UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

12:10 – 2:00 p.m.

Michael E. Charles Council Chamber, Galbraith Building

Present:
Jonathan Rose (Speaker)
Vanessa Abaya
Cristina Amon (Dean)
Yi-Wei Ang
Ridha Ben Mrad
Trevor Burton
Phil Byer
Sanjeev Chandra
Michael E. Charles
Tom Chau
Yu-Ling Cheng
Nitla Cooke
Tom Coyle
Chris Damaren
David C. Del Rey Fernandez
Levente L. Diosady
M. Reza Emami
Catherine Gagne
Hadi Ghasemi
John Harrison
Charles Q. Jia
Bryan Karney
Don W. Kirk
Hans Kunov
Ofer Levi
Farrokh Mansouri
Brenda McCabe
Susan McCahan
Barbara McCann
Prasanth Nair
Farid Najm
Evelyn Ng
Jun Nogami
Graeme Norval
Austra Ozolins
Vladimiros G. Papangelakis
Jane Phillips
Nelly Pietropaolo
Arun Ramachandran
Doug Reeve
Dan Sellan
Shamim A. Sheikh
Kevin Siu
Brent E. Sleep
James W. Smith
Steven J. Thorpe
James S. Wallace
Willy Wong
Mohamed Zakaria Kamh
Jean Zu

Guests:
Erika Bailey
Estina Boddie
Sonia De Buglio
Khuong Doan
Adam Doyle
John Graydon
Sandra Hunt
Jeffrey Little
Anthony Morra
Tom Nault
Sandra Walker
Geoff Wichert
Caroline Ziegler

Regrets:
Oh-Sung Kwon
Paul Santerre
Christopher Yip
David Zingg

1. Welcome/Adoption of the Agenda

The Speaker, Professor Jonathan Rose, thanked members joining the Faculty Council meeting and welcomed all present. He thanked Professor Yu-Ling Cheng for acting as Speaker of Faculty Council at the December 1, 2010 meeting in his absence.

The Speaker noted that members had received the agenda on March 7.

On a motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

THAT the agenda be adopted.

The Speaker took this opportunity to remind members of the procedure for speaking: after being recognized by the Speaker, they should stand, introduce themselves, and direct their comments to the Speaker.

2. Memorial Tributes

The Speaker called upon Professor Farid Najm to read a memorial tribute to the late Professor Emeritus **Wasyl Janischewskyj** of The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

It was with sadness and sorrow that we received the news of the passing of our dear colleague Professor Emeritus Wasyl Janischewskyj on February 18, 2011.

Wasyl was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on January 21, 1925 to Dr. Hanna Janischewskyj, an accomplished physician who dedicated herself to various Ukrainian causes, and Ivan Janischewskyj, an engineer who became Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of Ukrainian National Rada.

Wasyl's early years were spent in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine. He attended high school near Prague and, after the German occupation, he moved to Regensburg, Germany where he commenced his studies in Electrical Engineering. Having completed his first two semesters, he transferred to the Technical University in Hannover for the next two years. Subsequently, he moved to Toronto, enrolled in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto where he obtained his BASc in 1952. He continued his studies at the same department to obtain his MASc in 1954.

After completing his studies, Wasyl started his professional career at Aluminum Laboratories Limited in Kingston, Ontario where he worked as an engineer and gained valuable field experience. But his dream was to teach, and he returned to the University of Toronto's Department of Electrical Engineering in 1959. This was his professional home until the end of his life.

In 1970, Wasyl became a Full Professor. From 1964 to 1970, he served as the Assistant Head of the Electrical Engineering Department and in 1978 he began his four year tenure as the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. Although Professor Janischewskyj officially retired in 1990, he continued his work as Professor Emeritus –

lecturing, conducting research, and mentoring graduate students. Under his tutelage, more than sixty Masters and PhD students successfully defended their dissertations. In fact, his most recent PhD student, Ivan Boev, just graduated last June.

Professor Janischewskyj was active in many professional and technical associations. He was an IEEE Fellow, a member of Canadian Standards Association's Technical Committee of the Installation Code for Lightning Protection Systems, as well as Canada's Representative to the Interference and Lightning Committees of Conseil International des Grands Reseaux Electriques (CIGRE) – International Council on Large Electric Systems – in Paris and to the International Electrotechnical Commission's Technical Committee TC-42 in Geneva.

Professor Janischewskyj`s research specialty was high voltage transmission and corona; this morphed into lightning in 1978, two years after the construction of the CN Tower, the world's tallest manmade freestanding structure then. After the CN Tower sustained many tens of lightning strikes yearly, Professor Janischewskyj quickly became an internationally recognized authority, attracting many Canadian and global researchers. He is credited with about 360 scientific publications: over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, some 130 reviewed technical conference papers, and about 150 other reports and documents. Also, he is the author or co-author of 5 monographs. He actively pursued his research to his last days, arranging five follow-up projects and reviewing a conference submission for a visiting scientist.

