

SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, November 5, 2019
THE REAL INSTITUTE – 424 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor

MEMBERS PRESENT:

EX-OFFICIO:	FACULTY:		STUDENTS:
F. Anger	R. Adams	A. Miransky	M. Arif
L. Barnoff	D. Androutsos	P. Moore	Z. Bokhari
M. Benarroch	R. Babin	J. Neil	S. Donato-Woodger
G. Craney	A. Bailey	R. Noble	H. Elsayed
C. Falzon	S. Benvie	S. Rakhmayil	O. Karp
L. Fang	T. Burke	H. Rollwagen	J. Kewal
C. Hack	D. Checkland	J. Tiessen	M. Moghaddas
M. Lachemi	K. Dermody	M. Tiessen	K. Nguyen
S. Liss	A. El-Rabbany	M. Vahabi	K. Park
K. MacKay	A. Ferworn	N. Walton	V. Prevost
J. McMillen	R. Hudyma	A. Yazdani	D. Salman
D. O'Neil Green	E. Ignagni		H. Shahid
A. Saloojee	C. Kular		J. Spagnuolo
C. Searcy	L. Lavallée		
D. Taras	A. McWilliams		
S. Zolfaghari	R. Meldrum		EX-OFFICIO STUDENTS:
			K. Agyemang
			N. Brayiannis

SENATE ASSOCIATES:

A. M. Brinsmead

M. Zouri

ALUMNI:

N. Di Cuia

S. Rattan

REGRETS:

D. Cramb

J. Dallaire

M. Green

C. Bradish

D. Brown

M. Dionne

N. George

R. Kucheran

I. Mishkel

C. Shepstone

P. Sugiman

ABSENT:

D. Bitondo

K. Kumar

S. Sabatinos

4:30 p.m. Light dinner is available

5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Discussion – Academic Consideration Requests: Kelly MacKay and Medhat Shehata

5:50 p.m. Senate Meeting starts

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DISCUSSION:

A. McWilliams, Vice-chair of Senate, chaired this segment of the meeting & Kelly MacKay presented the topic for discussion.

The Academic Consideration Request (ACR) is currently a part of Policy 134/152. The work of this committee is to separate appeals and considerations into distinct policies and include undergraduate and graduate together in each policy.

There were a series of town hall consultations held last Spring that took forward a number of recommendations that were part of a report to Senate. The most recent report from APRC was in March 2019. We have some modifications to those recommendations.

One of the things that became readily apparent at the town halls, was a great deal of confusion surrounding what is an academic consideration request versus an academic accommodation.

What is an ACR? It is a request and is based on the rights of students to ask instructors for alternative arrangements relating to the academic work, based on what is defined as an acute unanticipated, short-term extenuating circumstance that interrupts their ability to meet those obligations to complete that work in that time frame.

Most of those currently occur through our health certificates. Many of the students, once they are getting their health certificates, their symptoms might have already subsided or gone by the time the certificates are brought forward.

Just to reinforce, an ACR is a request and not a requirement. That distinguishes it from accommodations. The request is adjudicated or decided on by the course instructor, faculty member, or in some cases, the Chair or Director. The request is for some sort of alternate arrangement and can take several forms, such as an extension of a deadline; different test dates; etc. Whatever arrangements occur, they must still adhere to our Course Management policy and the academic expectations for completing the course must be done so successfully.

What ACRs are not are accommodations which are temporary or permanent disabilities that have an impact on academic functioning. Student accommodation are covered under policy 159 – have more of a permanent or longer-term effect on the student's functioning.

ACR is not an accommodation for religious, or aboriginal or spiritual observance. Once again, it goes back to ACRs being unanticipated, urgent situations.

There has been a great amount of background work done by the APRC. Looking at the rational and other universities and how they handle these short-term and acute requests and work-deferral requests. Much of the work that we've done to date has really been focused on the principles of supporting students' academic success; maintaining academic expectations; and protecting academic integrity.

