

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 7, 2006
(Revised)

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
C. Cassidy
M. Dewson
D. Doz
L. Grayson
K. Jones
A. Kahan
S. Levy
Z. Murphy
P. Stenton
S. Williams
M. Yeates

H. Alighanbari
S. Cody
T. Dewan
J. Dianda
M. Dionne
S. Edwards
D. Elder
C. Evans
E. Evans
C. Farrell
M. Greig
R. Hudyma
G. Hunt
A. Johnson

Faculty:

D. Johnston
J. Lassaline
N. Lister
A. Lohi
D. Mahoney
D. Mason
D. McKessock
J. Morgan
G. Mothersill
R. Ravindran
S. Rosen
P. Schneiderman
K. Tucker Scott

Students:

L. Bichler
L. Brown
M. Carter
A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler
N. Ciffolillo
A. Ganuelas
M. Kamali
P. Lewkowicz
N. Loreto
S. Persaud
T. Spencer
L. Yung
V. Tighe

Alumni:

J. Gryn

Regrets:

C. Alstrom
S. Boctor
D. Lee
C. Matthews
C. O'Brien
J. Sandys
A. Shilton
D. Shipley
N. Yiu

Absent:

J. P. Boudreau
G. Brown
F. Duerden
L. Merali

1. President's Report

- The President announced that Cathy Matthews had a serious operation and is recovering. Cards were circulated for members to sign.
- The Ice Carnival was a success.
- The Chancellor's Search Committee will soon have its first meeting. The names of the members of the Committee were announced, and can be found in the Correspondence section of the agenda.
- Benefactor Naming –This item was brought forward from the Business Arising section of the agenda. The President asked for input from Academic Council to the Board on the draft policy. J. Morgan asked if this report was the one requested as part of the motion presented to Academic Council on March 1, 2005, and the President replied that it was.

A. Kahan introduced the report and asked D. Checkland to speak, as he was a major contributor to the draft policy. D. Checkland stated that he wished to ensure that the academic interest is included in the policy on Benefactor Naming. The proposed policy represents a compromise, where the support of the tenure stream faculty in the naming serves as a proxy for other constituent groups, including students and sessional faculty. The Provost will be charged with ensuring the integrity of the process. The President stated that this is similar to the policy at UBC.

N. Loreto stated that she thought that private influence in public institutions is not in students' best interest and cited the case at University of Manitoba, where Monsanto suppressed a graduate student's thesis from being released. She also pointed out that the new policy ignores Continuing Education instructors since they are not members of the Ryerson Faculty Association.

J. Morgan commented that he believes there is a clash of public and private interests. He believes that no rules will protect the university, which is a public institution, from privatization, **and that if the University wants to protect itself from donor naming and corporate influence, it should turn its back on private contributions.** He commented further, that **“these are public universities and public institutions, and it does not serve our reputation well that we turn away from that and we deface and degrade our public walls with the graffiti of rich man's needs”.**

T. Dewan commented that there is a symbolic connection between a benefactor and the unit, but benefactors do not control the university or its policies. He suggested that wording to reflect this be included. D. Checkland responded that he took this stipulation for granted and while he might prefer J. Morgan's proposal, this policy compromise is better than the existing policy. He stated that the Monsanto case went well beyond benefactor naming.

D. Mason commented that he agrees with J. Morgan and he is concerned both about privatization and that benefactor naming is in perpetuity. He stated that he believes that the proposal improves the current policy and he supports it.

L. Yung asked if this policy applied to Continuing Education and A Kahan replied that it does. S. Cody commented that she believes wording needs to better stipulate Continuing Education.

The Chair asked for an indication of the level of support for the motion. D. Checkland stated that it was originally moved that it be a joint policy, and the following motion was made.

Motion: That Academic Council consider the draft presented as its contribution to the Benefactor Naming Policy.

D. Mason moved, V. Tighe seconded.

N. Loreto asked for clarification of the motion. The President stated that this would be a jointly owned policy. T. Dewan again raised his concern about including wording that indicates that a benefactor does not have academic or policy control. The Chair stated that he was concerned about writing such a statement without due consideration.

D. Mason suggested that it be noted in the minutes that benefactors should not have any control over academic issues.

Motion approved.

