

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, April 2, 2002

Members Present:

C. Lajeunesse	E. Aspevig
L. Grayson	M. Dewson
R. Mendelson	J. Sandys
I. Levine	M. Booth
J. Cook	K. Alnwick
R. Virji	C. Matthews
Y. Yuan	F. Salustri
S. Williams	M. Creery
G. Mothersill	D. Glynn
J. Hicks	R. Rodrigues
O. Bay	S. Wasti
M. Dowler	G. Inwood
K. Penny	K. Hampson
D. Martin	M. Mazerolle
D. Heyd	A. Pevec
R. Ravindran	N. Lister
S. Quigley	G. Turcotte
M. Ward	A. Furman
F. Hare	C. Cassidy
T. Knowlton	J. Monro
M. Barber	R. Malinski
T. Barbiero	B. Jackson
K. Marciniac	

Members Absent:

M. McCrae	D. Martin
L. Lum	J. Yee
S. Sabih	R. Kup
F. Frkovic	M. Rashid
D. Amernic	N. Parmar
D. Elder	D. Tsanos
D. Henriques	G. Cressy

Regrets:

D. Northwood	S. Wicary
A. Cross	J. Ellimoottil
N. Zaver	K. Law
R. Fleming	

1. President's Report

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) has announced that Community Colleges have been permitted to offer degrees for a total of 12 programs. Five of these are in the Greater Toronto Area and include:

Centennial College:

Degree in Applied Information Science (Program: Computer & Communication Networking)

George Brown College:

Degree in Applied Business (Program: Financial Services)

Humber College:

Degree in Applied Business (Program: E-Business);

Degree in Applied Arts (Program: Paralegal Studies)

Seneca College:

Degree in Applied Business (Program: Financial Services Management)

Degree in Applied Technology (Program: Environmental Site Remediation)

Sheridan College:

Degree in Applied Arts (Program: Animation)

The Federal Government has released two consultation papers as part of its Innovation Strategy. These are entitled "Innovation" and "Skills and Learning". The "Innovation" paper outlines goals to increase enrolment in graduate programs, double master's and doctoral fellowships, double the investment in research, make it easier to recruit foreign faculty and students, and to improve loans for part-time students, aboriginal students and students with disabilities. The "Skills and Learning" paper emphasizes Life-long Learning, for which Ryerson is noted, and which will present further opportunities for Continuing Education. It was noted that these are consultation papers and have no new Federal spending promises.

The President was pleased to announce some of the Honorary Doctorates which will be awarded this year. Honorary degrees in Business will be awarded to George Heller, President of The Bay, who will become Chair of the Retail Management Advisory Council, and Martha Billes, head of Canadian Tire. One of the degrees in Communication & Design will be awarded to Mira Godard, owner of the Mira Godard Gallery. Honorary Doctorates in Arts & Community Services will be awarded to Jean Pelletier, a prominent public servant, and James Orbinsky, founder of Physicians Without Borders. The Engineering Faculty will honor Robert Brown, head of Bombardier, and Hubert Astier, President of Versailles.

The President congratulated Margaret MacMillan on her receipt of the Duff Cooper literary prize in the UK for her book on the Treaty of Versailles. She will be leaving Ryerson to become Provost of Trinity College.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council

Diane Schulman reported on the removal of Policy 137, which is now re-written as the By-Laws of the School of Graduate Studies Council; and the reformatting of Policy 46 - the "GPA" Policy; Policy 139 - the Policy and Procedures for Funding Graduate Students; and Policy 95 - the Policy on International Institutional Academic Agreements.

3. The Good of the University

Odelia Bay congratulated Michael Doucet on his re-election to the Presidency of the RFA.

Paul Stenton and Keith Alnwick made a presentation to Council on the Double Cohort. The presentation notes is appended to these minutes. Government enrolment projections for the next few years will be beyond what was originally projected, in part due to increases in participation numbers. The three main factors to be considered in the ability to accept new students are funding, program capacity and space needs. Ryerson's increase in enrolment has already begun, and the University is part of the way to its target enrolment already. There is also concern about the admission qualifications of students and the comparison between those with OAC credits and those with the new 12M/U credits.

Ravi Ravindran expressed concern about the inequity of the rate of pay for Academic Assistants. While the procedures in the policy state they receive \$20/hr, they do not in some programs.

Michael Doucet, RFA President, requested that the memo he sent to the Composition & By-Laws Committee regarding RFA membership be sent to all members of Academic Council. The Secretary of Academic Council agreed to do so.

Sajjad Wasti noted that there was no vegetarian food provided. The Secretary responded that this was an oversight.

John Cook asked to address the Vice-President, Academic regarding his concern about the items in the Graduating Student Survey on development of skills and personal traits, moral and ethical development. He feels that the responses show that Ryerson has fallen short in this area, preparing students to enter the workforce but not the community.

Errol Aspevig responded by saying that the University should be concerned with this issue, and that there have been attempts to address the need for such student development in the liberal studies portion of the curriculum. These courses offer a degree of electivity, and as he is aware that they are only a small component of the overall curriculum, they may not provide a coherent picture of the many aspects of student development. He pointed out that the proposed curriculum being presented later in the meeting for a degree in Arts reflects the concern, and that aspects of the degree may assist the University as a whole in this area. There are some who wish to look at the tripartite curriculum and build ways to address these concerns, as the issues become more and more important.

