

# MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

January 9, 1996

## MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Lajeunesse	D. Mason
K. Alnwick	M.C. Mayo
E. Aspevig	M. Miller
M. Booth	D. Mock
M. Bornstein	C.J. Monro
L. Braverman	M. Morel
I. Bryan	M. Morriss
J. Campbell	M. Novick
C. Cassidy	W. Owen
P. Cheevers	M. De Wolf for A. Peart (regrets)
M. Creery	F. Cappadocia for A. Pokas
W. Cukier	S. Port
A.R. DeLuca	N. Potts
E. Deutsch	C. Ravindran
I. Devine	C. Sam Foh
M. Dewson	J. Sandys
N. Dzeletovich	D. Shaw
J. Easton	J. Swain
G. Thomas for P. Flynn (regrets)	J. Turtle
P. Gharghouri	W. Vine
K.Goheen	C. Webb
L. Grayson	W. White
B. Hartley	P. C Wong
J. Hicks	
P. Jensen	
S. Karim	
L. Kelly	

## MEMBERS ABSENT

S. Kelman

A. Kittler

M. Kosny

L. Lewis

I. Levine

D. McKay

R. Malinski

A. Bonifacio

A. Heisey

M. Maskow (regrets)

J. Meslin

## 1. President's Report

The President began by wishing members a happy New Year. He said the challenge for 1996 is to implement budget reductions while continuing to offer university education relevant to the work world and to an increasingly diverse and demanding student population.

The President will hold sessions with faculty and staff at the end of January/early February to give a fiscal update and to solicit suggestions on possible approaches to budget reduction. To meet financial goals, and, given Ryerson's expense patterns, Ryerson must look at salaries and benefits.

The President congratulated Judith Bernhard on her article in the newspaper about daycare, saying she raised some important issues and Ryerson also received some good press. Congratulations were also extended to Dr. Lin, who has been elected a member of the Taiwan National Assembly, as reported on the front page of Saturday's *Toronto Star*.

It was announced that Ryerson has just received approval for an NSERC/SSHRC grant of \$650,000, jointly with the University of Western Ontario, for a Chair in Retailing. He offered congratulations to Ken Jones and Marilyn Booth from Ryerson, Mike Pierce from Western, and their team, as well as to Eatons and their partners, for the success of their collective efforts.

The President read a memo by Michael Dewson and Dennis Mock concerning the rights and privileges of Mode I professors who elect to switch to Mode II. (As attached). The President assured members of Council that he is strongly of the view that no faculty members should be

disadvantaged by moving from Mode I to Mode II. He promised to work with RFA to resolve issues arising from the current contract language.

The President welcomed Arnice Cadieux, his new Special Assistant, whose knowledge, experience and dedication will be essential in coming year. Ms. Cadieux will maintain her supervisory responsibility for Community Relations, and a search is currently underway for someone to be responsible for Alumni and Development.

## 2. The Good of the University

The President turned the meeting over to C. Cassidy, Vice Chair, who invited questions/comments.

K. Alnwick referred members to a document distributed prior to the meeting called the “Life Cycle of Curriculum Changes”, which he developed as follow-up to the Dean of Arts’ question at December’s Council meeting. (As attached)

In response to a question by S. Karim, it was explained that significant curriculum changes go to Academic Standards for approval prior to presentation to Academic Council; less significant curriculum changes go directly to Council for information.

D. Mock advised that the issue of probationary contracts has been discussed at the Academic Planning Group. K. Alnwick will review departmental procedures, and report to APG, which will formulate a response to Council, hopefully by the February meeting.

M. Morel asked if it is possible to have a feedback loop on curricular changes, perhaps a year after a change has been approved.

D. Mock said he had no problem with the idea in theory but felt the implementation process could prove difficult. A 7 year cycle for course review is currently in place; another cycle will start in a couple of years, based on documentation approved by Council. He undertook to discuss this issue further with M. Morel.

G. Thomas said some of the problems at RYESAC dealing with student complaints are really the result of the agreements between professors and students, that may be inappropriate. It may be difficult to determine what such agreements really mean and that takes up a lot of appeal time with all concerned. He asked whether Ryerson monitors such situations.

M. Dewson promised to take this matter under advisement and look at course management policies and how they are monitored.

D. Shaw asked if it was possible to make the RYESAC guide clearer on what students are/are not entitled to from faculty, aside from course management, for example, in behaviour towards students.. She asked if M. Dewson could include in his review.

### 3.. Minutes of the December 5, 1995 Meeting

It was duly moved and duly seconded that:

The Minutes of the December 5, 1995 meeting of Academic Council be adopted as printed in the agenda.

S. Kelman and J. Turtle noted that they were present at the December 5, 1995 meeting.

The minutes as amended were CARRIED.

