

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 3, 2006

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
L. Bishop
S. Boctor
C. Cassidy
D. Doz
L. Grayson
K. Jones
A. Kahan
S. Levy
A. Shilton
P. Stenton
A. Venetsanopoulos
M. Yeates

Faculty:

P. Albanese
D. Androutsos
I. Baitz
C. Baskin
V. Chan
P. Corson
T. Dewan
M. Dionne
S. Edwards
D. Elder
C. Evans
E. Evans
C. Farrell
M. Greig
R. Hudyma

Students:

A. Ashraf
L. Brown
R. Castelino
R. Gherman
T. Haug
A. Lyn
R. Rose
A. Warnick
L. Yung

Alumni:

A. Ganuelas

Regrets:

J. P. Boudreau
M. Dewson
O. Falou
U. George
S. Giles
R. Keeble
T. Koulik
J. Lassaline
D. Mason
N. Loreto
A. Singh

Absent:

G. Alivio
B. Campbell
L. Merali
J. Pierce
M. Quazi

1. President's Report: The President welcomed Academic Council for 2006-07 and asked members to introduce themselves. He made a brief statement on the conferral of an Honorary Doctorate to Margaret Summerville.

A written President's Update report was distributed and he presented highlights of that report. A written report will be distributed in the future as part of the agenda. (Note: The written report is appended to these minutes.) President Levy read an email he had received from a member of the community commending Ryerson students for their department at the Toronto Island picnic, and their interactions with her young grandson.

The President welcomed Tas Venetsanopoulos, the first Vice President of Research and Innovation.

R. Rose asked if the statement regarding Margaret Sommerville would be made public. It was responded that the minutes would just indicate that there had been a statement. R. Rose asked about communicating with the Awards & Ceremonials Committee. It was reported that the next meeting of the committee is October 12, but that there is no deadline in addressing any concerns to the Committee.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council – D. Schulman reported that E. Evans had been the sole nominee for Vice Chair and would be serving in that capacity.

Documents were distributed as per the requirements of the By Laws.

The administrative revision of the Course Management Policy to conform with FIPPA was announced, and, as stated in the report, six policies were removed from the list of policies.

3. Good of the University – E. Evans chaired.

S. Rosen asked why the picnic is on Friday afternoon instead of Saturday. E. Aspevig stated that it is on Friday so that students can participate, and it is an important event for student engagement. R. Rose stated that the event is an RSU event and it engages many students. It is the highlight event of the year. D. Johnston asked if classes could be cancelled on that Friday. E. Aspevig stated that this would be taken up with the Academic Planning Group (APG).

R. Ravindran noted that Ryerson Institute of Technology was officially opened by Premier George Drew in 1948 with Howard Kerr as its first Principal. 2008 will mark 60 years since then. He asked if there could be a year of events to note this, and suggested that there be a stamp design competition. The President stated that he would look into this.

A. Ganuelas noted that there was a lot of spirit at Queen's University, where he now attends. He acknowledged that the Ryerson campus looks very good, but wondered about campus spirit. In response to a request from the President, A. Kahan reported that there are several ideas going through City Council to raise the Ryerson profile.. There will be environmental branding, demarcation of the university entrance and of the buildings, more light post banners, more identifying lights on campus and a program of identification on Jorgenson and the Library. Ryerson memorabilia will be expanded in the bookstore. It is hoped that the program will be

completed in the spring. A. Ganuelas commented that the prices of clothing at the bookstore are too high. L. Grayson stated that there is a new line of clothing in the bookstore that is good quality and lower prices. R. Rose asked where these items are made, and L. Grayson stated that the policies concerning ethical purchasing were honored.

R. Rose commented on Shinarama, commending Engineering students for the event..

4. Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2006 meeting.

A. Ganuelas moved, M. Yeates seconded.

Motion approved.

5. Business Arising

J. Morgan asked if the medical forms had been revised as discussed at the May meeting.. The Secretary responded that J. Hanigsberg, University General Counsel had been consulted and that the form had been revised, and was posted.

6. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

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

There was no discussion..

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report of the Animal Care Committee – A. Papadopoulos, chair of the committee, was present to answer questions. J. Morgan asked about the development of an action plan to educate members of the community on requirements for animal care. A. Papadopoulos responded that the plan is being developed to ensure that researchers understand the requirement to submit protocols when there is research with animals. The plan is to develop a process parallel to the Research Ethics Board. M. Dionne asked for clarification on how the Terms of Reference of the committee is changed. There would need to be a recommendation to the Composition and By Laws Committee.