- The President stated that there would be an announcement of tuition fees in the morning.
- E. Aspevig was called upon to present a response to the Decentralization (Found) Report. He stated that, as a courtesy, he was reporting to Council prior to posting the response on the web. Members were asked to review the report on the Provost's website. The report confirms that administrative and authority structures have not kept pace with Ryerson's rapid development. The recommendations are significant in their implications.

The first recommendation is provide additional administrative support to the Departments, Schools, Faculties, Library and the Finance and Human Resources departments. This is a sound recommendation and will allow administrators to attend to academic leadership rather than administrative issues.

The second recommendation is to establish a new advisory committee on Management Information Systems. The problem is recognized, but the recommendation might not be the best way to address the problem. Experts are being consulted on this issue.

The third recommendation is to review the complexity of administrative forms and procedures and to put more authority at lower levels. This is an important recommendation and work on it has begun, but the matter is more complex than it may appear. Often procedures are a function of administrative policy. Problems are also related to chronic under funding in some areas.

The fourth recommendation is for the establishment of publicized standards of service. This recommendation is accepted, and will be phased in selectively.

The fifth recommendation is that the base budgets of the Faculties be stabilized and increased. Local base budgets are being increased and stabilized. Responsibility and appropriate accountability measures will be decentralized. Deans will be discussing the changes being made with local units.

The sixth recommendation is for a clearly defined process for space allocations, with an appeals process for academic units. This is under development.

Recommendation seven is for the President to appoint someone to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the recommendations in the report. This recommendation is under review.

The recommendations, taken together, move the University in the right direction. The challenges are in the details.

D. Mason asked about the setting of service levels, and whether it might be appropriate to set targets across-the-board, even if the targets in some areas are to maintain the status quo. E. Aspevig clarified that there needs to be selectivity at the beginning to ensure that the areas most in need are addressed first and service does not decline as a result of people being taken away from their jobs to do an assessment of the service standards.

- The President reported that he had some discussions with a few new federal Ministers, and that he has been well received. There may be a variety of funding mechanisms that will be successful in the future.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council – The Secretary reported on the results of the Academic Council elections. A revised report on elections was distributed at the meeting. It was noted that graduate students who were not registered in courses were not allowed to vote. T. Spencer commented that nominees appreciated being able to post election platforms on the website. It was asked if elections could be moved so that they do not coincide with RSU elections.

3. Good of the University – N. Loreto Chaired the session.

A. Ganuelas read an email from a faculty member about poor conditions in a midterm exam room. The President asked that the email be forwarded to the Secretary.

A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler recalled a previous Academic Council motion regarding support for a tuition freeze. He stated that the tuition freeze will be ended and students will be mobilized. There will be picketing at the Ministry.

D. Elder stated that the faculty strike at the community colleges is supported by CUPE, and that members are being advised that they have the right not to cross the lines at the Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre. However they do not have the right to not do their work.

K. Tucker-Scott stated that the collaborative nursing program thanked those who rallied in support of the students. There is communication on the nursing website.

T. Spencer commented that there was confusion about tuition bursaries. The outlined process was not followed. The full amount was put in student accounts, rather than a portion being sent directly to them. They requested that the process be clarified in the future. L. Grayson stated that this is the first that she had heard of the problem, and she would look into it.

D. Mason asked about the scheduled closing of the cafeteria in the summer: how this decision was made and what arrangements were made for providing food. L. Grayson commented that there is a large deficit in summer due to lack of patronage. There will be access to sandwiches through Tim Horton's and Starbucks. The cafeteria works on split shifts and she could not state the number of workers who will be affected. She will respond to D. Mason directly. It was clarified that the seating in the Hub would remain open.

R. Ravindran commended the university ad for the MBA on Bay.

A. Kahan reminded Academic Council that there will be a new Ryerson website by the end of the month. It was developed on the basis of wide consultation. A content management system is also being developed. Within 8-12 months the whole site should be impacted. D. Mason asked that the web pages be made html and not pdf.

A Chaleff-Freudenthaler commented that students are having trouble getting on RAMSS to get tax forms.

E. Aspevig reported that the Registrar's office has followed up on a number of start-up issues and progress continues to be made.

4. Minutes

Motion: That Academic Council approve the minutes of the January 31, 2006 meeting.
D. Mason moved, T. Spencer seconded.

