their student system, and how Ryerson compares to that error rate. K. Alnwick responded that he does not know and could investigate, but that the error rate in a new system implementation is likely to be higher than normal. E. Aspevig added that the Found Report has an item on service standards.

J. Morgan further asked about the establishment of the composition of the Chancellor search committee and its relation to the By-laws, citing the three ways in which the By-laws allow for the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee. The President stated that, in the interest of timeliness, he consulted with the mover of the motion to establish the membership of the committee.

N. Loreto asked for a list of the start-up issues reported on by Dr. Aspevig. She asked what the likelihood was of a student being suspended who should not have been. K. Alnwick stated that students were suspended according to the “letter of the law” but those whose standings were changed were corrected.

R. Ravindran commended E. Aspevig for recognizing the problems and addressing them.

2. **Report of the Secretary of Academic Council** - The Secretary reported that nominations for Academic Council elections were underway. She reported on new members appointed by Deans as replacements. Tarun Dewan corrected the report, stating that he was not new to Council. The Secretary also reported on the reformatting of Policy 139 on Graduate Student Funding.

P. Lewkowicz stated that his department had not received the election guidelines. The Secretary responded that they were available on the Academic Council website, had been sent to each of the Deans who were responsible for faculty elections, and had been emailed to all students.

3. **Good of the University** – Vice Chair C. Matthews chaired

A. Kahan introduced Tyler Forkes, the new Executive Director of Alumni Relations. He also announced the appointment of the new Executive Director of Development, Bob Baker.

He announced that there had been significant contributions, with matching funds from the Ontario Trust for Student Support that will create an endowment for student support. He noted that the quota for this year has been greatly exceeded. He also stated that there will be a report coming to the next Council meeting on Benefactor Naming.

D. Elder asked again about the situation at the Campus Centre, as students appear to be competing for space with commercial renters. It is requested that there be a report to Council at the next meeting. The President responded that the mediation process is underway. R. Rose spoke from the floor, thanking D. Elder for his support and the President for getting the process underway.

J. Dianda, COU Colleague, reported that Bob Rae was honoured and gave a speech at the COU. A video of the speech is now on the COU website, www.cou.on.ca . Working papers from the COU Colleagues have been shared, and are also on the website (Recent News, December 5). One of the papers, which members may find interesting, is entitled, *Changes in Student Learning Behaviours*, and is on the site under Recent News, December 19.

J. Gryn noted, in relation to the policy on the funding of graduate students, that when he applied to graduate schools, he was offered funding at York and no funding directly from Ryerson. Part of the reason he went to York was because of funding. The policy states that students are not necessarily notified of funding upon acceptance. This should be looked into when the policy is revised.

N. Loreto suggested that student members be allowed to run for more than two one-year terms. The Secretary suggested that she send this to the President as a recommendation to the Composition and By-laws Committee.

D. Mason suggested that there be a policy on how invigilators are funded. The University requires a 1/50 ratio for invigilation and often faculty are asked to volunteer. It needs to be clarified who pays for invigilators.

A. Ganuelas thanked the President for the Commission on Student Engagement, and for cleaning up the campus. He is concerned about clubs littering the campus with flyers.

G. Brown asked about evaluations for part-time faculty. M. Dewson stated that there are two kinds of part-time faculty - day and CE. The CE faculty are evaluated by a process run by CESAR. Day part-time faculty are surveyed in the same way as the full-time faculty.

N. Loreto noted that posters are taken down as soon as they are put up. Posters are approved and they should be kept up longer.

4. Minutes

Motion: That Academic Council approve the minutes of December 6, 2005.

N. Loreto moved, A. Ganuelas seconded.

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

P. Stenton circulated a memo on the First-Year Student Survey 2004 as a follow-up item from the last meeting.

M. Dewson reported that the proposed amendment to the Course Management Policy was withdrawn and will be considered by the committee reviewing the policy.

6. Correspondence

The letter from the Premier on fees was included.

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

Arts, Business, Communication and Design – Course change forms presented. There were no questions. An additional form from Sociology was circulated.

School of Graduate Studies:

Motion: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a Masters of Social Work (MSW) to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

S. Williams moved, C. Matthews seconded

Motion approved.

8. Reports of Committees

Report of the Academic Standards Committee

The motions to approve the Certificates in Audio Production Fundamentals, Television Production Fundamentals, and Media Writing Fundamentals were withdrawn pending clarification of course weightings. These will be brought to Council at the next meeting. It was clarified that approval of CE certificates can still be done at the March meeting.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the Certificate in Canadian Social Work Practice.

K. Tucker-Scott moved, N. Loreto seconded

S. Cody asked about the requirements on page 41 related to English requirements. H. Wong, the project director for the bridging program responded from the floor that the statement follows the undergraduate language requirements of the university. There are special language supports in place as part of the curriculum.

Motion approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominations as presented in the report.

M. Dionne moved, D. Mason seconded

Motion approved.

9. New Business

In regard to the approved Certificate in Canadian Social Work Practice, J. Morgan asked why, if students need to have language proficiency at the required level at entry, they need to be given additional support. It was responded that as they are internationally trained, they generally have ability in English but additional support is needed to improve their proficiency.

A. Benjamin thanked Academic Council for its approval of the MSW program.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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