

**MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2007**

<b>Members Present:</b>			
<b><u>Ex-Officio:</u></b>	<b><u>Faculty:</u></b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b>	
K. Alnwick	P. Albanese	C. Katsanis	G. Alivio
E. Aspevig	I. Baitz	J. Lassaline	A. Ashraf
L. Bishop	C. Baskin	R. Keeble	R. Castelino
S. Boctor	J. P. Boudreau	D. Lee	O. Falou
G. R. Chang	V. Chan	D. Mason	T. Haug
D. Doz	P. Corson	A. Mitchell	N. Loreto
Z. Fawaz	M. Dionne	M. Panitch	B. McIlroy
U. George	S. Edwards	S. Rosen	S. Omer
S. Giles	D. Elder	P. Schneiderman	J. Pierce
L. Grayson	C. Evans	A. Singh	R. Rose
K. Jones	E. Evans	C. Stuart	A. Warnick
A. Kahan	M. Greig		
S. Levy	R. Hudyma		
A. Shilton	G. Hunt		<b><u>Alumni:</u></b>
P. Stenton	D. Johnston		A. Ganuelas
			A. Walker
<b><u>Regrets:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent:</u></b>		
L. Brown	D. Androutsos		
C. Cassidy	T. Koulik		
T. Dewan	A. Lyn		
M. Dewson			
C. Farrell			
R. Gherman			
J. Morgan			
R. Ravindran			
D. Sydor			
A. Venetsanopoulos			
M. Yeates			
L. Yung			

1. **President's Update** – In addition to his written report, the President commented that generally Ryerson does a very good job of maintaining personal privacy, but that there have been a few incidents of postings on websites and emails which contain student names and numbers. He asked that all members be diligent and that they pass on the need for diligence to their colleagues.

The signed multi-year agreement has been returned by the province and there have been no changes made.

The President passed the floor to the Provost to announce new Faculty Awards. He acknowledged Judy Britnell and Gosha Zywno for their work, along with the task force, on developing these teaching awards. There have been Faculty specific teaching awards for decades, and a proposal has been accepted by the President and the Provost for the following additional awards each of which will carry a stipend of \$2000: Educational Innovation; Educational Leadership, Experiential Teaching; Interdisciplinary Teaching. There will also be a President's Award for Excellence in teaching, which will carry a stipend of \$3000 and a Chancellor's Award of Distinction, which will carry a \$5000 award. As this award is for extraordinary accomplishments, it does not need to be presented each year. When it is awarded, it will be presented at Convocation. The President will host an awards dinner for all award recipients and their partners.

P. Stenton presented the results of the 2006 Graduating Student Survey. He asked that any detailed questions be directed to him by email. The graduating student survey is of all students who apply for graduation. The survey has been done three times in the past, and there is a peer group of institutions. The response rate was 48%, which is very good. He briefly discussed several items in the survey. Compared to the previous survey there are several areas where there is significant improvement, and a few areas where there was a drop. It is clear from the survey that there is an issue around teaching assistants. Ryerson does better than its peers in some significant areas. Overall satisfaction with the university remains unchanged over time and is high.

N. Loreto asked if, in the future, the materials could be distributed sooner. The President replied that members can feel free to ask questions at the next meeting, or to email P. Stenton with questions. N. Loreto commented on the figures on student debt, asking if that level of debt is reasonable. She noted that some students at Ryerson have less debt as they live at home.

J.P. Boudreau commented on the concern about recommended readings and asked for a clarification on the item. P. Stenton replied that the item asks about student perception of whether recommended readings contribute to their growth and development. Ryerson is at the median for this item. JP Boudreau further commented that it is important to consider these items carefully, comparing the responses on required and recommended readings. He further asked about whether the concerns about TAs were broken down any further to whether they were lab TAs or other types of TAs and it was responded that it was not. It was agreed that the TA issue needs to be addressed more carefully.

R. Hudyma noted that the survey was sent to potential graduates, and asked how many of these students actually did graduate. P. Stenton responded that this number will be made available and that the data on individual Faculties will be reported later.

J. Pierce noted, and asked why, there were not many responses in Figure 5 on items at the bottom of the survey. It was responded that not everyone responded to each item.

