

**MINUTES OF SENATE MEETING
TUESDAY, January 27, 2009**

Members Present:			
<u>Ex-Officio:</u>	<u>Faculty:</u>		<u>Students:</u>
K. Alnwick	A. Bal	A. Lindgren	T. Hassan
S. Boctor	P. Corson	J. Macalik	M. Malik
M. Dewson	Y. Derbal	D. Mason	S. Martin
D. Doz	J. Dianda	A. Mitchell	J. McIntosh
U. George	D. Elder	Z. Murphy	H. D. Mwendwa
L. Grayson	A. El-Rabbany	M. Panitch	R. Rose
K. Jones	S. Espin	R. Ravindran	A. Sharif
H. Lane Vetere	P. Goldman	D. Rose	D. Sookram
S. Levy	R. Hudyma	C. Stuart	C. Sule
A. Shepard	G. Kapelos	N. Thomlinson	N. Williams
P. Stenton	J. Lassaline	D. Tucker	
M. Yeates	D. Lee	J. Turtle	
	A. Levin	A. Wellington	
<u>Regrets:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>		<u>Alumni:</u>
M. Abadir	C. Gouldson		S. Dhebar
M. Anthony	M. Haider		A. Walker
C. Cassidy	R. Keeble		
K. Chadha	Y. T. Leong		
J. Hanigsberg	K. Webb		
A. Kahan	P. Yoon		
M. Lefebvre			
M. Piacente			
J. Saber			
A. Singh			
A. Venetsanopoulos			
K. Zeppieri			

- 1. President's report** – The President's Update was included in the agenda. K. Alnwick reported that first choice applications across the system were up by 1.1% and Ryerson was up 10.1% (800 applications). This is the largest increase in the province. Ryerson has the second largest first choice applications in the province, after the University of Toronto. Applications from students who are not coming directly from high school are up 9% overall and Ryerson is up 19%. These results are credited to Ryerson's people and programs. There will likely be no new spaces in first year.

A. El-Rabbany commented that his son has applied to Ryerson as his first choice and is receiving lots of information from other universities, but is not receiving information from Ryerson. The Registrar stated that there is lots of electronic information made available to students and there is more information to come. R. Ravindran asked if the admissions trend is consistent, and K. Alnwick responded that the increase may be partially related to the strike situation at York, but Ryerson applications have been consistently increasing. There has been an increase of 63% in first choice since 2004. There is no way to project what the increases will be in future years. President Levy stated that there will be increased demand in the GTA because of the demographics. There is no other university with a higher ratio of first choice/places available. This is likely to increase. The reality is that there will be many disappointed students. Next year will probably see a decrease of about 100 students accepted to Ryerson. There is no intention to meet budget problems by adding more students. The 100 students represent about \$1M with fees and grants.

The President made a presentation on the budget. Information on budget pressures faced by all universities based on market downturns was presented first. Endowments are not generating as much interest as they were predicted to generate, leaving a gap in the funds available. For some universities, the gap has consumed reserve funds. Many universities have to put operating money into their pension funds – Ryerson does not. Ryerson has \$71M in endowments. Despite the loss in interest, the allocations to bursaries and scholarships will not be reduced. The University will strive for a balanced base budget with minimal lay-offs. One of the strategies may be an early retirement program, but there is not one proposed at the moment. Everyone is being asked to reduce budgets by 3-5%. There has been no word from the government on the funding for 2009-10, and no word on graduate programming.

- 2. Report of the Secretary of Senate** – D. Schulman reported that elections for students and for faculty-at-large and CE faculty are in process. R. Rose asked about the use of laptops in elections. The Secretary reported that a message was sent to all student candidates to clarify this. Guidelines will be reviewed to ensure that the principles of democratic elections are upheld.
- 3. Good of the University** – A. Mitchell chaired. N. Farrell, Ombudsperson made a presentation of her annual report to the community, included in the agenda. She presented data on the number of inquiries in specific areas, and made some recommendations with regard to future directions. These recommendations are in the areas of: student fees and their reporting; the handling of the charges of academic misconduct; and the wording of

academic standing variations to ensure that they are more easily understood. She also presented an update of last year's report, noting that there is more information online about who to contact for academic advice and commending the establishment of the Student Information and Advisement Centre. She also reported that Faculties are improving their advising services and students are more able to find out if they are qualified to graduate. The University has indicated that there will be a more timely response to student appeals and the Registrar has responded on the process for retroactive dropping of courses. She appreciates the civility with which people listen to other's issues and their willingness to resolve issues.

