

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Members Present:

Ex-Officio:

K. Alnwick
E. Aspevig
S. Boctor
C. Cassidy
G. R. Chang
M. Dewson
D. Doz
Z. Fawaz
U. George
S. Giles
L. Grayson
K. Jones
A. Kahan
S. Levy
A. Shilton
P. Stenton
A. Venetsanopoulos
M. Yeates

Faculty:

D. Androustos
I. Baitz
C. Baskin
J. P. Boudreau
V. Chan
P. Corson
T. Dewan
M. Dionne
D. Elder
C. Evans
E. Evans
C. Farrell
M. Greig
R. Hudyma
C. Katsanis
D. Lee
D. Mason

J. Morgan
M. Panitch
S. Rosen
P. Schneiderman
C. Stuart
D. Sydor

Students:

G. Alivio
A. Ashraf
L. Brown
O. Falou
R. Gherman
T. Koulik
N. Loreto
A. Lyn
J. Pierce
R. Rose
A. Warnick
L. Yung

Alumni:

A. Ganuelas

Regrets:

P. Albanese
R. Castelino
S. Edwards
T. Haug
G. Hunt
D. Johnston
J. Lassaline
R. Ravindran
A. Singh

Absent:

B. Campbell
R. Keeble
L. Merali
A. Mitchell
M. Quazi

1. President's Report - The President noted that Chris Smith, an alumnus of Ryerson and a Board member, was in attendance. The President announced that Zouheir Fawaz has been appointed as Vice Provost Students, and that, according to the By Laws, he becomes a member of Academic Council.

The President asked if there were any questions on his written report presented with the agenda. N. Loreto asked about the COU advocacy for funding and if this includes the lowering of tuition fees. The President responded that the advocacy is to get additional funding for additional students above what was projected. There should not be a penalty on the quality fund for increased accessibility.

J. Morgan asked about Ryerson's last place ranking in Library resources. The President acknowledged the library's needs and stated that his top priority is to put capital into the library. .

D. Elder asked if CUPE members were eligible to be on Master Planning advisory committee. The President explained that the Community Advisory Committee is one that helps the master planners interface with the community, but this committee is not one which deals with the content of master planning. The committee could be expanded.

T. Koulik asked if library is included in the master plan, and it was responded that it is.

P. Stenton demonstrated the Ryerson Accountability Gateway, accessible from the Ryerson homepage. It is designed to improve accountability and transparency and is aimed at multi-faceted groups of people – students, parents, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, the public and the government. A wide variety of data is accessible on this site. Common University Data – Ontario (CUDO) allows comparison to other institutions, and is accessible through the COU website. Third party data users can use this site to gather data, which avoids the necessity for the university to generate information based on a particular request. A site entitled e-info gives access to all of the universities which offer a particular program. There is also a link to the Gateway from Prospective Students and Graduate Students areas on the homepage.

R. Gherman asked if there is a way that high school students will know about this site. Guidance counselors will be made aware of this through the application centre.

J.P. Boudreau asked if a composite picture of the University could be created rather than having people go through the entire site. P. Stenton responded that there will be a drill down on the CUDO website which would show the program as a whole. This is in process.

J. Morgan asked about a discrepancy in university projected enrollments. This discrepancy is a result of trying to predict participation and retention rates.

The Master Planning Team presented an overview of their ideas for the future of Ryerson. Some of their previous and current projects were outlined. The surrounding

area, the streets and the campus itself were discussed. Kerr Hall is the heart of the University, but the green space of the quad is not highly used. It is important to consider the day and the night life of the campus. The University could better integrate with the community around it.

The President asked if there were any questions.

R. Rose asked about paving the quad. It was responded that there may be a need to reconfigure it so that it is more accessible. R. Rose said that paving would worry students.

T. Koulik asked about display cases. There is no place to showcase student awards. It was responded that there is a need to showcase student accomplishments, both to the interior and the exterior. Ryerson is currently an opaque environment.

A. Ashraf asked about improving residences, as there is already a space issue and there may not be ways to avoid high-rise housing. It was responded that the priority is academic space, but adding housing space is parallel to that need. There may be a way to build affordable housing while improving the community.

Communication with Academic Council on Master Planning will continue.

2. Report of the Secretary of Academic Council - The Secretary announced Academic Council Elections as reported in the agenda. She also reported that the Academic Council website was updated so that, as requested at the last meeting, the information for students on turnitin.com was more easily accessed.

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

N. Farrell presented the report of the Ombudsperson. The report is included in the agenda and the student press, and is posted on the website. She outlined the report as presented, including her role at the University and the services provided, a follow-up to last year's report on conflict resolution, and some areas of concern. She presented her recommendations on student advice and suspension, and the Vice Presidents' response to those recommendations.