In addition to being the pioneer of CN Tower lightning studies, he was always the chairman of the CN Tower Lightning Project. Furthermore, in 2001, Professor Janischewskyj led the establishment of an International Project on "Electromagnetic Radiation from Lightning Striking Tall Structures" (IPLT) and was its chairman until 2009, when he became its honorary chairman. Currently, world-renowned experts from 12 countries, specializing in the areas of lightning detection, measurement, modelling and protection, are participating in this project.

In addition to his highly recognized academic achievements, Professor Janischewskyj was indeed a giant experimentalist. As a result of his distinguished contribution in the area of high voltage engineering, he was granted an Honorary Doctorate by the National Technical University of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine in 1998.

Dr. Wasyl Janischewskyj was above all a man of great kindness and of admirable decency. He will be very dearly missed by everyone, including his colleagues, research collaborators and former students.

On a Regular Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on February 18, 2011 of Wasyl Janischewskyj.

The Speaker acknowledged the presence of John Graydon, who joined the meeting to hear the memorial tribute to his father, the late Professor Emeritus **William Frederick Graydon** of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry.

The Speaker then called upon Professor Emeritus Michael E. Charles to read the memorial tribute to Professor Emeritus Graydon**.**

The Speaker then called upon Professor Emeritus Michael E. Charles to read a memorial tribute to the late Professor Emeritus **William Frederick Graydon** of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry.

Professor Emeritus William Frederick Graydon passed away peacefully at his home near Pontypool in rural Ontario on February 24, 2011. Having been born in 1919, he was in his 92nd year.

Bill Graydon had obtained BASc and MASc degrees from the University of Toronto, and a PhD from the University of Minnesota, before joining the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry as Assistant Professor in 1949. Within ten years, he had been promoted to Professor and when he retired in 1984 he had served his Department, Faculty and University with vigour, accomplishment and style that will always be remembered, appreciated and admired by all those who had the good fortune to know him as colleagues, students and friends.

The opportunity to teach physical chemistry and thermodynamics to undergraduates was something that Professor Graydon cherished throughout his career. He added in some philosophy, and a little religion, and made sure students saw the connection to situations they encountered in their daily lives. As an example, when Canada switched from Imperial units to S.I., he provided students with brass medallions imprinted "One Newton in Toronto".

While his research covered many areas including fluid electrification, Dr. Graydon focused much of his research on the development of synthetic membranes which are now used extensively in many industrial, biomedical, and energy conversion applications. Twenty-six doctoral students received degrees under his supervision. Many went on to professorial positions in Canada, the U.S., and abroad, and into industry. Professor Graydon's research accomplishments are particularly noteworthy in that when he joined the University in 1949, the emphasis was perforce on undergraduate instruction; research was encouraged, but not well supported. That, of course, changed dramatically with the expansion in the 1960s and Bill Graydon was in the forefront.

When Professor James Ham succeeded Roland McLaughlin as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering in 1966, he invited Bill Graydon to serve with him as the first Associate Dean. In this capacity, he chaired two “shaping committees”, one on materials research and the other on environmental science and engineering. The first led to the strengthening of materials research across the Faculty with the establishment of the Centre for Materials Research and the second to the creation of the Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering, both of which have lasting legacies.

In 1970, when Professor Jack Breckenridge retired as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, Professor Graydon was appointed as the first Chair under the then new Haist Rules. Under his proactive leadership the Department continued to grow and prosper. Informal discussions over afternoon tea were largely replaced with regular formal meetings of faculty.

Back in 1962, Bill Graydon saw the need to help small Canadian companies establish R&D initiatives and to help new members of the Department engage in consulting to strengthen

their industrial experience. He was the founding President of Chemical Engineering Research Consultants Ltd. (CERCL) through which professors in the Department provided their expertise to many small and medium size companies under the auspices of the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) of the National Research Council. CERCL continues to thrive today and over the years has had a significant positive impact on rapport among members of the Department.

At the University level, Professor Graydon served on Senate (before it was replaced with the Academic Board), the Research Board and the Senate of Knox College with its Presbyterian links. He held executive positions with the Faculty Association and its forerunner, the Association of Teaching Staff. He played a significant role in the design of the University of Toronto Pension Plan.

Outside the University, he served on the Board of Directors of Canada Patents and Development Ltd. – a crown corporation based in Ottawa – for twelve years. He was also elected to the Etobicoke Board of Education in 1958, serving a total of eight years, including terms as chair of the finance committee and chair of the Board. This was a period of expansion with the construction of many new schools. Under Bill Graydon's leadership, conditions of employment were developed which attracted outstanding teachers.

