

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
L. Bishop
S. Boctor
D. Doz
L. Grayson
K. Jones
A. Kahan
S. Levy
Z. Murphy
J. Sandys
A. Shilton
P. Stenton
S. Williams
M. Yeates

Faculty:

H. Alighanbari
J. P. Boudreau
S. Cody
T. Dewan
J. Dianda
M. Dionne
C. Evans
E. Evans
C. Farrell
R. Hudyma
G. Hunt
A. Johnson
D. Johnston

Students:

C. Alstrom
L. Brown
A. Ganuelas
M. Kamali
N. Loreto
S. Persaud
T. Spencer
L. Yung

Alumni:

J. Gryn
L. Merali

Regrets:

L. Bichler
M. Carter
C. Cassidy
M. Dewson
S. Edwards
P. Lewkowicz
N. Lister
R. Ravindran
S. Rosen

Absent:

G. Brown
N. Ciffolillo
A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler
F. Duerden
D. Elder
M. Greig
V. Tighe
N. Yiu

1. President's Report – The President announced that Professor Phil Bergerson (Image Arts) was the recipient of the 2006 Sarwan Sahota Award. Judith Sandys gave a brief overview of the award which recognizes faculty who have made an outstanding contribution to knowledge or artistic creativity in their area or expertise, while at Ryerson. Prof Bergerson's accomplishments as a visual artist were outlined and Professor Bergerson made a brief speech of acceptance and expressed his gratitude..

The President then announced the Honorary Doctorate recipients for the upcoming convocations. The recipients are: Piers Handling and Adrienne Clarkson (Communication & Design); Landon Pearson and Judith Shamian (Community Services); Buzz Hargrove (Arts and Community Services); Heather Reisman and Christine Magee (Business); Margaret Somerville and Pierre Lassonde (Engineering, Architecture and Science).

Internal report – The President thanked everyone who worked in the MTCC exam process. He commended the Secretary and all of the staff who made it happen.

Ryerson is one of the 12 (of 16) universities that has decided not to participate in the Maclean's graduate survey. Maclean's has now requested the results of the other surveys such as NSSE. Under FIPPA, which becomes effective in June, the NSSE survey will be posted on the web and the address will be given to Maclean's. They will be advised that this report is not a graduate survey.

Thanks to L. Grayson and L. Allan and their team, the Ryerson pension fund regulations have been amended to eliminate a unique feature that would have required millions of dollars be put into the pension fund. This money would not have benefited any individual.

As a follow-up to a request at the last meeting, the Interim Accountability Agreement was posted on the Ryerson website.

One of the recommendations of the Decentralization report was that a clear process for space allocation should be developed. The President asked the Provost to present the highlights of that process. E. Aspevig reported that space requests were of two types: minor space changes and renovations, which would be dealt with monthly; and more complex issues regarding space which becomes available, which will be dealt with on a semester to six month basis. Extraordinary requests, such as CFI will be dealt with as needed. There will be forms, submitted to an advisory committee, consisting of Campus Planning, University Planning and faculty reps. The Provost makes the final decision.. The process will be piloted this summer. It was later clarified that the space planning process would be distributed in the next week, and that there would be a tie to academic plan objectives.

President Levy reported that the university is close to appointing the Vice President Research and Innovation and the Chancellor. He is close to announcing the membership of the Provost Search committee.

External – The President was asked to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on General government regarding Bill 53 - City of Toronto Act. He reinforced the message around the importance of the University as a city builder.

The graduate allocation funding report has been submitted. P. Stenton, M. Yeates and E. Aspevig were commended for the strong submission. An answer is expected in a few weeks.

The President attended an alumni event in Ottawa which was very successful. Alumni were joined by perspective students. About 80 attended.

President Levy recognized those for whom this was the last Academic Council meeting, and read a list of their names. Judith Sandys and Sue Williams were specifically commended for their long service on Academic Council.

P. Stenton was introduced to present the National Survey of Student Engagement 2005: Highlights of Results, which was distributed. A NSSE advisory committee was established to look at the survey and determine what the best way was to analyze the results. More detail is available in each Dean's Office. This year Ryerson participated in the survey for the second time. All universities will be required to participate next year. There was a brief presentation. There was a 41% response to the survey done on line with 2000 first and fourth year students. Comparisons were made to comparable Canadian and American institutions. In general, all Canadian institutions are behind the American institutions in the benchmarks. Ryerson is ahead of other Canadian institutions in a variety of areas. Information was added to the Canadian survey on travel time. Not surprisingly, Ryerson has a higher number of commuting students with longer travel times than the comparator universities.

