

**MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2004**

**Members Present:**

**Ex-Officio:**

K. Alnwick  
E. Aspevig  
M. Booth  
C. Cassidy  
M. Dewson  
L. Grayson  
A. Kahan  
T. Knowlton  
I. Levine  
C. Matthews  
P. Stenton  
S. Williams  
M. Yeates

**Faculty:**

M. Barber  
D. Checkland  
S. Cody  
J. Cook  
J. Dianda  
M. Dionne  
M. Dowler  
D. Elder  
G. Inwood  
N. Lister  
A. Lohi  
J. Monro  
D. Mason

**Students:**

V. Campbell  
A. Deslauriers  
N. Felorzabihi  
B. Lewis  
C. Livett  
S. Marshall  
E. Sullivan

**Alumni:**

J. Gryn  
V. O'Brien

**Regrets:**

S. Boctor  
C. Evans  
Z. Khan  
C. Lajeunesse  
K. Marciniac  
S. Mirowski  
L. Lum  
K. Penny  
K. Raahemifar  
J. Sandys

**Absent:**

Moyeed Uddin Ahmed  
A. Cherrie  
G. Diamantakos  
P. George  
D. Luther  
D. Martin  
D. Mason  
R. Nazareth  
R. Rodrigues

**1. President's Report** - Errol Aspevig chaired the meeting as Acting President. He reviewed a number of university issues addressed in the Federal Budget.

The following events recognizing students were held in the past few weeks: Student Services Leadership Awards; Golden Key Society Induction Ceremony (including three Honorary members: Tony Conte, Adam Kahan and Alfred Jean-Baptiste); and Tri-mentoring Recognition Awards. The following events will be held in the next few weeks: Outstanding Achievements of Athletes; and Dennis Mock Student Leadership Awards.

The CESAR Equity conference was held the weekend of March 20 with almost 300 participants.

The Ryerson University node of the High Performance Computing Virtual Laboratory (HPCVL) was launched on March 8, and the generous donation of equipment by Sun Microsystems was recognized.

A COU lobby campaign was launched prior to the announcement of the federal budget. It included radio spots and newspaper advertisements to increase awareness of universities.

The Awards & Ceremonials Committee has approved the following Honorary Doctorates for Spring Convocations:

Communication & Design: (Wednesday June 9) Phyllis Lambert (morning), Ted & Loretta Rogers (afternoon)

Engineering & Applied Science: (Thursday, June 10) Fang Minglun (morning), Tak Wah Mak (afternoon)

Community Services: (Tuesday June 15) Sheela Basrur (morning)

Arts & Community Services: (Tuesday, June 15) Albert Berry (afternoon)

Business: (Wednesday, June 16) Yves Fourtier (morning);  
(Thursday, June 17) Ed Kilroy (morning), Ron Besse (afternoon)

The Board of Governors approved the following individuals for the Presidential Search Committee: Ray Protti, Janice Fukakusa, Ray Chang, Greg Konigshaus (Alumnus), Christine Ribeiro (Student), Ken Scullion (Staff), David Amborski (Faculty). Academic Council previously elected Maurice Mazerolle, Sue Williams, Perry Schneiderman and Michelle Dionne. (Note: Board Chair Michael Guerierre and Vice Chair Ramesh Zacharias are also on the Committee.)

Referring to an infoline message:

- X The Board approved 5 new graduate programs. A Master's program in Immigration & Settlement Studies, which draws on faculty from many parts

of Ryerson, and a joint Master's program with George Eastman House in Rochester, NY, in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management, will begin in the fall assuming there is sufficient enrolment. The first three stand alone doctoral programs at Ryerson were also approved (the Ph.D. in Communication & Culture is a joint program with York): Civil Engineering, Computer and Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. These require final approval from OCGS.