Tom Knowlton observed that there was no statistical way to know if Ryerson actually had a problem in this area as there are no comparators. Other universities may have similar results. Judith Sandys agreed and said that there are many other Faculties which address these needs, not just Arts. Students may also feel that their moral and ethical development takes place somewhere other than at the University. Paul Stenton will provide comparison data on this issue.

John Cook agreed that such data would be important, and said he was placing no blame, but rather felt that the education students receive should not be just about private success, but also about contribution to their communities. He said he had no specific recommendations to make, and just hoped to raise awareness of the issue as a long-term commitment of the University. He urged that more public meetings, with more opportunity for debate of the issues, be scheduled for the coming year.

Tom Barbiero made several comments in response to the discussion, including the mention of the upcoming conference on Economic Integration into the International Economy, to be held on May 17-19. Representatives from many countries will be attending.

Ken Marciniac stated that Linda McQuaig would be speaking at the upcoming Ontario Transition Conference, hosted by RyeSAC. Her talk is open to the Ryerson Community.

4. Minutes of the March 5, 2002 Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes. C. Matthews moved and G. Mothersill seconded.

Correction: S. Wasti was present at the meeting.

Passed unanimously.

5. Business arising out of the Minutes

The memo from Paul Stenton was presented, showing that the apparently anomalous statistics on student debt found in the Survey of Graduates, is indeed correct.

Keith Alnwick reported that the Engineering GPA and standing variations passed at the last meeting would be in place for the Fall 2002 semester.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

Errol Aspevig presented the reports as listed. Two additional Course Change Forms from Business Management (Economics Minor) and Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and GIS, were distributed at the meeting.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report #W2002-3 of the Nominating Committee

The report was presented by Katherine Penny, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to approve the members of Academic Council for the 2002-3 year.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the nominees as presented in the report of the Nominating Committee.

Seconded by G. Turcotte

Passed unanimously.

8.2 Report #W2002-3 of the Academic Standards Committee

Errol Aspevig presented the motions and report. Carol Stuart, Vice-Chair of the committee, presented material on each area.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the designation of *Bachelor of Arts (Disability Studies)* for students graduating from the *School of Disability Studies*

Seconded by J. Sandys.

No students have yet graduated from this program so there is no retroactivity issue. The program is unique as it does not have a medical focus, so there are no real comparator programs.

Passed unanimously.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the designation of *Bachelor of Arts (Early Childhood Education)* for students graduating from the *School of Early Childhood Education*

Seconded by S. Williams.

The change is consistent with the move to replace Applied Arts degrees in the Faculty of Community Services.

Passed unanimously.

Motion: That Academic Council approve the program in *Arts and Contemporary Studies* leading to the *Bachelor of Arts (Arts and Contemporary Studies)*.

Seconded by K. Marciniac.

This is an exciting new program for Ryerson. It is the first Faculty-based program. It is an interdisciplinary program, and it applies the focus of the Ryerson model to an Arts-based degree. It will prepare students to deal with the rapidly changing world, and stresses life-long learning. There will be 80 students enrolled in Fall 2003.

An erratum was distributed regarding the number of courses.

The Committee did make recommendations in its report concerning marketing of the program in such a way that makes the introductory nature of the courses clear, the offering of the ACS102 course on a pass/fail basis, and the need for collaboration with the Applied Chemistry and Biology and Math, Physics and Computer Science departments on the development of introductory courses.

It was clarified that the “Alternatives” listed under the Professional Electives on page 62 of the Agenda, referred to courses which would be offered in the future as possible. It was also clarified that the courses developed in Math and Science would be introductory level for students in the Science and Technology stream. No courses currently offered in these areas seem appropriate. It was also stated that there will be collaboration with the Faculty of Communication & Design, and that some preliminary discussions had already occurred.

Some of the Liberal Studies courses listed for the program bear some resemblance to existing courses. It was explained that the new courses would be more content oriented than the current courses. These would not be available as Liberal Studies courses. It was suggested that this issue be revisited at a later time to see what, in fact, the differences are between these two types of courses. Errol Aspevig noted that what is a Liberal Studies course in one program may be a professional course in another.

Passed unanimously.

9. New Business

Sophie Quigley raised the issue of changes made in the Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional Councils section concerning graduate programs. She requested clarification on what each of the sign-offs were on the form, and Rena Mendelson replied and explained. S. Quigley was concerned about the way in which such changes occurred as they did not pass through Department/School Councils. R. Mendelson explained that the Grad Council acted for Graduate Studies in much the same way as the Standards Committee acts for undergraduate programs. She advised that individual faculty members should bring their issues concerning graduate programs to their departments.

Jane Monro expressed her appreciation for the new microphone system, allowing her to hear all of the discussion.

Michael Doucet expressed concern, for a colleague, about the Academic Council election process, especially in the Faculty of Arts. He felt that there was no notice given and no opportunity for a proper election. Diane Schulman, Secretary of Academic Council, responded that an email notice (forwarded to his colleague that day) had been sent to all Deans, Chairs, Directors and Departmental Assistants, with a complete outline for the procedures. In addition, there were posters hung across the University, advertisements in

both the *Ryersonian* and the *Eyeopener*, and that a timeline for elections had been published in the January Academic Council agenda. She had no control over what happened to the process after that, but nomination forms had been received. Carla Cassidy responded that she would follow up to see what might have occurred in the Faculty of Arts election.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.