There are a few areas that are coming across the ACR landscape, such as the changing circumstances of students; and the increased focus on student health and wellbeing. We need to recognize that there are a full host of reasons that students need to have consideration to complete their academic obligations. It also is an important avenue to help us identify issues and provide referrals to appropriate support and resources for students, which may or may not be within the purview of the short-term academic realm; and to treat students as adults or partners in their academic journeys, it is really a philosophical shift as we look forward to how might we engage in a relationship with our students as they manage their academic course loads and other responsibilities in their lives today.

The committee also looked into the acquisition of health certificates, medical notes, etc. One of the reasons to update the policy is to help prevent the burden on our health system. We know that in some circumstances, students have been obtaining health certificates to help manage their workload or exam schedules, and that getting these certificates is costly to our Ontario Provincial health system because they are billed every time and students in most cases have to pay for these health certificates to submit to the university for processing.

Lastly, the rationale, which I mentioned early on, is to clarify our policies, have distinct policies for consideration requests from academic appeals, and also to clearly distinguish academic consideration from academic accommodation so as we update our policies we are clear in our language and expectations.

Some of that work also includes pilot projects, e.g. TRSM and FEAS, who ran two pilot projects over the past couple of years and have reported back to Senate, most recently last March. One pilot in FEAS related to academic consideration requests without documentation. So under certain limited circumstances, requests for consideration came without documentation. The results did show that the overall numbers of ACRs did increase, however, they did not increase for students who were considering submitting one or two considerations. The bulk of the increase was in students who were submitting three or more academic consideration requests which would include health certificates, because the limited circumstances surrounding their ability to submit was one per term. The conclusion being that these students would have submitted health certificates regardless.

The other pilot in TRSM was for online submission of health certificates. A great benefit of that pilot was the ability to look at the data and do some analysis and identify patterns of when health certificates were being submitted and used. We have some patterns that suggest that use is strongly correlated with students with academic challenges, the timing of exams, and students who had lower CGPAs. The ability to pinpoint opportunities for supporting students who need this support was the

benefit of this online submission system. I am happy to state that the online submission system is now available to all Faculties across campus, with the exception of Graduate Studies and the Chang School.

Based on all of this, we took a number of recommendations to the town halls. From the feedback received at the town halls and with stakeholder consultations, a series of major areas that would inform the bulk of a new policy on Academic Consideration Requests was developed.

Here is what is being proposed:

- That we focus on extenuating circumstances and not necessarily health and compassionate reasons. There would be no prioritization of what the circumstances are and that shifts the focus from the incident to the impact of the incident on the student's ability to meet the academic obligations for missed work. It would also continue, like it does now, to cover 3-day time period, and it must be requested within three days of the absence from that time period.
- The other part of the proposal is that there is an opportunity at one point in the semester to make an academic consideration request without documentation under limited circumstances. Documentation is always required: if it is not your first request, if one of the obligations to be missed is a final assessment (a test or final presentation, or performance), or if there is a potential for it to last more than the three-day period.
- Other feedback received when we talked about revamping the policy is the need to have a good system. We do have the online submission system now in place for the health certificates and we can continue documentation in various forms or no documentation in a situation when it is not required. Also we received feedback on the potential, as it did in FEAS, to increase requests for test deferrals as a result of this, which would put some pressure on faculty members to manage all of the make-up tests, etc. With smaller classes it may be manageable, but for larger classes it can be a workload issue. As a result we have a pilot coming on board in January that is a centralized system for make-up tests scheduling and invigilation supported through the Provost's office. We hope this will help to mitigate some of those associated potential workload issues. It is also separate and distinct from the test centre for accommodation. The student will be tracked separately as a pilot in terms of its utilization. It will also help us in terms of the principles of Academic Integrity.
- Lastly, the other systems, support and resources that are available through our Centre of Excellence in Learning and Teaching and others on campus. We have a universal design for learning committee and a number of resources to help instructors to build flexibility into their courses, which basically provide assistance in advance. E.g. if you have six quizzes throughout the term in your course that you only count five of those six quizzes and therefore it is built in if it gets missed for some reason and doesn't require documentation.

Any feedback or comments can be sent directly to policyreview@ryerson.ca .