### 4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

L. Braverman asked the President if he might now be able to respond to her questions regarding the Gerald Hannon investigations which she raised at the December Council

meeting, and which could not then be given a response. These questions were:

- How will Ryerson's image be addressed in light of the investigations?
- What do the investigations mean for academic freedom at Ryerson?
- Will these investigations change the current hiring practices at Ryerson?

The President referred to his letter dated December 20, 1995 as printed in the agenda on page 9 which states the conclusion of the two investigations - one an issue of academic freedom, the other behaviour. M. Dewson explained that Prof. Hannon had not breached the limits of academic freedom in the classroom; however, he did violate the collective agreement and has received a letter of discipline.

It was explained that the actions taken were according to the limitations imposed on the administration by the collective agreement. The President added that issues of academic freedom at Ryerson are decided within the context of collective agreements.

Part of Arnice Cadieux's mandate will be to focus on Ryerson's success stories and to promote its image as a function of its successes.

He assured Council that those who apply for teaching positions will be requested to provide full and complete curriculum vitae and other information.

The President referred M. Morel's question about the second investigation to M. Dewson who declined comment, as details must remain confidential under the terms of the collective agreement with CUPE 3904.

A question was raised as to whether academic freedom allows a professor to put forth ideas that are illegal. The President and Vice President, Faculty and Staff Affairs concurred that it depends on the individual case and how an issue is raised, but proposing illegal activity is not acceptable within the definition of academic freedom.

G. Thomas referred to a letter distributed on campus by a group called "Canada's Civilized Majority", which was addressed to the President. The Ryerson group BGALOR were upset about the contents and brought it to G.Thomas' attention. RYESAC asked that administration address what they felt are comments offensive to a portion of the student body.

C. Lajeunesse confirmed he had received the letter and has not yet responded, as he is unsure if administration can respond.

D. Shaw congratulated administration for its integrity in its handling of the Hannon case.

## 5. Correspondence

Correspondence was handled under Item 4, "Business Arising out of the Minutes."

## 7. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Faculty Councils

D. Mock presented the reports for information.

## 8. Reports of the Committees

### Report #120 of the Academic Standards Committee

The report of the Academic Standards Committee was presented by D. Mock.

#### 1. Radio & Television Arts

MOTION: That Academic Council adopt the proposed revisions to the Radio and Television Arts curriculum as defined in Academic Standards Report #120 on agenda pages 33 to 55.

Moved: D. Mock

Seconded: S. Booth

P. Cheevers asked what opportunities there will be for performance oriented RTA students to develop their skills in the light of the elimination of BRD 013. R. Gardner replied that opportunities for such development will be maintained in several places in the revised curriculum.

L. Braverman pointed out these inconsistencies:

1. On agenda Pg. 33 - BRD 014 - Is there a course number/name change?
2. On agenda Pg. 38 - 2 yr. RTA fast track program - Is it reduced to a 1 hr lecture? 2nd year and 4th year are different - 1 hr, lecture for 2 year program.and different course code for each.
3. On agenda Pg. 49 - Is a change taking place? Do they now only take only one course instead of two from the offering?

She was assured that before calendar copy is finalized, any inconsistencies, omissions or errors would be corrected.

D. Mason asked for a breakdown of the ratios for the 3 tripartite groupings. He noted that professionally-related courses are taught by the department, as well as professional courses, and questioned if this meets the intent of the tripartite curriculum policy.

D. Mock said categorization into professional/professionally-related courses, is essentially the same in the current and new programs.

D. Mason said that it may be appropriate to revisit the tripartite curriculum model.

D. Mock agreed this is a contentious matter and said he will take the matter under advisement.

L. Braverman stated that according to her analysis that the old program did not fit into the tripartite model, and the new one is even further away from the requirements.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Chemical Engineering Program

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the changes to the Chemical Engineering curriculum as appended to Academic Standards Report #120 on agenda pages 51 - 68.

Moved: D. R. Mock

Seconded: J. Easton

L. Braverman noted on agenda pg. 60 that the total hours should be 4 for Engineering Statistical Design, CHE301.

MOTION CARRIED

*Secretary's Note: On agenda pages 61 and 65, the course number for Science and Literary Imagination, ENG 415, should be ENG 507.*

3. Law Minor

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the revised Law Minor as outlined on page 29 of the Academic Standards report.

Moved: D.R. Mock

Seconded: J. Monro

L. Braverman asked why Law 122 was added when all Business students are required to take it, and when it is only available to business students at this time. Was the department planning to offer this course to other students?

J. Monro said it could be made accessible to other students, and the minor could be modified to fit the needs of other programs.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Three Certificates in New Media

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the three certificates in New Media as described in the appendices to Academic Standards Report #120 on agenda pages 74-83.