8.2 Report of the Nominating Committee

Motion: That Academic Council approve the list of representatives to various standing committees of Academic Council.

M. Dionne moved, D. Doz seconded

Motion approved.

9. New Business –

Motion: That Academic Council approve the policy of Academic Consideration of Students with Disabilities

E. Aspevig moved, R. Ravindran seconded.

E. Aspevig stated that the new policy is the joint responsibility of the Provost and the Vice President Administration and Student Affairs. It was developed in accordance with the Ontario

Human Rights Act. The policy is followed by a set of procedures, developed over time, which establish the responsibilities of all parties. There was input from many groups across campus. T. Lewis chaired the committee, and was invited to speak to the policy and to answer questions.

T. Lewis stated that the primary notion of the policy is partnerships. Both faculty and the Access Centre need to be part of the process, and dialogue with each other to meet student needs. It is hoped that the policy will promote this dialogue. It also clarifies the roles and responsibilities of faculty, chairs, students, and Deans.

Discussion:

M. Panitch spoke in support of the policy, stating that it establishes a process, distributes responsibility around the University, and clearly includes the notion of flexibility, creativity and an inclusive climate. However, she finds the policy to be too bureaucratic, procedural and somewhat heavy-handed. She questioned the need for comprehensive medical documentation, asking if it privileged native-born Canadians over others, and asked if there is an assumption that having a disability is not the norm, and therefore a threat to academic standards. She noted that “reasonableness” is not a standard of the Human Rights Code, which states “up to the point of undue hardship” which is a higher standard. The policy comes at a good time as the Multi-Year Agreement stresses access, the University is addressing student engagement. She recognizes that Ryerson is a large university and respects that there is a need to compromise at this time. She asked that the University take stronger leadership in addressing the complexity in this area over the next two years, working toward a more nuanced approach.

P. Schneiderman questioned the statement on page 56, section 5b – “ensure that resources are provided by the department/school, Faculty or University” to support accommodations. He stated that it should be the responsibility of the University. E. Aspevig stated that the Deans have a responsibility, and with the decentralization they will have more resources. The University would have resources to address some needs.

In response to M. Panitch, E. Aspevig responded he appreciates that this is a good first step. It is a set of policies and procedures and there is the ability to adjust procedures if the policy is passed. As the process is followed, procedures can be amended as needed. It is meant to be a document that does not see disability as a problem, but recognizes that students with a disability need to be on a level playing field with others.

T. Haug stated that students with disabilities would like to discuss their needs in a community forum. She supports the policy and would like the dialogue to continue.

Motion approved.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane R. Schulman
Secretary of Academic Council

**Ryerson University
Academic Council**

President's Update October 3, 2006

Dawson College: The Ryerson University community was united in extending heartfelt thoughts to everyone at Dawson College in Montreal. It is so hard to reconcile the openness of an environment founded on tolerance and the willing exchange of ideas with actions that are almost impossible to understand. We expressed our deepest collegial bond of sympathy, understanding, and strength, and hopes for a determined reaffirmation of teaching and learning as a path of shared hope.

Enrollments: According to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre, Ryerson is #1 in the province in the growth of applications from secondary school students. Applications this Fall rose 11.7% over last year compared to 3.4% across the Ontario system, and first choice applications grew by 8.7%, more than double the provincial average. Preliminary figures indicate that Ryerson has enrolled 19,450 full-time and 3,200 part-time undergraduate students; strong demand means that we exceeded our target of 0% growth at the undergraduate level by about 2.2%. The number of graduate students has risen to 1,100 from 766 last year, with five new graduate programs being offered.

Ontario Universities Fair: As one academic session begins, the recruitment cycle is already set in motion for the following year. Ryerson achieved outstanding response at the annual Ontario Universities Fair held September 29-October 1, 2006. Estimates of overall attendance are not yet available, but the Ryerson numbers are very impressive. Ryerson handed out 35,000 information packages, and 5,000 people attended the Ryerson presentations. This year, requests for material could be submitted online, such that Ryerson materials will also be going out in the mail. Acknowledgement and thanks go to the 300 volunteers involved in the effort, including expert Ryerson liaison staff, and exemplary involvement by full-time faculty – among the universities in attendance, Ryerson was distinguished by giving students direct access to so many scholars and teachers.