SENATE MEETING:

1. Call to Order/Establishment of Quorum
2. Land Acknowledgement

"Toronto is in the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory'. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect."

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: *That Senate approve the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting*

A. McWilliams moved; and L. Fang seconded

Motion approved.

4. Announcements - None

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: *That Senate approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting*

D. Checkland moved; R. Babin seconded

Motion approved.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes - None

7. Correspondence - None

8. Reports

8.1 Report of the President

8.1.1 President's Update

The President Reported:

1) Those appointed in senior positions:

- Elder Joanne Dallaire, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Glenda Mallon, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management and Development

2) There were 3 ceremonies with 2167 graduates who graced the stage at Convocation. Two Honorary doctorates degrees were handed out. Thank you to all those from the community who volunteered or participated.

3) There were four faculty members who secured research funding through the prestigious Early Researcher Awards program:

- Prof. Atak, Criminology;
- Prof. Elbeshbishi, Civil Engineering;
- Prof. McCartney, Urban and Regional Planning;
- Prof. Taghipour, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

4) Gold medal awards at Convocation – all winners were female.

- 5) Future Skills Centre: The inaugural advisory board has been selected. Thank you to Steven Liss and team.
- 6) On Thursday, Ryerson will be hosting an alumni reception in New York City. The Mayor of Toronto (John Tory) will speak about the importance of city building. There are over 125 people who have confirmed their attendance. Thanks to former chair of the Board – Phyllis Yaffe, who is now the general counsel to Canada in New York.
- 7) The Provost is leading the search for the new Dean of Law. There are 150 spots; however, we received over 1900 applications – a 12.75% ratio position vs applications. Ryerson is the 2nd most applied in Ontario. This speaks to the reputation of Ryerson and the Law School. Thank you to Mark Lovewell, Anver Saloojee and others who worked so hard in bringing this to fruition.
- 8) Recent Federal election: Ryerson has been very involved with candidates using our facilities during the election campaign. Some events were not organized by Ryerson. The President's office sent letters to MPs and to all leaders. Cybersecurity and the Future Skills Centre is being well supported by the government.

8.2 Communications Report – as presented in the agenda

8.3 Report of the Secretary

8.3.1 1) Announcement of the new student Senator from the Faculty of Science: Zainab Bokhari from the Department of Biomedical Science.

2) The Secretary announced that as of December 3, the Senate meetings will be moving back to POD 250. She thanked the staff at the REAL Institute for accommodating us there for the past two months.

8.4 Committee Reports

8.4.1 Report #F2019-2 of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC): K. MacKay

8.4.1.1. Modifications of the Architectural Science program

Motion: *That Senate approve the modifications of the Architectural Science program*

K. MacKay moved; L. Fang seconded

Motion approved.

President Lachemi announced the passing of former chair of Architecture, Kendra Shanks Smith. He offered condolences to her family, staff and colleagues.

8.4.1.2. New Software Engineering Option in Computer Engineering

Motion: *That Senate approve the new Software Engineering Option in Computer Engineering*

K. MacKay moved; L. Fang seconded
Motion approved.

8.4.1.3. Modifications to the Mathematics and its Applications program

Motion: *That Senate approve the modifications to the Mathematics and its Applications program*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded
Motion approved.

8.4.1.4. New double majors in the Faculty of Arts: Politics and Governance-Criminology; Politics and Governance-History; Politics and Governance-Sociology; Criminology-History; Criminology-Sociology; History-Sociology

Motion: *That Senate approve the new double majors in the Faculty of Arts: Politics and Governance-Criminology; Politics and Governance-History; Politics and Governance-Sociology; Criminology-History; Criminology-Sociology; History-Sociology*

K. MacKay moved; D. Checkland seconded

Q: Could a student in second year can apply to this?

A: Yes they can once they have passed their first year.

Q: Will there be timeline and what is required?

A: Each double major has 13 courses. Typically, it will be at the end of the 2nd year for applications, but 3rd years can apply retroactively

Motion approved.

