

# MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 6, 2001

## Members Present:

C. Lajeunesse	E. Aspevig
L. Grayson	M. Dewson
G. Mothersill	K. Duplisea
I. Levine	M. Truelove
S. Tullio-Pow	R. Mendelson
M. McCrae	G. Inwood
M. Booth	C. Zamaria
D. Glynn	D. Northwood
C. Matthews	P. Pille
D. Hornik	D. Martin
K. Behdinan	S. Quigley
F. Hare	M. Creery
B. Jackson	J. Okten
J. Pearce	J. Hicks
K. Marciniac	M. Siemiatycki
C. Wright	N. Zaver
S. Williams	M. Farrugia
J. Yee	M. Miller
J. Davenport	E. Doolaar

## Absent:

J. Sandys	J. Tersigni
J. Chavy	R. Elliott
P. Morrison	D. Herder
S. Singh	A. Aziz
M. Finn	M. Butko
J. Carvalho	G. Cressy
B. Lozano	A. Kaplan
T. Sly	J. Ellimoottil

## Regrets:

C. McCracken	T. Knowlton
K. Penny	K. Alnwick
R. Ravindran	Y. Yuan
D. Day	

## 1. **President's Report**

C. Lajeunesse, President, welcomed Al Wargo, Acting Secretary of Academic Council, to the meeting. The President made the following announcements:

- The President announced, with regret, the sudden passing of Dan McIntyre, Chair of the Ryerson Board of Governors. He also informed Council that as per the Bylaws, the Vice Chair is currently acting as Chair until elections are held at the March Board of Governors meeting.

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- Approximately one year ago, the government had announced it would allocate \$16 million to universities provided they increase student intake in 1999/2000. Ryerson has received \$1.8 million as compensation for the increase in student intake in 1999/2000. The Ontario Government also has set aside a \$30 million research support fund for all universities in Ontario. Ryerson is rapidly increasing research output, nonetheless, it received \$54,000 out of \$30 million. The University of Toronto has received \$12 million.
- An increase of 9.2% in first-choice applicants means that Ryerson is attracting more students.
- Dr. Zouheir Fawaz, Kamran Behdinan and Dr. David Greatrix of Mechanical Engineering received a grant in the amount \$350,000.00.

**2. Good of the University**

Co-chair, Cory Wright, presided over this portion of the meeting. S. Quigley inquired about the Report on Progress Indicators which was presented at the last Council meeting. On behalf of Michael Kolios, she inquired whether Council could establish a process whereby the Agenda could be more widely distributed, electronically, to the larger community. The President promised to see whether this is feasible.

Ken Marciniac, Theatre student, informed Council of the Theatre School's upcoming workshop "Showcase of Student Choreography". He also informed Council of RyeSAC's tax clinic which would take place in the Olive Baker Lounge, commencing Tuesday, March 13.

Judy Okten, Business Student, announced a project whereby the Group of Associated Leaders (GOAL) was formed to united students from different faculties and offered workshops and seminars relating to each School (e.g. presentations on public speaking). She invited students who were interested to contact her.

N. Zaver inquired whether it was possible to incorporate statistics on equity hiring in future Progress Indicator reports; he expressed a particular interest in these data in relation to the rate of hiring within middle management positions. L. Grayson responded that there was data available, but that she needed to look at the present data to see how this could be incorporated. She offered to look into the matter.

E. Doolaar introduced B. Tomlinson, a third-year student from the School of Fashion. She informed Council that the students of that School were being charged a rental fee of \$2,500.00 for the use of the Ryerson Theatre for the "Mass Exodus" fashion show. She stated that rental fees should not be borne by students, as the show is a course requirement, but should be an overhead cost of the Fashion School. She also informed Council that the students are currently raising funds to meet those costs and inquired whether such costs were only charged to Fashion Students.

L. Grayson responded that the Theatre has always been rented out to various users and costs were normally levied to Departments. She also informed Council that there was, initially, an agreement between Ancillary Services, the Program Director and herself regarding this matter. She informed Council that she regretted that students were being asked to bear this cost, apologized for the upset caused to students and promised to meet with her colleagues to discuss this matter.