The President stated that questions on the survey will be addressed at the next Academic Council meeting, or they can be emailed to P. Stenton.

**2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council** - D. Schulman reported that a revised election report had been circulated, and that elections for CE representatives and an alumni representative had not yet been held.

R. Rose asked if there were any rules about acclamation, as there were only two student nominees in Communication and Design. D. Schulman responded that there is nothing in the By Laws about acclamation.

**3. Good of the University** – The President reported that the *ad hoc* committee established to consider the Good of the University session has met and hopes to have a report to Council at the next meeting.

L. Evans chaired the session.

N. Loreto reported that there was an excellent turnout of students at the Day of Action, but a poor turnout of faculty and administrators and there were faculty who would not allow students to participate. There will be a Day of Anger on March 8.

D. Elder reported that the issue around the eighteen CUPE instructors who were not paid has been resolved, and he thanked the Dean and the University for that. He commended the instructors who continued to teach while not being paid. E. Aspevig commented that as soon as HR was informed of the problem, it did all it could to alleviate the situation and four of the instructors received financial assistance. HR was not the source of the problem.

A. Ganuelas, who is currently a student teacher, commented that he is impressed with Ryerson's reputation with high school students. He asked that everyone work to improve that reputation.

#### **4. Minutes**

Motion: That Academic Council approve the minutes of the January 30, 2007 meeting.  
D. Mason moved, N. Loreto seconded

N. Loreto asked that the minutes reflect that she stated that she commented on the amount of time that students work *to pay their tuition*. D. Schulman commented that she did not

say that. The President accepted that that was what she meant, as an amendment to the minutes.

**Minutes approved.**

**5. Business Arising**

**6. Correspondence** - The President read a letter from the Premier Dalton McGuinty to Mayor David Miller, in response to the letter on Ryerson's master plan, circulated at the last meeting. The Premier stated that the Ontario government is proud to be part of the proposed expansion, and that he looks forward to working with the city and with Ryerson to ensure the project's success.

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

Course changes were submitted for information only.

**8. Reports of Committees**

8.1 Report of the Composition and By Laws Committee - W2007-2

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the School By-Laws submitted by the School of Journalism**

N. Loreto moved, G. Alivio seconded

The President stated that these By Laws meet the requirements of Policy 45.

**Motion approved.**

8.2 Report of the Nominating Committee W2007-2

The first three names are replacements to Academic Council, appointed by the Deans, and are for information only. Approval is needed for the member of the Research Ethics Board.

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominee for the Research Ethics Board.**

M. Dionne moved, D. Doz seconded

In answer to a question from J.P. Boudreau regarding membership on the Research Ethics Board, D. Schulman clarified that there was a replacement for an FCAD member.

**Motion approved**

## **9. New Business**

9.1 Amendment to Policy 157: Establishment of Student E-Mail Accounts for Official University Communication

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the amendment of Policy 157: Establishment of Student E-Mail Accounts for Official University Communication**  
C. Stewart moved, D. Mason seconded

D. Schulman reported that continuing education students will now have Ryerson email accounts. They are now being included in the policy. Other changes to the policy are administrative.

M. Dionne asked a question of clarification on how this fits with other academic council policies such as the requirement to notify students for academic misconduct. D. Schulman responded that students are required to monitor their Ryerson accounts for such e-mail notices and that this is considered official communication. Students are given a choice on all appeals forms about how they wish to receive decisions.

N. Loreto commented on the change of name to VP Administration and Finance, and asked if this will this be changed throughout all policies, etc. She also asked if students keep their e-mail address when they graduate.

A. Kahan replied that a survey showed that a very small percentage of students who were allowed to keep e-mail addresses as alumni used them (<1%), and that, given the cost, the decision to keep them did not make sense.

S. Levy responded that he would get back to Council on the name of the VP position.

J.P. Boudreau commented that as the first point of contact in the appeals process, he appreciates the box on the appeals form indicating the manner in which decisions are to be sent. He asked that the form indicate that the address should be a Ryerson e-mail address.

C. Stuart noted that the implementation date of the policy should be September 2007, not 2008.

## **Motion approved**

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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