8.4.1.5. Modifications to the Collaborative Nursing program

Motion: *That Senate approve the modifications to the Collaborative Nursing program*

K. MacKay moved; N. Walton seconded
Motion approved.

8.4.1.6. Nine (9) course proposals for addition to the Liberal Studies elective tables

Motion: *That Senate approve the nine (9) course proposals for addition to the Liberal Studies elective tables*

K. MacKay moved; R. Meldrum seconded
Motion approved.

8.4.1.7. For information: 1-year follow-up reports for Periodic Program Review: Graphic Communications Management, Journalism, Politics and Governance, Sociology, Urban and Regional Planning

Q: When will the minors be proposed or implemented in Urban and Regional Planning?

A: We will have to get back to Senate with a response.

C: A Senator indicated that he did not receive an opportunity to review the document as a faculty member for Graphic Communications Management and suggested to put the topic on hold. President Lachemi suggested that the Senator and the Dean speak outside of Senate and come back with an update. He noted this was an item for information only and was not for voting.

8.4.2 Report #F2019-2 of the Academic Governance and Policy Committee (AGPC):

M. Benaroch

8.4.2.1. Provost's Update

The Provost spoke to the status of the statement on Freedom of Speech.

He stated the following:

- that HECQO has put out their Freedom of Speech report.
- The Ryerson Community provided feedback that if we were to change our document, it should be written in Ryerson's words.
- The Ryerson Community was content with the Freedom of Speech statement that's already on the website.
- HECQO was given their responsibility by government to evaluate all the free speech documents.
- All university policies currently online (including Ryerson's) do not need to be amended at this time.
- The initial rollout of all policies has met the government objectives.

8.4.2.2. Revisions to Senate Policy 2: Undergraduate Curriculum Structure - K. MacKay

Motion: *That Senate approve the revisions to Senate Policy 2: Undergraduate Curriculum Structure*

K. MacKay; D. Checkland seconded

Motion approved.

8.4.2.3. Revised Graduate Program Council Bylaws for the PhD in Policy Studies program – C. Searcy

Motion: *That Senate approve the revised Graduate Program Council Bylaws for the PhD in Policy Studies program*

C. Searcy moved; Z. Bakhori seconded

Motion approved.

8.4.2.4. Faculty of Law Council Bylaws – A. Saloojee

Motion: *That Senate approve the Faculty of Law Council Bylaws*

A. Saloojee moved; D. O'Neil Green seconded

Motion approved.

8.4.2.5. Modifications to Ryerson's examination and grading timelines – C. Hack

Motion: *That Senate approve the modifications to Ryerson's examination and grading timelines*

C. Hack moved; A. McWilliams seconded

C: Faculty members are delighted. Asked for confirmation that official holidays are not counted among the extra days.

A: Yes

Motion approved.

8.4.3 Report #F2019-1 of the Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity Committee (SRCAC) –

S. Liss

8.4.3.1. 2019-2024 Strategic Research Plan: Discussion and Notice of Motion

8.4.4 Report #F2019-1 of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies Council (YSGS Council) –

C. Searcy

8.4.4.1. New Program for the PhD in Management

Motion: *That Senate approve the new program for the PhD in Management*

C. Searcy moved; L. Fang seconded

Q: Are the four areas of specialization covered by TRSM?

A: Yes

Q: When is the launch and what are the 4 areas of Specialization?

A: Fall 2020 for implementation. Areas of Specialization: Digital Enterprise and Social Media; Real Estate Studies; Retail and Consumer Services and Strategy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Motion approved

9. Old Business - None
10. New Business as Circulated - None
11. Members' Business - None
12. Consent Agenda (for information only):
 - 12.1 Progress Indicators – 2019
https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/senate-meetings/agenda/2019/Progress_Indicators_November_5_2019.pdf
 - 12.2 Calendar Change forms:
https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/senate-meetings/agenda/2019/Calendar_Change_Forms_November_5_2019.pdf
 - Faculty of Arts: Economics; Geography and Environmental Studies
 - Faculty of Communication & Design: Creative Industries
 - Ted Rogers School of Management: Accounting & Finance; Business Management – Entrepreneurship & Strategy
13. Adjournment 6:56 p.m.