D. Mason commented that Community Services and Communication and Design may be contributing to the high numbers in the report. P. Stenton will report back on this analysis.

N. Loreto asked about the on-campus student response which appears to be high. P. Stenton replied that this is a result of it being a year one and year four study, and residence is higher for first year. She further asked about the cost of the survey and it was responded that the survey cost about \$7,000 plus the cost of analysis. The President reiterated that after this year participation is not voluntary.

It was clarified that this is not a survey of US Master's students but of students in Masters Institutions. The President reminded Council that the results will be more meaningful when there is a comparison with the next survey.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council – D. Schulman reported that, in addition to the items in her report, Ron Keeble has been appointed to replace Nina-Marie Lister for next year. J. Morgan noted that the dates for the administration of the Faculty Course Survey were in error. The dates will be verified and revised if necessary.

3. Good of the University – J. Dianda chaired.

L Grayson followed up on questions from the previous meeting and gave a brief update.

- Why are students who are not Ontario residents ineligible to be Research Assistants?
 - The Summer Research Program is limited to Ontario residents and requires that students have an unmet financial need as defined through OSAP. These are Ministry requirements, not Ryerson requirements. This is the same program as last year. The University will, however, review the program and determine whether internal funding might be added to broaden the program.
- Can the University absorb the cost of a fee statement error that resulted in an additional cost of \$7.60 for some students?
 - A very small number of students were undercharged for their health and dental premiums. When this was identified late in the year, the students affected were charged the amount owing which was \$7.60. Given the small numbers involved, the University waived the costs.
- Can the University waive fees for seniors taking CE courses who have difficulty downloading their tax receipt from RAMSS?

- The University has a long standing policy in place not to charge fees to seniors for this service.
- Update: At the October 11, 2006 meeting of Academic Council (pp. 61-65) new procedures were put in place to ensure appropriate decision-making processes for sharing information between Security and external law enforcement agencies. At that time she committed to coming back to Academic Council in the spring with an update on whether the new procedures are working. The procedures are working well, but there have not been any particularly challenging inquiries to deal with over the last several months. She is, however, absolutely confident that the University is well positioned to handle any complex inquiries that may arise in the future.

N. Loreto reported that foreign students can now work off campus.

J. Dianda commented that if the Standards report could be moved earlier in the agenda, M. Zeytinoglu could avoid staying for the entire meeting.

The President commented that he has neglected keeping to the by law allowing only two comments on a particular matter, and that he would be adhering to the rule.

4. Minutes

Motion: That Academic Council approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006 meeting.

D. Mason moved, S. Cody seconded.

N. Loreto requested that Page 11 be amended to insert “financially “support Ryerson. A. Johnson stated that a correction to her comment on page 15 will be sent to the Secretary by email. K. Jones noted that he was in attendance.

Minutes approved as amended.

5. Business Arising out of the Minutes

5.1 Report of the Ad Hoc Timetabling Committee - The President summarized that at the last meeting there was a request for forums for discussion of the report. That has happened and the motion is still on the table. There were two forums since the last Academic Council meeting. It has been determined that it is necessary to emphasize the supports that are available for the chairs/directors. Even if timetables were moved out by only a month, it would still be a clear improvement. Therefore the dates in the report are revised to be moved backward by one month.

K. Tucker-Scott stated that at the last forum there was a question about why there are two timetable submission dates when it is possible for departments to do fall and winter loadings at the same time – perhaps in mid-May. K. Alnwick stated that they can be the same date but this date would be later than the submission date for fall and earlier than the submission date for winter. This could be discussed by the ad hoc work group which is proposed.

S. Cody noted that the NSSE survey reports the percent of students who get the courses they want and asked if the new process would change these percentages. D. Mason stated that he hears that students do not get the courses they want, and this might actually improve.

J. Morgan stated that he was still concerned with the ruling that the working committee, established by a motion to Academic Council, is not a committee of Council. He is not challenges the ruling, but would like it noted that this is an exception, and that there is no oversight of this committee other than having the Provost report back.

J.P. Boudreau asked if the work of the existing committee is complete, what the cycle of the proposed committee is, and, if the current committee continues to exist, what is the role of the chairs/directors. D. Mason replied that the results of the report might be seen for fall 2007, but may not be possible until fall 2008. The existing committee ceases when the motion is passed. The new committee would hopefully be active in soliciting input from chairs/directors. The President commented that there is an assumption that there will be effective communication with the key players.