- X Approval was given to negotiate and agreement to develop a Business building on the southeast corner of Dundas and Bay. All four schools within the Faculty will be housed on three large floors. The building is slated to open in Fall 2006.
- X As a result of a \$1 million gift from Ron Besse, Business '60, Chair of Ryerson's \$100 million Invest in Futures campaign, Ryerson will be proceeding with the development of a new Information and Learning Commons in the Library that will be named in his honour. C. Matthews reported that the main floor will be renovated, bringing together the collective expertise of a number of groups. There will be two new classrooms. A background document will be placed on the library website. There will be renovation this summer, but the library is committed to maintaining services.

## **2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council**

D. Schulman reported that Stacey Mirowski and Vincent Tigue were elected as CESAR representatives to Academic Council.

## **3. Good of the University – Sheila O'Neill volunteered to chair.**

B. Lewis reported that from a student perspective, the federal budget means more student debt and does not increase accessibility. He stated that there needs to be core funding for education from the federal government.

D. Checkland stated that collegial governance is important to the faculty and the university. He had four areas of concern. He believes that the AAA policy for appointment of academic administrators does not cover a number of positions which have arisen in the last decade. The RFA has asked that the policy be open for discussion, and this has not happened. He is also concerned that, despite its wording, the Academic Plan, which is in its infancy, is prejudiced toward efficiency rather than efficacy and toward SRC over other values. He further stated that the definition of SRC has been a topic of debate and that there is a concern that Ryerson is in danger of aping other universities in not considering other than peer reviewed journal articles as SRC, thus devaluing community involvement. His fourth concern is that there have been a record number of tenure and promotion denials this year, with Deans overruling unanimous recommendations of DACs. While Deans are empowered to do this and there are cases where the Deans should exercise this authority, it is troubling when Deans do this because they have established a higher tenure bar than the DACs. There needs to be realistic, achievable and clear expectations for the year following the denial.

M. Dewson agreed that it is important that the collegial governance process be followed. The AAA policy is designed to cover the academic administrators at the level of Chair/Director and above. The process is fairly onerous and time consuming so it should not be extended over too many positions where it is not warranted. The University has had an interest in pursuing revisions in the past, but the last faculty/board joint committee had its recommendations rejected by Academic Council and the attempt died.

The issues around promotion and tenure are important. Tenure requires the input of department committees and their expertise, but the Dean has considerations which may go beyond the department to reflect standards across the Faculty. There are therefore situations where department decisions may not be in alignment with the Faculty. It is agreed that there should be clear communication on probationary contracts and that the standards should be well articulated amongst faculty, DAC's, and Deans. He is willing to continue discussing these matters further with Dr. Checkland.

E. Aspevig stated that the issue of efficiency was raised by the RFA during the consultation process before the plan was approved and that he was not concerned that efficiencies would trump effectiveness. Efficient use of resources is essential to be effective. All are aware that there are Mode I faculty whose focus is teaching. Some of these faculty also engage in research and publication. It is also recognized that there are a variety of SRC activities among Faculties. Peer reviewed publications are not the only acceptable SRC, but peer review is essential to SRC activity or endeavors. SRC activity may include work which is adjudicated or juried publicly, meeting standards of experts in the field. In fact, granting councils recognize this, and Communication & Design has received recognition for this kind of work. One of the first Ryerson Research Professors is a filmmaker. Contributions to the solution of community problems are important and part of the service role of faculty. Research involving the community is another matter and standards are outlined in the CURA program.

V. Campbell commented on the name change of Ryerson to Ryerson University, and she appreciated the feedback on the misperceptions on SRC.

E. Trott questioned the continuing use of power point and other technology use in classrooms. Students in two of her classes commented that when the power point does not work, faculty cancel the class. She asks why this is a response for the good of the university. E. Aspevig and M. Dewson both replied that it was not. J. Gryn asked if technicians are available to assist with classroom technology and if there are blackboards and chalk available.

M. Booth commented that there were 2000 students taking courses through distance education who have had problems with Blackboard. The faculty teaching these courses are to be commended for taking extraordinary measures to teach the distance education students individually.