M. McCrae, Director of the School of Fashion, informed Council that she will be discussing the matter with L. Grayson. She also informed Council that the Theatre is an extension of the lab component and should be costed as a lab or classroom expense rather than at the expense of the School.

One student informed Council that "Mass Exodus" is a crucial event which assists many Theatre students launch their careers.

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E. Aspevig agreed to work with L. Grayson to resolve this problem so that this would not have any detrimental effect on the students. L. Grayson informed Council that students have never been asked to cover the cost in the past, therefore, the charge will not be levied against funds raised to support "Mass Exodus".

**3. Minutes of the February 6, 2001 Meeting**

E. Aspevig moved a motion to accept the minutes and D. Northwood seconded. The motion was passed.

**4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes**

**i) Progress Indicators and Related Statistics**

E. Aspevig gave an update of the Progress Indicators report. He informed Council that an addendum to the report (Indicator 14 - Graduate Satisfaction) incorporated feedback from the last Council meeting.

**ii) Course Weight Changes in Fashion**

Regarding the proposed course weight changes indicated on Page 7 of the March 6, 2001 minutes, E. Aspevig informed Council that the course numbers were accurate.

**5. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for Council.

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

**a) Organizational Name Change - Faculty of Applied Arts**

Dr. I. Levine gave a review of the proposed name change for the Faculty of Applied Arts. He informed Council that after discussions over the last four to five years regarding this matter, consensus was reached to change the organizational name to the "Faculty of Communication and Design". He commented that the new name best reflects the Faculty and what it does. A number of Council members stated that with this new name the Theatre School would be set apart.

P. Schneiderman, Director of the Theatre School, was recognized. He confirmed that the School Council had recently also approved the name change.

The motion to change the faculty name from "Faculty of Applied Arts" to "Faculty of Communication and Design" was moved by I. Levine and seconded by M. McCrae. The motion was passed.

**b) Report #W2001-3 of the Standards Committee**

E. Aspevig gave a review of the Proposal to Establish a Distributed Learning Environment in Information Technology Management (ITM). He informed Council that this was not a proposal for a laptop program, but rather a proposal for a distributed learning environment. He added that this approach exists in other universities in Canada (e.g. Montreal) and the U.S., and that it has made substantial contributions to students' learning. He informed Council that the distributed learning approach was integral to the subject matter of the ITM program and that graduates of the program would work in a distributed IT environment. E. Aspevig informed Council that the

Academic Standards Committee had reviewed the material submitted by the School and endorsed it on the grounds of its academic merit.

He informed Council of a number of issues currently under review; issues that lie outside the Standards Committee's mandate:

- cost to students of the various leasing and purchasing options;
- the nature of fee under the leasing options: tuition or ancillary;
- the capacity of the University to provide the necessary technical infrastructure;
- faculty workload implications.

Council was also informed that the laptop policy has been under development and that ASC's review of the ITM proposal was undertaken with knowledge of the direction of that policy.

K. Grant informed Council of the benefits of the program. Among them:

- that students should have access to tools as they would in the industry;
- that the School of ITM would ensure that graduates are the most attractive to employers;
- that the program would be leading edge in using a range of technology.

Regarding the distributed learning program, he informed Council that after investigating costs, he recommended a mandatory lease program which could include tax deductibility. He also informed Council that 90-95% of IT students acquire computers and that the School's first priority would be the issuance of laptop bursaries for students. He added that this was the last phase of the proposal.

The motion was moved by E. Aspevig and seconded by B. Martin that Academic Council approve the Distributed Learning initiative in Information Technology on the basis of its academic merit.

S. Quigley moved and D. Glynn seconded that the motion on the floor be amended to include the stipulation from ASC that "Academic Council request the Vice

President, Academic to report back on any currently unresolved issues before implementation is formally approved".

E. Aspevig opposed the amendment, stating that Academic Council could rescind the motion before Council, if necessary, following the Vice President's report. After a few comments for and against the amendment, the motion to amend was defeated.

