

Minutes of Academic Council

February 2, 1999

Members Present

Alnwick, K.  
Aspevig, E.  
Bardecki, M.  
Cao, M.  
Elder, D.  
Gelmon, J.  
Granfield, D.  
Grayson, L.  
Kapp, R.  
Kennedy, D.  
Koc, M.  
Lajeunesse, C.  
Levine, I.  
Maskow, M.  
Mason, D.  
Mendelson, R.  
Miller, M.  
Mock, D.  
Morriss, M.  
Northwood, D.  
Pearce, J.  
Penny, K.  
Pille, P.  
Richard, M.  
Sandys, J.  
Silmberg, J.  
Sly, T.  
Steele, D.  
Pereira, A.; substitute for Virji, R.  
Woodley, M.  
Zamaria, C.  
Zaver, N.

Regrets

Booth, M.  
Creery, M.  
Cukier, W.  
Glynn, D.  
Hicks, J.  
Moore Milroy, B.  
Rodrigues, W.  
Salmons, E.

Absent

Black, M.  
Dewson, M.  
Ellimoottil, J.  
Finn, M.  
Flores, I.  
Haines, R.  
Harrison, L.  
Heath, S.  
Jakotic, M.  
MacQuarrie, D.  
Malinski, R.  
Sharifi, F.  
Silver, C.  
Silver, S.  
Slopek, E.  
Trubic, J.  
Valade, C.

1. President's Report

At the commencement of the Academic Council meeting, the President requested a moment of reflection for Ralph Myer, a former faculty member who passed away on January 25, 1999.

The President began his report by requesting that L. Grayson, Vice President, Administration and Student Affairs inform Council regarding the recent acquisition of a building. L. Grayson indicated a number of changes had been taking place, which included additional space for Engineering. In the area of E-40, East Kerr Hall, there would be faculty and graduate student offices and potentially a new lab. The physical plant

offices and work areas that had previously occupied this space would be moved to a small building at 111 Bond Street which had been recently purchased. C. Lajeunesse indicated that the Board of Governors had recently approved the purchase.

C. Lajeunesse indicated that the university was continuing to press for additional capital grant assistance either for new buildings or renovation of present buildings. He indicated the university was hoping to develop at least one other building in the future.

The Ryerson Summer Experience Fair will be occurring again this year. The date for the fair was February 10, 1999, and the purpose of the Fair was to provide summer employment opportunities for Ryerson students. C. Lajeunesse expressed his thanks to Liz Devine from the Career Centre for her efforts in regards to this endeavour.

The President extended congratulations to the students who had recently raised \$2,800 by selling toques.

The President informed Council that the Board of Governors had recently passed a motion which indicated that homelessness was a national disaster and which pressed the Government to address this issue. The President noted that Ryerson, due to its location, was highly sensitive to the plight of the homeless people in Toronto.

On a related issue, the President indicated that he wished to congratulate Margaret McMillan and all those who had worked on this year's United Way Campaign. The Campaign for 1998 had quasi-final figures of \$48,463 which represented a 33% increase in the previous fund-raising efforts.

## 2. The Good of the University

C. Lajeunesse turned the Chair of the meeting over to the Vice-Chair, D. Steele. The President indicated that the Vice-Chair would be chairing the rest of the meeting as the President was attending a function that evening. The Vice-Chair opened the floor of Academic Council up for comments from the Council members.

J. Gelmon enquired regarding professors assigning books that they wrote. He indicated that it seemed to be a conflict of interest and asked what would occur if the book was not suitable for the course.

C. Zamaria enquired whether or not there was a strict policy in this regard.

D. Mock replied to the inquiry indicating that there was a policy, and that it remained somewhat of a judgement call. He

indicated that sometimes the professor involved has written the best book available, which was why it was used as a text for the students, although he noted this may not always be the case. He indicated there should be some rational discussion with the Chair/Director as to why a professor's text book was being used, and that he would take the matter under advisement and review the policy and the specific case that J. Gelmon was referring to.

J. Gelmon described the case in question, to which D. Mock responded that he would like to review the case with J. Gelmon in the context of the policy of the university. J. Gelmon indicated he was amenable to this approach.

M. Bardecki requested that the minutes and the agenda of the Academic Council be more available. He noted that the Gopher system appeared to be out of date at the present. C. Lajeunesse responded that eforum was a new mode of communication recently made available to university community members, and that the Agendas for both Academic Council and the Board of Governors would be published along with a brief description of what occurred at the meetings.

3. Minutes of the January 12, 1999 Meeting

It was moved by D. Mason, seconded by J. Pearce, that the minutes of January 12, 1999 be approved. The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Correspondence

The Secretary of Academic Council indicated that two pieces of correspondence had been received in the office of Academic Council. Chelsea Balzan, a student representative on Council, had informed the Secretary that she was no longer registered as a student and had moved on to take a job. Academic Council, therefore, received her resignation.

Murray Pomerance, Chair of the Information Technology Committee of Academic Council had submitted a letter to the Secretary to be read at Council. The Secretary read the letter for Council (see attached).

D. Mock indicated that M. Pomerance had advised the Vice President in advance that he would be submitting the letter in order to provide the Vice President with an opportunity to respond. In regards to the first issues, D. Mock indicated

that a sub-committee had been struck which was a sub-committee of the Vice President's Information Technology Strategic Development Committee (ITSDC). The members of this sub-committee were as follows:

- D. Mason (Chair)
- E. Deutsch
- A. Penny
- D. Glassman
- R. Malinsky
- D. Brimley
- M. Dewson
- R. Lemieux
- G. Logel
- N. Zaver
- D. Steele

The Vice President indicated the Committee had met a number of times.