J. Monro reported that Pat Morrison died suddenly at the end of last week. Information is available on funeral arrangements

R. Ravindran commented that Ryerson has come a long way, and has become well known in the academic community. He suggested that Ryerson celebrate its successes.

#### **4. Minutes**

D. Schulman reported that she received the amendment to the February minutes from K. Marciniak today, and that it would be inserted in the appropriate place in the minutes on the website.

#### **Motion to approve Minutes of March 2, 2004 as amended.**

C. Matthews moved, L. Grayson seconded.

M. Dionne asked that the last sentence in the section on the President's Report be amended to say that she had asked if equity data (in addition to gender) could be included in the report for faculty and students, and it was responded that student data would be difficult to obtain since it relies on self-reports but it will be investigated

#### **Minutes approved.**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes** – D. Schulman presented the report on the Academic Council elections, which had been requested. She stated that it was her decision that, since it had not been published in the election guidelines, and since it might be embarrassing for students who had not been elected, she would not publish the number of votes received by each nominee. Anyone who requested the tally could receive it from her office. This is also the practice of the Board.

B. Lewis presented and distributed a motion regarding the publishing of the vote tally, which was seconded by C. Livett.

In light of the complexity of the motion and the number of clauses, E. Aspevig ruled that the motion be postponed to the next meeting. D. Schulman stated that copies of the vote tally would be available at that meeting should the motion be passed.

**6. Correspondence** - D. Schulman introduced the letter to the Chair of the Board regarding the selection of the Academic Council members of the Presidential Search Committee and the invitation to attend the May 4 meeting, and the response from Dr. Guerriere.

A resolution on a seat on Academic Council for a Librarian and the legal response to that resolution were also presented. E. Aspevig stated that the Secretary had done a review of Roberts Rules and had determined that the motion was *ultra vires*. A legal opinion was also sought. As chair of Academic Council, he was taking the legal advice on the grounds that he would be in breach of his fiduciary responsibility if the motions were accepted. Further, should there be a vote on these resolutions, all members who did not vote for the motion would have to resign if the motion were passed. If passed, further motions of Academic Council would be *ultra vires*. He stated that Council had referred the issue of

a librarian seat on Council to committee twice and it was decided that it was not possible in light of the Ryerson Act. However, the important role and contribution of librarians has been acknowledged.

D. Checkland stated that he accepted the legal opinion. The legal solution is to get the law changed and therefore it was his intention that a Private Members Law be presented to change the wording in the Act to add librarians to the list of those eligible.

## **7. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Department and Divisional Councils**

K. Alnwick reported on the submission from Chemistry and Biology giving the details of the co-op variant of a program already approved by Council.

## **8. Report of Committees**

8.1 Report of the Course Management Policy Review Committee

**Motion: That Academic Council approve Policy #145 – Course Management Policy, as amended.**

K. Alnwick moved, M. Booth seconded

K. Alnwick noted a friendly amendment section 2.6 to add  
“provide all grades to the department/school when, for any reason ,the course is being assumed by another instructor.”

E. Aspevig presented the policy. He stated that he had asked that the policy be reviewed, and had established a committee, chaired by J. Sandys. The committee met several times and the APG had two discussions on the policy, one before and one after the Chairs/ Directors had the opportunity to comment. A number of things have been brought together in the policy: University policy, Department policy, and course outlines. J. Sandys was not in attendance, but D. Schulman, who had acted as a resource to the committee could respond to questions if necessary.

The following issues were raised:

Section 2.3e - weighting of an assignment to more than 70%. It was asked if the weight of a missed assignment or midterm could be distributed over two assignments. E. Aspevig commented that the purpose of the rule was to avoid loading the last assignment to at or near 100%. D. Schulman responded that she did not believe the committee would object to the weight of a missed assignment being distributed over two assignments.