Gould Street: Another student activity that draws outstanding numbers is the annual event organized by Ryerson student clubs. I joined the students in their annual march down Yonge Street, and took the ferry with them to the Toronto Islands. It was an amazing turnout, with so much energy and commitment to Ryerson University as the destination of choice. The students are to be commended for their efforts.

Heaslip House and Ryerson Business Building: We are proud to celebrate significant new spaces with the official opening of Heaslip House, and the launch of the Ryerson Business Building on Bay Street, both of which opened to exceptional accolades. We acknowledge the importance of the involvement and contributions of Deans, community members in the Faculties, Vice-President Linda Grayson and her colleagues, along with supporters and investors.

Provost & Vice-President Academic: The search is underway, with the position profile prepared and the ad written. The ad will be placed in *University Affairs* (available online on October 10th) and also in *The Globe and Mail*, consistent with standard practice.

Government Relations:

Multi-Year Agreement – Ryerson is in the process of preparing its Multi-Year Agreement (MYA) for submission to government, as the basis of our 2006-07 funding allocation. The Agreement must include strategies for accessibility and quality, performance targets and outcomes, and links between university

priorities and government goals. Led by Provost & VP Academic Errol Aspevig, and AVP, University Planning Paul Stenton, the process invited community input and comment through Town Hall meetings.

Graduate Expansion Funding – On September 20th, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced graduate expansion funding of \$240 million for 12,000 additional graduate student spaces in the next two years. Ryerson was strongly supported, with funding for 808 additional Masters students and 78 PhDs (having requested 900 Masters spaces and 125 PhDs). Graduate Dean Maurice Yeates and AVP University Planning Paul Stenton are actively meeting with Deans and Chairs to develop an implementation plan. The government is also providing \$550 million in capital support, and allocation announcements are expected in the near future.

Health-related initiatives – We are actively involved with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in discussions on building a leadership role for Ryerson in the service of government priorities and community needs. I expect to be able to report specifics in the not too distant future.

Access Ontario – Working with the Ministry of Citizenship, Ryerson continues to develop its niche in providing programs for internationally-educated professionals. Ryerson is already making it possible for immigrant dietitians, midwives, and social workers to prepare for practice in Canada, and this year we have made a proposal in engineering, as well as a comprehensive submission from Continuing Education offering to develop a ‘storefront’ service for students in this crucial area.

Master Plan: An announcement on the planning firm chosen from among the responses to the Request for Proposals is expected within weeks. A web page has been created on the Ryerson web site (<http://www.ryerson.ca/about/masterplan/>), and the portable presentation centre has arrived on campus. It is particularly notable that students are being involved in conceptualizing our campus, and we look forward to providing opportunities for input from the community throughout the process.

Doubleday Building: Responding to an opportunity to acquire facilities in a central campus location, we have purchased the Doubleday Building next to the Heidelberg Centre on Bond Street. We acquired the land and approximately 70,000 square feet of much-needed facilities for \$8.5 million. This works out to less than \$125/square foot, compared to about \$300/square foot when we undertake the construction of a building on our own land.

Achievements: It is a great honour to learn about achievements by members of the Ryerson community. In the month of September alone, I was proud to write 15 letters of congratulations, to: Mark Bishop, Matt Hornburg, J.J. Johnson, Blair Powers, and Matt Bishop (alumni), and Professor David Tucker (faculty) for Gemini Award nominations; Nancy Zammit (staff) for winning the logo competition for the Oakville Santa Claus Parade; Patty Sullivan (alumni) for the launch of her new CBC kids’ show “You’re It!”; Professor Randy Boyagoda for the Giller Prize nomination of his book *Governor of the Northern Province*; Natasha Chandel (alumni) for starring in *Pria*, nominated in the NBC Diversity Comedy Short Cuts competition; Toronto International Film Festival participants, including honorary graduate Dr. Piers Handling, and alumni Peter Mettler, Adam Garnet Jones, and Mazdak Taebi for their films, plus graduate Edward Burtynsky who is the subject of the celebrated film *Manufactured Landscapes*, and winner of the World Press Photograph of the Year; George the Hot Dog Vendor for his fundraising efforts on the students’ behalf; Todd Lynn (alumni) for his debut collection in London Fashion Week; and, most recently, Dr. Bin Wu for being awarded Ryerson’s first NSERC Industrial Research Chair (in Power Electronics). I am actively encouraging colleagues to share such outstanding news, and will be discussing with University Advancement the further development of ongoing strategies to make celebrating Ryerson achievement an institutional priority.