In regards to the second item, on the issue of the instructional use of laptops, D. Mock informed Council that presently they were in the third year of the LINK program, and a report would be due to the Vice President shortly. He indicated that policy issues (if any) would come to Academic Council via the Information Technology Committee.

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

There were no reports submitted at this time.

7. Reports of Committees

i. Report # 139 of the Academic Standards Committee

a. Proposed Degree Re-designation for Health Services Management

D. Mock referred Council to page 10 of the Agenda upon which the proposed degree re-designation for Health Services Management was described. He indicated the paragraph was self-explanatory, and moved the following motion, seconded by J. Sandys:

that Academic Council approve Bachelor of Health Administration as the degree designation for the program in Health Services Management.

The motion was carried.

b. Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements in Applied Computer Science

D. Mock reviewed the present Admission Requirements to the Applied Computer Science program, as well as the proposed admission changes. He indicated the program had reviewed Admission criteria at other universities, and noted that most of them do not require Physics. He also informed Council that the first-year Physics course was not based on the OAC grade 13 Physics, and as a result, Academic Standards did not consider students without OAC Physics to be disadvantaged in the program.

Motion moved by D. Mock, seconded by D. Mason:

that Academic Council approve the proposed changes to Admission Requirements being applied to the Computer Science program.

M. Cao enquired whether this change would act as a barrier to the students who wish to get into the Ryerson program. D. Mock indicated that in fact the proposed change in Admission Requirements would permit a greater number of students to apply to the program.

R. Kapp enquired what was meant by "the course does not draw on Newtonian Physics". D. Mason replied that semi-conductor Physics was the focus for the university course which meant that the classic Grade 13 Physics approach was almost irrelevant. D. Northwood also indicated that a lot of quality students would now be able to apply to the program with the change in Admissions.

The motion was carried.

c. Promotion Policy Variance in the Graphic Communications Management Program

D. Mock referred Council to page 47 of the undergraduate Calendar which referred to 8 variations in Promotions policy. He noted that the variation under consideration had been in place in the program for 38 years, but was not yet in the Calendar. D. Mock explained the basis for the promotions variations, noting that this description was found in the Students' Handbook. He noted that in order to bring the established practice into the current

policy framework, the variations in promotions policy had been recommended. These recommendations had been discussed with the faculty and students who supported variance.

Motion put forward by D. Mock, seconded by I. Levine:

that Academic Council approve an inclusion in the Academic Standing section of the Calendar (ref. pp. 47-49) a statement to the following effect: that in Graphics Communications Management, a failure in any of the GRA 012, 013, 014, 022, 023, 024 will result in a student being placed on academic probation.

R. Kapp inquired whether students who were doing very well in two of the three core courses would be required to re-take and re-pay for the core courses.

D. Mock responded that the Academic Standards Committee had made a similar inquiry and had been informed that it was almost impossible for a student to be doing well in one or two of the core courses and yet poorly in the third, due to the interrelated nature of the work in the courses. He indicated that the approach with these core courses was that they were interconnected in their content, but had been divided into three courses instead of having one for reasons specific to Graphic Communications Management.

K. Alnwick indicated that a great deal of discussion had occurred at the Academic Standards Committee on this issue. Academic Standards had been informed in great detail regarding the inter-related nature of the courses, and had been informed that it was to the students benefit to have the areas divided into three courses. One benefit related to an employer's ability to clearly discern the content of the courses and the marks obtained.

D. Kennedy enquired why a transcript would not show all three courses as a failure if they were so inter-related. In addition, she enquired why three courses could not be submerged into one course.

D. Mock indicated that Academic Standards had been assured by Graphics Communication

Management that the most appropriate approach was three courses. He requested I. Levine to speak to the issue of inter-relatedness as M. Black was unavailable to be present at the Council meeting. I. Levine indicated that although there was a lot of precedence for "umbrella" courses in his Faculty, the School of Graphics Communications Management had indicated that it was preferable to have three courses with three teachers and separate course outlines.

The motion was carried.

ii. Report # 86 of the Nominating Committee

E. Aspevig referred Academic Council to the Report of the Nominating Committee. The Committee wished to nominate five Council members and the President to a newly formed Composition Committee. The Composition Committee would be reviewing the structure of Academic Council, and the terms of reference and number of members on a Council committee. Recommendations would be forthcoming from the Composition Committee.

Moved by E. Aspevig, seconded by K. Alnwick:

that Academic Council approve the nominees for the Composition Committee.

A number of typographical errors were noted on the Nominating Committee Report, including C. Lajeunesse, J. Silmberg, and J. Bernhard.

The motion was carried.

E. Aspevig also presented the slate of nominations for the Chancellor's Search Committee. Motion moved by E. Aspevig, seconded by J. Sandys:

that Academic Council approve the nominees to the Chancellor's Search Committee.

Academic Council was informed that the Chancellor had indicated he would be stepping down from his duties effective July 1, 1999.

The motion was carried.

8. New Business

No new business was brought forward to Council at the time.

9. Adjournment

Motion put forward by K. Alwick, seconded by L. Grayson that the meeting should be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.