R. Rose asked about accessibility issues. N. Farrell responded that the increase in questions in this area is likely due to the increased number of students who use the Access Centre.

K. Alnwick commented on the fees recommendations, stating that fees information has been made more intuitive and understandable. With regard to the accumulation of debt, students need to signal when their academic plans are changed, but there will be a communication about this when timetables are posted.

T. Hassan thanked N. Farrell for her work and the work of her office on behalf of CESAR.

N. Thomlinson asked that Senate convey their congratulations to President Levy on his reappointment for a second 5-year term.

4. Minutes

MOTION: That Senate approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting.

R. Ravindran moved, D Mason seconded

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

MOTION: That Senate approve the amendment of its Bylaw as attached to this report, effective July 1, 2009.

N. Thomlinson moved, A. Mitchell seconded

The President commended the Committee for its work on the Bylaw.

Motion approved

6. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

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

7.1 – Report from TRSM – for information only.

Note that change regarding ECN601 on page 97 is deleted.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report of the Senate Appeals Committee – Notice of motion on the amendment of the *Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals Policy*. S. Laskin, Chair of the Senate Appeals Committee was present to answer questions. There was no discussion. The motion will be brought to Senate at the next meeting.

8.2 Report of the *ad hoc* Committee to Review the GPA Policy

MOTION: That Senate approve the amendment of Policy 46, *Policy on Grading Promotion and Academic Standing*, effective Fall, 2009.

M. Malik moved K. Alnwick seconded.

K Alnwick reported that changes to the GPA policy were made last January. Issues and inconsistencies were identified in implementing the policy. There has been extensive consultation with the Departments and Schools and there is now consensus on what is presented in the revisions.

C. Stuart asked about the impact of RTW is on students in part-time programs. A student taking 1 course who does not get a 2.0 may be RTW for a year. K. Alnwick responded that Departments and Schools can override calculated standings where appropriate.

Motion approved.

8.3 Report of the *ad hoc* Committee to Review the Course Management Policy –

Notice of motion on the amendment of the policy. D. Mason stated that he was in attendance at one of the committee meetings and that there was an addendum at the door that clarified some issues.

N. Thomlinson asked about the requirement for the posting of grades on all assignments. Sometimes students receive grades on assignments when they pick them up. If the grades are posted, students may not come for their work, and faculty will have to retain it for one year, as per FIPPA requirements. D. Schulman responded that the wording would be changed to reflect that students would be given access to grades on all assignments, tests, etc.

T. Hassan stated that CESAR was not part of the discussion. R. Rose stated that she was eventually part of the committee. She wished to raise the issue of plagiarism detection services. The policy has a requirement for opt-out statement, with the option of listing alternate arrangements or requiring students to consult with the instructor to get those arrangements. She has asked for the statement to state that the opt-out requirements must be in the outline. She also asked that the statement about the allowance of the use of plagiarism detection services when plagiarism is suspected, even when it is not stated in an outline or a student has opted out, be removed. The Secretary reported that the committee did discuss these issues and decided to leave the wording as it is.

A. Levin commented on the issue of intellectual property. The US courts have ruled that there are no intellectual property issues with turnitin.com.

D. Mason commented that he believes the “and/or” statement in section 4.3.1 should be changed to “and”.

C. Stuart asked that the committee look at the use of the words “must and may” in the policy. She asked about the retention of final exams given on BB.

J. Dianda asked about section 2.2.6 regarding missing a make-up exam, and whether the rule applied with or without an excuse. He also asked about the requirement to schedule a make-up exam if there are pedagogical reasons not to do so, e.g. if a midterm exam is reviewed in class before a student takes a make-up, does that student have an advantage?. He further asked about section 2.2.5 and the return of work to students. He asked what the consequences if work is not returned by the deadline.

T. Hassan agreed with concerns expressed on section 4.3.1 from the perspective of CE students.

N. Willaims stated that there are a few issues in the policy that need to be raised. She was asked to send the Secretary an email with her issues.

8.4 Report of the Academic Standards Committee

MOTION: That Senate approve the proposed revisions to accounting courses and the Accounting Minor with the recommendations and requests stated in the ASC evaluation section.

A. Shepard moved, K. Jones seconded

Motion approved.

9. New Business

N. Williams reported on the success of undergraduate students from TRSM in the JDC West – one of Canada’s most prestigious undergraduate commerce competitions, which is quite similar in structure to the MBA games. The team brought home more awards than any other Ontario school.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, PhD
Secretary of Senate