

**MINUTES OF SENATE MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007**

<b>Members Present:</b>			
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	<b>Faculty:</b>		<b>Students:</b>
K. Alnwick	P. Albanese	D. Mason	O. Falou
S. Boctor	D. Androutsos	A. Matthews David	T. Hassan
C. Cassidy	M. Antony	M. McAllister	H. Kere
G. R. Chang	I. Baitz	A. Mitchell	M. Levine
M. Dewson	J. P. Boudreau	Z. Murphy	H. Otieno
Z. Fawaz	V. Chan	J. Norrie	R. Rose
L. Grayson	D. Checkland	M. Panitch	R. Sadjadi
K. Jones	P. Corson	D. Rose	T. Schwerdtfeger
S. Levy	D. Elder	S. Rosen	T. Whitfield
A. Shepard	P. Goldman	A. Singh	
A. Shilton	M. Greig	D. Sydor	
P. Stenton	R. Hudyma		<b>Alumni:</b>
A. Venetsanopoulos	R. Keeble		A. Walker
M. Yeates	D. Lee		
<b>Regrets:</b>	<b>Absent:</b>		
S. Abdelgadir	S. Ghebresslassie		
G. Alivio	Y. T. Leong		
A. Bahadur	S. Omer		
T. Dewan			
S. Dhebar			
C. Farrell			
U. George			
A. Kahan			
J. Lassaline			
M. Lefebvre			
E. Moss			
R. Ravindran			
F. Song			
M. Stanton			
C. Stuart			
D. Tucker			

**1. President's Report** - The President reported on discussions with the new Minister of Education and with G. Smitherman, about the project at Sam's. He congratulated the recipients of the teaching awards which were distributed at a ceremony earlier in the day. The President's and Chancellor's Awards were given for the first time.

**2. Report of the Secretary**

No Report.

**3. Good of the University – A. Mitchell Chaired**

Ombudsperson report – N. Farrell reviewed the role of the office and the information in her written report distributed with the agenda. She outlined the recommendations regarding student academic advice, retroactive drops, and probationary contracts and their amendment, including the use of the INC grade. She noted that these matters are all being addressed by the University. An update of the recommendations from the 2005-06 report was presented.

J.P. Boudreau asked about the path for a recommendation made in her report, specifically the recommendation concerning academic advice. N. Farrell responded that she does not address individual cases, but rather she took the recommendation to the Provost, and she was asked to discuss this with the Deans. She also met with some faculty in Arts. She is glad to consult with individual chairs/directors.

K. Alnwick stated that Ryerson is fortunate to have N. Farrell as its Ombudsperson.

D. Elder raised the issue of non-payment of members and the hiring of TAs and GAs from outside Ryerson. He stated that the issues were under investigation. He raised a further issue of members not being paid in a timely way.

D. Mason stated that he had heard about a significant allocation of postdoctoral fellowships, but not on the floor of Senate. He also asked about his request made last year for clarification on *in camera* meetings. The President responded that he had not informed Senate about the postdoctoral fellowships, but the Deans were informed, and he believed that was the appropriate channel for that information. The Senate Review Committee would be thinking about such issues as *in camera* meetings.

M. Levine commented on two job interviews that he had where he received very positive feedback from employers who were pleased with their Ryerson experience.

**4. Minutes**

**Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2007 meeting**

D. Mason moved, O. Falou seconded

**Motion approved.**

## **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

A. Shepard reported on the membership of the *ad hoc* committee to report on Religious Observance obligations of students. Members are: Keith Alnwick (Chair), Darrell Bowden, Marsha Moshe, Zita Murphy, Monica Mackay, Aura Bessin, Zahra Ishmail, Mohamed Malik, and Harry Paul.

R. Rose asked if the composition was posted and for the information on each member. The Provost stated there was a Jewish student, two Muslim students and a Christian student on the committee.

## **6. Correspondence**

No correspondence

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

7.1 Various significant course change summary forms were presented for information.

7.2 **Motion #1: *That the Senate approve the submission of the proposal for a Master of Planning (MPI) in Urban Development to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.***

M. Yeates moved, O. Falou seconded.

A. Mitchell asked about the prerequisites for entry into the degree in Master of Planning in Urban Development. M. Yeates responded that there are two streams. The first is a two-year program that will take students in from a variety of areas. The second is a one-year program which will take students in with a degree related to planning.

**Motion approved.**

**Motion #2: *That the Senate approve the submission of the proposal for a PhD in Policy Studies to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies for Standard Appraisal.***

M. Yeates moved, C. Cassidy seconded.

**Motion approved.**

**Motion #3: *That the Senate approve the proposed complex changes to the PhD/MA Psychology graduate program.***

M. Yeates moved, J.P. Boudreau seconded

**Motion approved.**

M. Yeates thanked those who participated in the development of the programs.

## **8. Reports of Committees**

8.1 Report #F2007-1 of the Senate Awards & Ceremonials Committee

8.2 Report #F2007-1 of the Senate Learning & Teaching Committee

### **8.3 Report #F2007-3 of the Senate Academic Standards Committee**

**Motion: *That Senate approve the revised academic standing variations in the Post-Diploma Degree Completion Nursing program.***

A.Mitchell moved, R. Keeble seconded.

