

Minutes of Academic Council
April 7, 1998

Members Present

Alnwick, K.
Aspevig, E.
Bardecki, M.
Black, M.
Creery, M.
Cukier, W.
de Haan, R.
DeLuca, A.
Dewson, M.
Easton, J.
Elder, D.
Finn, M.
Friesen, E.
Garnette, I.
Grayson, L.
Harrison, L.
Heath, S.
Ho, D.
Kapp, R.
Koc, M.
Lajeunesse, C.
Malinski, R.
Maskow, M.
McIntosh, C.
Mendelson, R.
Miller, M.
Mock, D.
Monro, J.
Pearce, J.
Pettypiece, A.
Sam Foh, C.
Sandys, J.
Sharifi, F.
Shukla, N.
Silver, S.
Smith, D.
Wallace, R.
Williams, S.
Wilson, L.
Zaver, N.

Members Absent

Booth, M. (Regrets)
Frost, A.
Haines, R.
Keeble, R.
Kelley, A.
Kennedy, D.
Levine, I.
Morgan, H.
Morriss, M.
Nam, S.
Northwood, D. (Regrets)
O'Connor, E.
Richard, M. (Regrets)
Shaw, D.
Sher, D.
Tindugan, M.
Trubic, J.
Wu, J.
Zamaria, C. (Regrets)

1. President's Report

The President began his report by announcing the results of the referendum to proceed to fund a new Student Centre. He then turned to L. Grayson, Vice President, Administration and Student Affairs, who said that she is very pleased with the approval of the referendum. She explained to Council that a number of formal steps now have to take place to define the process for translating the approval of the funding into the reality of a new facility.

The President announced the appointment of Professor Donna Smith as Director of the newly established Retail Program and Professor Rena Mendelson re-appointed for another year as Associate Vice President, Academic.

He also announced the results of the NSERC and SSHRC awards at Ryerson totalling, respectively, \$656,000 and approximately \$100,000.

R. Mendelson added that she is very encouraged by these results, particularly the very substantial NSERC grants, all but one of which are in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

R. Mendelson concluded her comments by inviting nominations for the Sarwan Sahota Distinguish Scholar Award, information on which has been recently circulated.

2. The Good of the University

At this point in the meeting Angelo DeLuca, Vice Chair of Council, took over as chair, as provided in the bylaws of Council.

He then invited Professor John Easton, Director of the Office of Cooperative Education and Internship, to brief Council on the operation of that office.

Professor Easton reviewed the structure and operation of the office. Overhead summaries of this presentation are appended to the minutes.

At the conclusion of his presentation he responded to a number of questions.

One of the questions was whether placement fees would be refunded if there were no placement in an individual case.

Professor Easton replied that the placement fee is a service fee and does not carry with it a guarantee of a placement. He said that, for example, were there to be no placement in an individual case and the student who was not successful in obtaining a placement were to raise the issue, their request would be given careful consideration.

In response to another question, he explained that the Co-op office always tries to carefully

match program content and the nature of the placement experience.

3. Minutes of the March 3, 1998 Meeting

It was duly moved and seconded that these be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

Secretary's Note: The Dean of Business, Professor S. Heath, voted against the proposal to freeze tuition fees at the March 3, 1998 meeting.

4. Business arising out of the minutes

The President noted that the Board of Governors had adopted a motion to forward parts one and two of Council's recommendation regarding tuition fees to the Finance Committee of the Board for its consideration in framing budget proposals. The third element of Council's motion was referred to the President for action.

The elements of the motion to which the President referred were:

1. To keep any tuition increases low as possible
2. To ensure that policies are in place to provide financial assistance to students in need and
3. To actively lobby the government for increase funding.

5. Correspondence

The President referred to a letter from the Honourable D. Johnson, Minister of Education and Training, Government of Ontario addressed to him, 2 March 1998.

In referring Council members to this item of correspondence the President stated that he is now following up on what, in his view, is essentially an unsatisfactory response to the earlier joint communication from him and the Presidents of RYESAC and CESAR.

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

Course change form regarding Interdisciplinary Studies

This was received for information.

7. Reports of Committees

April 1998 Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee Report

D. Mason, Committee Chair, presented the report.

He began by summarizing the report and then moved and it was duly seconded that

Academic Council receive the report of the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee,
7 April 1998.

R. Mendelson commented that the SRC Committee had made recommendations about doing more to celebrate the achievements of Ryersonians with respect to SRC. The achievement report is well received. What is the problem with it referred to it in the PPAC report?

D. Mason replied that some achievements that are listed in the achievement report are not really achievements.

R. Mendelson added that any listed activity may be of interest.

A. DeLuca applauded section 2 of the report, the recommendation of the committee that the university should be trying harder to find ways to support students in dire financial need.

With respect to the issue of internationalization and the suggestion that the address of this issue at Ryerson is “top down”, J. Monro said that the Business school has taken many initiatives independent of the administration of Ryerson in internationalizing the curriculum and student experience.

D. Mock commented on the history of internationalization, stressing that emphasis in this area and many of the initiatives toward internationalization grew out of grass roots committee processes.

A. Pettypiece applauded the committee on its intention to begin its work in September, saying that if the committee wishes to profile issues for consideration, an early start is essential.

C. Lajeunesse congratulated A. DeLuca, L. Grayson and others on the development and implementation of a summer student research assistance program.

D. Mason commented that the essential point of the PPAC report with respect to internationalization is that whatever Ryerson’s initiatives in this area are or may be, they are not perceived as being a central part of the Ryerson culture.

S. Williams asked specifically what ideas the committee has with respect to its concern that Academic Council should be revitalized.

J. Pearce commented that some group might be selected to better frame the agenda.

C. Lajeunesse commented that he thought that this was a good suggestion.

M. Finn asked whether members of Council feel that there is a morale problem at Ryerson and, if so, whether that is why Council is apparently is so disengaged.

K. Alnwick commented that there is, no doubt, a morale problem at Ryerson.

R. Mendelson commented that in her time as a COU colleague representing Ryerson at COU she heard many stories of stress and morale problems among faculty in most universities in Ontario.

M. Miller, her successor as academic colleague at the COU, confirmed that this continues to be in his sense based on discussions at COU.

The motion to receive the PPAC report and CARRIED.

C. Lajeunesse commented that Ryerson remains in his view Canada's university now and for the future.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.