

Senator Report

The 654th meeting of Senate, Thursday February 28, 2019

1. Update by President Lenton on the Student Choice Initiative announced by the Ontario Government in January. The Ministry of training, Colleges and Universities has informed post-secondary institutions that ancillary fees relating to academic supports, student health and wellness, and student safety will be considered mandatory. Other fees will be considered optional. Universities will be responsible for setting-up online platforms where students can opt out of those fees. President Lenton mentioned the importance of having a consultative and student-driven process to implement the Student Choice Initiative with transparency. Sub-committees will be established with representatives from YFS, YUGSA, GCSA.

2. Additional comments from President Lenton on:

- having a working group focusing on developing interpretive guidelines for the Statement of Policy on Free Speech,
- the reviews of the Student Code of Right & Responsibilities,
- the confirmation of University's commitment to move ahead with the Markham campus,

3. Senate reports

- Academic colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (Prof. Andrea Davis) - Recent meeting on the government-mandated changes relating to OSAP, tuition and ancillary fees.

4. Approvals

- Establishment of a Special Joint Senate-Board Working Group on jurisdiction related to the cancellation/suspension of classes during a labour disruption (approved without amendment on a recommendation from the Executive Committee),
- Several approvals were made on recommendations from the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee. The full list is available in the synopsis from the Feb. 28 Senate meeting at <https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/senate-synopsis-20190228.pdf>