Moved: D. Mock

Seconded: M. Booth

L. Braverman asked why new media arts courses are being introduced, as there is already a selection of media arts courses in the Continuing Education calendar. She also asked about the sequencing of courses CDNM 318 and CDNM 319 on agenda page 80? In addition why is CDNM 319 the prerequisite for CDNM 320, not CDNM 318?

R. Carley assured Council there would be no duplication of courses with the introduction of the new certificates. The sequencing of the courses referred to above will be checked and verified or corrected.

CARRIED

5. Family Life Education Certificate

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the amended Family Life Education Certificate as outlined in an appendix to the Academic Standards Report #120 on agenda pages 87 to 92.

Moved: D. R. Mock

Seconded: R. Ravindran

L.Braverman asked for clarification of the course numbers for CSOC 113 - Sociology:

Understanding Sociology, on page 88, and ECE 216 and CECE 316, on page 89. These will be checked before the calendar is finalized.

CARRIED

6. Revisions to the Architectural Science Program

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the proposed revisions as defined in the appendices to Academic Standards Report #120, on agenda pages 93 to 112.

Moved: D.R. Mock

Seconded: M. Miller

D. Mason again raised his concern about the tripartite model, the idea that departments can teach whatever they like and call it professionally-related, and that it fits somehow into the model. He doesn't think it is healthy to internalize programs in departments. He said he raised these concerns as a member of Academic Council, not as a department representative, because he feels some programs are becoming insular.

D. Mock said he has sympathy for these comments but is satisfied that this proposal is justified. Academic Standards has sent a letter to the Architecture department asking them to monitor the engineering portion of the program, as ASC is aware of the importance of the mathematics and physics base for engineering. A response is requested from the department in 2 years.

M. Miller said Architecture has 22 full time faculty and 23 sessionals. This lends diversity and interdisciplinary teaching to the program that does not necessarily show up in calendar.

D. Mock explained that students also have access to other groups in the annual charrette involving Architecture, Interior Design and other programs.

L. Braverman said her calculations for the course hours vary from those described in the report and referred members to page 93 - "Revised", 2nd year should be 48; Landscape Architecture 81 should be 75, and on page 94 Landscape Architecture courses should be 15, not 16.

She asked why there were 15 liberal studies courses when only 6 are allowed under the tripartite structure. D. Mock said this includes the first 2 years plus 4 options.

She noted that on page 97 that the titles of the third year Studio 1 course are the same as the first year course, which is confusing, and also asked if there is a Structures 1 course?

D. Mock said that course names may be modified to make them more descriptive, to eliminate misinterpretation of the discipline involved, and to clear up any inconsistencies before being published in the calendar.

C. Cassidy also expressed concern about the internalization of curriculum that has occurred in the past few years, and feels it undermines the strength of Ryerson as a Polytechnic and its potential for interdisciplinary learning. She asked if it could be discussed at Academic Council. She posed these questions: 1. What is the point of tripartite curriculum? 2. What is our commitment to it? 3. How do we define "professional" vs "professionally-related"? 4. Who's responsible for it? 5. In what ways can we encourage departments to realize there are merits for their students to receive the benefits of other departments' faculty?

D. Mock promised to have discussions at ASC and then report to and perhaps lead a discussion at Council.

The proposed revision to the Architectural Science program were CARRIED.

### PPAC Committee Report

M. Kosny reported that PPAC is meeting on a regular basis, will go over a draft report at its next regular meeting, and produce a written report to Council for February; at that time one membership item will be brought forward.

### Award and Ceremonials Committee

D. Mock presented the written report for Council's approval.

MOTION: That Academic Council approve the honorary doctoral degree as Ryerson's highest honorary award and the amendment of the Committee's Terms of Reference to reflect this change as outlined on agenda pages 113 to 114.

Moved: D. Mock

Seconded: K. Alnwick

C. Ravindran asked about using "distinguished professor" and "professor emeritus" as special recognitions.

J. Sandys suggested that the Terms of Reference be ammended so that (c), 1st indented paragraph, would read "by members", not "from members".

W. White asked what kind of honorary doctorate Ryerson plans to confer, and will it be given

at the next set of convocations?

D. Mock said that Council is only being asked to decide the principle of what Ryerson's highest honorary award should be.

A. Kittler expressed her discomfort with offering a doctor of anything, since we don't have a doctoral program at Ryerson. She suggested we give an honorary Bachelors or Masters degree.

The Chair suggested, and Council agreed, to table the motion until the next meeting, as he felt that more discussion was needed at the Committee.

#### 9. New Business

A program by Open College on the topic of Organizational Behaviour was announced for January 9, 1996 on 91.1 at 9:00 p.m.

#### 10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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