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Benefactor Naming – This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.
5.2 Report on Timetabling - M. Dewson presented the report. All but one of the Committee members were present at the meeting. Timetabling issues are challenging and complex. The interim report addressed the realization that something needed to be done quickly to affect the coming academic year. The report structure was reviewed. A wide range of possible timetabling structures were outlined. There are implicit trade-offs in each model and these were outlined. Section F outlines the steps that the Registrars office has committed to for 2006-07 which will allow for an earlier timetable. Section G of the interim report was distributed at the meeting. There are issues of scheduling that intersect with other areas. For

example, the structure of the curriculum drives scheduling. In the final report, the committee will consider the possible trade-offs in the various models and present its recommendations.

D. Mason, a member of the committee, stated that people have personal views on the timetabling issue, but do not necessarily consider all of the trade-offs. There needs to be a discussion of these. Each of the models in section E has both positive and negative aspects. The immediate goal of the Registrar's office is to get to point 2 of that section. The final report will look to how to get to step 3 or 4, and what trade-offs the university is willing to make.

The President asked that the discussion of the report be limited to general principles, and not to a technical discussion. D. McKessock asked if the committee considered that student work schedules. M. Dewson replied that the committee had taken this into account, but the question is whether course schedules should be adapted to student work schedules or if students should know their timetables well in advance so they can make arrangements. R. Hudyma stated that he is doing three courses at a fourth year level. He asked if the workload could be evened out as this is very demanding. M. Dewson replied that workload is not part of the committee's discussion. Workload is being discussed in other committees. M. Dionne suggested that the curriculum and the number of placements is the single biggest impediment is to getting schedules out in January. D. Mason said that the biggest problem may be the nature of the Ryerson calendar where the courses are specified by year, instead of just requiring courses with a pre-requisite structure.

S. Cody stated that the document is clear and thoughtful and commended the Registrar for handling the complexity over the years. The committee was thanked for its efforts.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence on the Chancellor Search Committee was noted

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

7.1 School of Graduate Studies: M. Yeates presented the motions.

7.1.1 Motion #1: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a *PhD/MASc/MEng in Aerospace Engineering* to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

R. Ravindran seconded.

Motion approved.

7.1.2 Motion #2: That Academic Council approve the addition of DEF to the *Policies and Procedures for Admissions and Studies (Master's and PhD Programs)* (Policy #142) in section 5.9: Other Performance Designations p.11).

D. Mason seconded.

It was explained that the policy was to keep graduate studies in line with the university DEF is a grade assigned when an investigation of Academic Misconduct is in process.

Motion approved.

7.1.3 **Motion #3: That the current Ryerson University Examination Policy (Policy Number 135) be amended so that the language is inclusive of Graduate Programs and students, and so that the policy is consistent with the Policies of the School of Graduate Studies.**

G. Mothersill seconded.

Motion approved.

Course changes from Theater were presented. There were no comments or questions.

8. Report of the Committees

Report #W2006-2 of the Academic Standards Committee: E. Aspevig moved all motions

8.1.1 **Motion #1: That Academic Council approve the *Certificate in Audio Production Fundamentals*.**

J. Morgan seconded

Motion approved.

8.1.2 **Motion #2: That Academic Council approve the *Certificate in Television Production Fundamentals*.**

J. Morgan seconded

Motion approved.

8.1.3 **Motion #3: That Academic Council approve the *Certificate in Media Writing Fundamentals*.**

S. Cody seconded

Motion approved.

8.1.4 **Motion #4: That Academic Council approve the *Certificate in Proficiency in Spanish*.**

D. Mason seconded

Motion approved

8.1.5 **Motion #5: That Academic Council approve the proposed revisions to the *Certificate in Business Communication*.**

V. Tighe seconded

Motion approved

8.1.6 **Motion #6: That Academic Council approve the revision in the *Certificate in Financial Planning*.**

D. Mason seconded

Motion approved

8.1.7 **Motion #7:** That Academic Council approve the revisions in *Certificate in Project Management*.

A. Ganuelas seconded

Motion approved

8.1.8 **Motion #8:** That Academic Council approve the revision in the *Certificate in Retail and Services Management I*.

D. Mason seconded

Motion approved

8.1.9 **Motion #9:** That Academic Council approve the discontinuation of the *Certificate in Retail and Services Management II*.

K. Jones seconded

Motion approved

8.1.10 **Motion #10:** That Academic Council approve the proposed revisions to the *Certificate in Training and Development*.

S. Cody seconded

Motion approved

9. New Business

10. Adjournment – 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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