Section 2.2 - Assessment and timely feedback. It was stated that it was untenable to ask that constructive substantive feedback be given on an assignment before the last date to drop a course. E. Aspevig commented that feedback is necessary, as students need the opportunity to make the decision whether or not to drop a course. It was asked if the drop date could be extended. The Registrar replied that the period is already a lengthy one, consistent with other universities. Courses can be dropped in the 9<sup>th</sup> week of a 13-week semester. It was suggested that assignments could be structured in different ways so that the first assignment could be returned quickly with constructive feedback. E. Aspevig

noted that section 2.2d stated that “incases where a course does not lend itself to early feedback, this should be clearly noted on the course outline.”

Section 3.1.1 Group work- D. Schulman clarified that departments/schools will be asked to establish a policy on group work which fits their needs.

Section 4.3a.i - Submission of work to a plagiarism deterrent service - The wording was discussed at length. It was questioned whether the wording precluded the submission of a student paper to a search engine such as Google. The wording connotes that some students “wish” to submit their work, and may connote that students who do not submit their work could have it submitted by the instructor. It was suggested that the words “or have their work submitted” or “retained in a database” could be added. D. Schulman stated that policies should not prevent faculty from using other means to determine if a paper is plagiarized.

Section 4.3b - Specific details on IT requirements - It was asked if requirements of other equipment should also be included. It was responded that APG had addressed the issue, and had determined that it was not necessary to include other equipment needs that would be included in ancillary fees.

E. Aspevig suggested that the motion be amended to approve the policy except for section 4.2a, the wording of which would be brought back to Council for approval at the next meeting.

K. Alnwick so moved, V. Campbell seconded.

**Amended motion was approved.**

D. Schulman and M. Dewson will work on wording for the section.

D. Checkland suggested that there be a formalized debate on the issue of turnitin.com.

8.2 Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee

**Motion: That Academic Council amend Policy #135. Examination Policy, to add Section IIIA.8 and amend Section VI.B.4 as noted in the report.**

Moved by K. Alnwick, with the amendment to eliminate mention of the phone line for communication of alternate arrangements, seconded by S. O’Neill.

J. Britnell, Chair of the Committee, outlined the report as presented in the agenda.

It was asked what students who have jobs are to do if exams are rescheduled when they are scheduled to work. Students would be expected to sit the rescheduled exam.

It was clarified that if there is insufficient room to reschedule an exam the following night, it would be rescheduled two nights later. The gym is not used by CE in the evening.

**Motion approved.**

**8.3 Report of the Academic Standards Committee** - M. Zeytinoglu presented the report.

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the Certificate in Mental Health and Addictions.**

K. Alnwick moved, M. Dionne seconded.

**Motion approved.**

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the revisions to the Certificate in Health Services Management and discontinuation of the Certificate in Long Term Care Administration.**

K. Alnwick moved, S. Williams seconded.

**Motion approved.**

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the revisions to the Certificate in Environmental Engineering Science and the discontinuation of the Certificate in Environmental Management**

Moved by K. Alnwick, seconded A. Pevec.

The material of the Environmental Management Certificate is folded into the new certificate.

**Motion approved.**

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the discontinuation of the Certificate in New Media.**

K. Alnwick moved, D. Snyder seconded.

**Motion approved.**

**Motion: That Academic Council approve the discontinuation of the Certificates in Civil Engineering, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering and Advanced Mechanical Engineering.**

Moved by K. Alnwick, seconded by J. Monroe.

It was explained that the number of students in the certificates is relatively low and that most of the students registered in the courses are day program students. The courses would not continue to be offered through CE after the two year phase out period.

**Motion approved.**

E. Aspevig stated that the practice with regard to the closure of certificates has been made consistent so that closures will be approved by Academic Council.

**9. New Business**

**Motion: That Academic Council replace the term “Aegrotat Standing” with “Aegrotat Grade” in all policies, procedures and publications of the University.**

K. Alnwick moved, J. Monro seconded.

Aegrotat “Standing” is confusing as a standing has a particular meaning different. It is actually a grade. It was confirmed that an “AEG” can only be assigned through petition.

**Motion approved.**

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, Ph.D.  
Secretary of Academic Council