N. Loreto asked if there were any students at the first Town Hall and noted that there were only two at the second. She believes the student voice is not being heard. She is concerned that the composition of the proposed committee is not outlined, and that there is no specification of one or more students. She suggested a friendly amendment to include “suitable representation of academic and administrative staff **and students**” Friendly amendment accepted.

Motion approved as amended.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

7.1 Course changes from the Chang School were presented for information.

7.2 School of Graduate Studies

7.2.1 Course changes from the School of Graduate Studies were presented for information.

7.2.2 New Graduate Programs - M. Yeates reported on graduate program progress as outlined in the table. He made five motions for the approval of submission to OCGS for new graduate programs.

Motion #1: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for an MSc. in Computer Science to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

A.Ganuelas seconded.

N. Loreto asked about the tuition fees. M. Yeates responded that the fees are the same as the fee for other programs, \$6600 /year.

Motion approved.

Motion #2: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a Master of Architecture to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

A.Ganuelas seconded.

N. Loreto again asked about the fees. It was responded that the fees for this and all of the proposed programs are the standard fees.

Motion approved.

Motion #3: That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for a Master of Journalism to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.

P. Schneiderman seconded.

There is already a two-year post baccalaureate program. N. Loreto asked about the difference in fees between the certificate and the graduate degree. This will be clarified.

Motion approved.

Motion #4: *That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for an **MA in Media Production** to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.*

D. Lee seconded.

In response to a question from D. Johnston it was explained that advanced standing was eliminated a few years ago. There are a series of certificate programs in CE. The admission requirement is a four year degree or the equivalent with a B average. There are CE certificate programs in which students can make up their deficiency.

Motion approved.

Motion #5: *That Academic Council approve the submission of the proposal for an **MFA in Documentary Media** to the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal*

P. Schneiderman seconded.

Motion approved.

Reports of Committees The Chair moved to item 8.3 with Council's approval.
8.3 Report #W2006-3 of the Academic Standards Committee

Motion: *That Academic Council approve the proposed curriculum restructuring in the Architectural Science program.*

E. Aspevig moved, A. Ganuelas seconded

M. Zeytinoglu briefly presented the report.

J.P. Boudreau commented that there is a nice synergy between the bachelors and masters programs. He noted that there are not many courses outside the program and there is not much social science or science. M. Zeytinoglu commented that there will be 6 Liberal Studies courses and they can choose URP and Interior Design. They can select physics as well, and the program meets the requirements of architecture programs. G. Kapelos commented that there was a significant opening of the curriculum.

J. Dianda congratulated the program on the reworking of the curriculum. There was some discussion and explanation of the computation of course hours in the program.

Motion approved.

8.1 Report #W2006-1 of the Composition & By-Laws Committee

Motion: *That Academic Council approve the By-Laws of the Urban and Regional Planning School Council*

M. Dionne made the report and moved, S. Williams seconded.

Motion approved.

8.2 Report #W2006-2 of the Nominating Committee

Motion: *That Academic Council approve the nominees for Standing Committees for 2006-2007*

M. Dionne moved and reported, M. Yeates seconded

It was asked why there was no student on Awards & Ceremonials Committee, and the Secretary explained that this was the committee that approved student graduation and awards.

Gerald Hunt commented that he was not on the Nominating committee. The Secretary will make the correction. It was noted that some members were serving a third term, and the Secretary explained that the By Laws permitted three terms in special circumstances.

9. New Business

9.1 Academic Plan. Update – E. Aspevig presented the report, stating that the academic plan is progressing well and all are to be commended for working toward achieving objectives. The report is not a fully detailed report but rather a high-level summary of the Faculty submissions. Ryerson is moving forward to becoming a comprehensive university, with undergraduate programs, graduate programs and SRC. Programs are growing out of Ryerson's unique and significant strengths. The University is continuing to draw on and contribute to the community. There is continuing strength in CE.

N. Loreto asked about the increased use of “clickers”. T. Dewan explained that “clickers” allow for audience response.

J. Morgan asked about TAs. Departments that do not have graduate students are reliant on York or U of T students. Departments are required to post for “up to” a certain number of hours but these hours can be reduced in the third week. E. Aspevig is also concerned, and there needs to be more predictability in the TA work.

J. Morgan raised an issue about the Ryerson Medical form and the information that is being given on that form. The Secretary will look into the matter.

V. Fox was introduced to AC.

The President thanked everyone in the room and wished everyone well.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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