In response to J. Hick's question as to whether access to the program is part of academic merit, E. Aspevig replied that while access is a very important matter, it is not part of the academic merit of the program.

S. Quigley was concerned that students would have to amass expensive costs in acquiring the computers and wondered whether students would ever have the opportunity to stop the implementation.

C. Lajeunesse reiterated that E. Aspevig would report at a future Council meeting where the motion before Council could be rescinded if necessary.

The motion that "Academic Council approve the Distributed Learning initiative in Information Technology on the basis of its academic merit" was passed by the majority, with two members against.

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E. Aspevig moved and B. Martin seconded the second motion that “Academic Council request the Vice President, Academic to report back on any currently unresolved issues before implementation is formally approved”.

C. Wright moved to strike this motion and substitute that an ad hoc committee should be formed to include: the Vice President, Academic; one member of ITM, one faculty and two students to report back to Council. He felt that the motion did not reflect students’ concerns adequately.

E. Aspevig stated that he is responsible, as Vice President, Academic, to deal with this matter, and that he did not feel an ad hoc committee would be appropriate.

J. Davenport opposed the motion, stating that he felt students and faculty should be consulted to ensure the process is comprehensive.

D. Northwood informed Council that there should be a time line set on this process.

E. Aspevig stated that a number of these items in the report are in progress and that he hoped to be able to report back at the next Council meeting.

In response N. Zaver’s question as to whether there were impediments to allowing students to get involved, E. Aspevig replied that it was his job as Vice President to address the issues outlined as his responsibilities in the ASC report.

Upon a request by R. Mendelson to put the question to the floor, the motion was put to a vote and passed by the majority, with four members against.

i) **Proposed Changes to the Minor in Public Administration**

E. Aspevig reviewed the Public Administration Minor which was proposed to establish a single curricular framework for all students and programs accessing this minor. The Minor consists of two required and four elective courses from a list of 13. He informed Council that ASC believes that the streamlining has benefits.

E. Aspevig moved and K. Behdinan seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

ii) **Proposed Minor in Occupational Health and Safety**

E. Aspevig explained that the intent of this proposal was to allow wider access to a larger range of students.

E. Aspevig moved and T. Sly seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

iii) **Proposed Minor in Management of Information Systems and Technology**

E. Aspevig reviewed this Minor, stating that the proposal is for a second Minor to be offered by ITM, emphasizing the telecommunication domain. He informed Council that the Minor would be offered, in the first instance, to students in Public Administration, but the School of ITM intends to make the courses available more broadly over time, thereby opening the Minor to other students as well.

He moved the motion which was seconded by K. Behdinan. The motion was passed.

iv) **Proposed Certificate in Financial Planning**

This proposal was withdrawn.

v) **Proposed Certificate in Design Management**

E. Aspevig reviewed the proposed certificate, which included eight courses of which three are required. He explained that the certificate was designed to satisfy an unmet demand for university-level education in Design Management.

E. Aspevig moved and I. Levine seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

vi) **Proposed Certificate in Image Arts**

E. Aspevig reviewed the proposed certificate, which is to establish a more broadly based certificate that introduces one of the three program disciplines, theoretical and historical content associated with Image Arts.

E. Aspevig moved and M. Booth seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

vii) **Proposed Certificate in International Business**

E. Aspevig explained that the proposed certificate was intended to satisfy a need for part-time, university-level education in the field of international business and, more specifically, the various competencies required by international business professionals. He informed Council that no university in the GTA currently offers a certificate of this type.

He moved the motion which was seconded by D. Glynn. The motion was passed.

viii) **Proposed Revisions to the Certificate in Training and Development**

E. Aspevig explained that this proposal was intended to bring clearer focus to training competencies and to establish admission requirements more precisely suited to the advanced nature of the curriculum.

He moved the motion which was seconded by B. Martin. The motion was passed.

ix) **Report #W2001-3 of the Nominating Committee**

D. Northwood presented the report regarding new nominations for the Research Ethics Board and for the Animal Care Committee.

Those nominated were acclaimed.

As there was no other business to report, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.