K. Alnwick clarified that this was to change the course from Pass/Fail to graded.

**Motion approved.**

The President thanked those who presented these reports despite the fact that they are passed through quickly.

## **9. New Business**

The following Motion was presented at the front desk:

WHEREAS: Faculty, students and Senate have made repeated pleas, requests, and demands for more a reasonable time period and schedule for exams and deadlines for providing grades; and

WHEREAS: Current examination practices at Ryerson mean students often have 2 and 3 exams in a 2-day period leading to stress and inadequate preparation; and

WHEREAS: The faculty involved in marking late-schedule exams in time for the grade deadlines find it so arduous that some of them have changed the form of their exams or even eliminated exams against their better academic judgement; and

WHEREAS: The continuation of the unacceptable scheduling implies that administrators are unable or unwilling to remedy the situation; and

WHEREAS: The current examination situation is at risk of putting the entire examination process into disrepute; and

WHEREAS: The foregoing necessarily lead one to conclude that there are structural, systemic, or other extraordinary causes for this situation;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Senate strike an ad hoc committee composed of the Registrar, the Provost or Vice-Provost, Faculty Affairs, four faculty, and one student, to examine the assumptions, issues, and problems that lead to the current unfortunate examination situation, and report back to the March Senate meeting with recommendations to resolve the problem.

D. Mason moved, V. Chan seconded

D. Mason reviewed the issues related to the motion as follows: A timetabling committee was previously established to address one of the related issues. The first exams began today (December 4), and classes did not end until yesterday, creating difficulties for students. There are marking loads that are difficult for faculty. Those with exams late on Friday have to get grades done by Monday evening. This grading time includes two religious days. Mark-sense exams could be given instead of comprehensive exams. Despite the policy, some exams are given in the last week to avoid the problem. He is proposing an *ad hoc* committee to look at the exam period. Even the addition of another day as the result of a revision of the GPA policy would be insufficient.

The President commented that the arguments are well stated but that the issues have already been looked at a number of ways. He asked the Provost to consider a possible strategy to address the matter in a more expeditious way than the creation of a committee. A. Shepard stated that the problem is difficult and presented a calendar at the front table to illustrate the current process. It showed that if there are extended grading deadlines, the Registrar's staff must be on campus when all other members of the university are off on December 21, and they would have no opportunity for consulting with others on that day. Also, students want to get their grades before the next semester begins for transferring, probation, etc. Changing to a 12 week semester is not a popular choice. US universities have 15-week semesters, but begin in August, which is also not a popular choice. There is a report from 2004 which looked at the issues, reporting that there were differences of opinion within the committee that reflected the difference of opinions on Academic Council. He suggested that the existing reports be reviewed by himself and D. Mason, and that another *ad hoc* committee not be formed at this time. The President suggested that this might be a good solution.

D. Mason stated that the existing documents would inform the committee. A 12-week semester and changing the way students are notified could both be solutions. He believes that only students who delude themselves into thinking they are passing are disadvantaged by getting grades in January. It is also important to ameliorate the situation in the short term as well.

R. Rose spoke in favour of the motion and asked why there is only one student suggested for the committee. D. Mason stated that there could be two students on the committee. The issues are more academic, but it is important to know how important it really is for students to get their grades and standings before the break.

D. Checkland stated that he was in a position of having a late Friday exam. He stated that in previous discussions there had been a suggestion that essay exams were scheduled first and machine scored exams later, but that faculty lied to get their exams first. This is an obvious solution.

K. Alnwick commented that essay exams were scheduled first, but that 80% of faculty stated they had essay exams. There are 23,000 students, and 1900 individual exam sessions, with an average of 4.3 exams per students. About half of the students have exams on consecutive days, but half have a day between exams. There are no students

writing a morning exam after an evening exam. There is a good use of the exam time. There are broader implications of delaying grades. Prerequisite statuses are reviewed to free up spaces for other students and the start of the Winter semester would be compromised.

J. Norrie proposed a friendly amendment that the Provost and D. Mason gather the previous reports to look at the scope of the problem before forming a committee.

O. Falou stated that the release of grades is also important to students who are doing well, for scholarship issues, etc. He spoke in favour of the friendly amendment.

Z. Fawaz commented that there is work on revising the GPA policy and the revision may resolve some of the problems. He concurs that the motion should be tabled until that policy is reviewed.

The President summarized that there is a consensus that the situation is not optimal, but that there should be a group to look at how to frame what they want a committee to do.

**Motion to table until the January 29, 2008 meeting.**

D. Mason moved, J. Norrie seconded

**Motion approved.**

A. Shepard announced the members of the Senate Review Committee: D. Checkland, A. Mitchell, D. Schulman, N. Thomlinson, T. Schwerdfeger, and S. Kelman.

H. Kere raised an issue about accommodations for students for whom English is a second language.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, Ph.D.  
Secretary of Senate