JP Boudreau asked about feedback mechanisms to the departments on issues about advisement. N. Farrell responded that it is not uncommon for departments to ask for such feedback, and she can provide that in a way that protects confidentiality.

D. Mason announced that the Ryersonian of the year is J.P. Boudreau. He asked about the US Patriot Act and its effect on the University and called on the University to issue a report about the University's vulnerabilities and what can be done. The President will take the request under advisement and speak with D. Mason further.

N. Loreto asked if outstanding fees have to be paid in order for a student to get a transcript. L. Grayson responded that this is standard university practice. It was asked how the rules around OSAP can be gotten around so that students can get a transcript.

N. Loreto asked why the POD144 is turned into a satellite bookstore which takes away study space from students. L. Grayson will take it under advisement. Study space is provided in the Hub which has been open 24/7 with free coffee and Timbits.

N. Loreto reminded Council about the December 6 memorial in the quad.

L. Brown spoke about the scheduling issues she raised last meeting and made suggestions about the timing of sessional instructor hiring. E. Aspevig commented that the problem seems to be a unique situation and steps will be taken to ensure that it does not happen again.

T. Koulik asked about late fees resulting when scholarships are not received when fees are due. He asked if the tuition deadlines can be extended, or the timing put in synch. L. Grayson will add this issue to her response to the other tuition issues raised at the last meeting..

The President asked that, in the future, questions which are known in advance could be forwarded so that answers could be provided.

O. Falou commented that it was difficult to apply for TA positions without knowing course schedules and asked if the TA deadlines can be coordinated with timetable dates.

D. Androutsos commented on the use of the atrium in the Engineering building which was intended to be study space, and is now used only for functions. The President commented that this is a difficult issue, but it is the only suitable ceremonial space on campus and it would be difficult to move students out of the space when it is used for University and student events. The number of students, families, donors, etc, who use the space is great. Additional study space has been added all around that area. D. Androutsos also commented that the Tim Hortons closes at 2pm, and asked if could be open longer as there is no other food available in that building. L. Grayson will investigate.

Z. Fawaz stated that he looks forward to being a source of solutions for students. He has already met with student representatives. He agreed that issues need to be brought forward before the meeting so that they can be acted on faster. He was not surprised with some of the issues raised in the Ombudsperson's report and will work with her to address them.

N. Loreto raised the issue of not seeing the individual Faculty Course Survey results on the Accountability Gateway. M. Dewson commented that the department results are posted, and the individual responses cannot be disclosed under FIPPA and the collective agreement. The form itself is not significantly different from that used in many places. There has been a joint course survey committee this past year, and the instrument is under

review. N. Loreto asked if there was any discussion of evaluating TAs, and M. Dewson said that this issue has come up, but there is no plan at the moment. Supervisors are required to evaluate TAs. D. Androutsos stated that TAs wish to be evaluated.

T. Koulik asked about why the Business Building is too hot. L. Grayson commented that in a new building it takes about one year to rebalance the heating system to get it right in all seasons. It is being worked on.

L. Brown asked who is responsible for making sessional instructors aware of policies and resources. M. Dewson stated that department chairs are responsible for making them aware of obligations. Many activities invite CUPE instructors to participate, and in some departments there are specific events for them.

The President again asked if the questions could be submitted in advance so that the academic work of Council could be addressed in a timely way.

4. Minutes

Motion: That Academic Council approve the minutes of the November 7, 2006 meeting.

N. Loreto moved, D. Mason seconded

Minutes approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

E. Aspevig had already commented on the course scheduling issue raised in the Good of the University. He reported that the letter on Student Day of Action has been drafted and will go out this week.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

Items were for information.

8. Reports of Committees

8.1 Report #F2006-2 of the Academic Standards Committee

8.1.1 Motion: That Academic Council approve the periodic program review submitted by the School of Nutrition.

E. Aspevig moved, N. Loreto seconded

Motion approved.

8.1.2 Motion: That Academic Council approve the periodic program review with the recommendations listed in the ASC Evaluation section as conducted by the School of Graphic Communication.

.E. Aspevig moved, D. Doz seconded

Motion approved.

8.1.3 That Academic Council approve the proposed revisions to admission requirements for the Collaborative Nursing Degree program.

E. Aspevig moved, O. Falou seconded

R. Gherman asked how long it would take for the changes in the Nursing program to show up on the e-info site for high school students. K. Alnwick stated that the changes in admission requirements are made 18 months in advance. What is on the site now is correct.

Motion approved.

9. New Business

The President wished everyone good and safe holiday season and invited everyone to the celebration on December 15.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, PhD
Secretary of Academic Council