Bill Graydon is survived by his wife Evelyn, their son John and daughters Mary, Jane, Elizabeth and Ruth, their spouses and thirteen grandchildren. He was something of an adventurer, enjoying boats and sailing with Evelyn on Georgian Bay and off the island of Nevis.

Professor Bill Graydon had a lot of energy, a loud voice and a hearty laugh; he enjoyed debate, especially in this very room. He was a leader and mentor to many, including myself. He was “larger than life”", as his portrait in the west foyer of the Wallberg Building demonstrates. We have lost a stalwart of the Faculty who helped build this very special place.

On a Regular Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on February 24, 2011 of William Frederick Graydon.

The Speaker then stated that these memorial tributes will be inscribed into the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be sent to each family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of Council.

Members of Council stood and observed one minute of silence in honour of the late Professors Emeriti Janischewskyj and Graydon.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

On a motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2010 be approved as circulated.

4. Introduction of New Members of Council

The Speaker called upon Professor Doug Reeve to introduce a new faculty member in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, Professor Arun Ramchandran.

He then called upon Professor Chris Damaren to introduce a new faculty member in the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, Professor Prasanth Nair.

The Speaker welcomed the new faculty members and thanked them for attending the meeting.

5. Report of the Dean

Dean Cristina Amon welcomed members to Faculty Council and provided an update on the 2010-2011 academic year.

(a) Academic Plan

Starting with consultations with the Academic Plan Steering Committee in the autumn of 2009, the Faculty developed an Academic Planning Framework used by administrative and academic units to garner Faculty-wide input on broad cross-Faculty topics. The draft Plan has received consultation from across the Faculty, including students, Chairs and Directors, and staff members. The Faculty's Academic Plan that will guide us for the next five to seven years is now being finalized.

Later today, members of Council will receive a draft of three chapters of the Academic Plan. These include the *Preamble,* outlining the Faculty's past initiatives and providing context of the Academic Plan; the chapter titled *Educating Future Engineers,* discussing the teaching and learning for both undergraduate and graduate students; and the chapter on *Student Experience* discussing how the Faculty will strengthen extra- and co-curricular experiences for our students. The Dean welcomed members' input on these chapters by Monday, March 14.

The remaining chapters of the Academic Plan will include:

Positioning, discussing how we perceive ourselves, how the Faculty is perceived by internal and external audiences, how we communicate with our audiences, and ways we will strengthen our messaging;

Culture of Excellence, establishing our aspirational goals and efforts to achieve excellence in Engineering research and education;

Research Foci, setting out the four Faculty-wide research themes and establishing ways in which we will continue to support our research endeavours;

Outreach, Collaboration and Influence, explaining how these three activities assist in attracting our scholars, students and staff members; innovating, sharing and creating engineering knowledge; and broadening our reach and impact on our local and international communities. The goals we establish will increase our visibility and quality, and strengthen our pursuit of excellence;

Resource Allocation, describing three main resource themes as enablers of our Faculty's efforts: academic time, infrastructure and budget. In this chapter we set our plans to maintain our resource stability.

These chapters will be distributed for further input from Faculty Council members as part of our ongoing consultations.

(b) Annual Report

The 2010 Annual Report was released in February and is now available online on the Faculty's main web page. The report builds on last year's inaugural report and presents the Faculty's historical data and corresponding figures from peer institutions, helping us to compare and assess our progress over time. The Report also highlights our 2010 initiatives and includes new chapters on *Advancement* and *Communications*, and a combined chapter on *Finances and Physical Resources.*

As we continue to collect and analyze data and to critically reflect on our accomplishments, we invite Faculty Council members to provide input.

(c) Dean's Student Town Hall

On February 11, members of the Faculty's administrative team met with over 50 undergraduate students at the Dean's Student Town Hall, co-hosted with the Engineering Society.

This meeting with students is a forum where the Faculty and Engineering Society can receive students' insights and perspectives on their experiences at the University.

Input was received on a number of topics, including computing facilities, support for First Year students, the Engineering Career Centre, course and teaching evaluations, assignment and examination scheduling, and grading and evaluation.

The Faculty continues to address these issues and will follow-up with students both by email and at our next Dean's Student Town Hall in the fall.

(d) First-Year Admissions

A strong pool of First Year applicants was received for the upcoming academic year, with an increase of 18% of Ontario students indicating the Faculty as their first choice.

There is also an out-of-province and international applicant increase of 15%. Additionally, the application cut-off has increased by 2 points. The admissions target for first-year is 100 fewer than the 2010-11 first-year cohort.

New this year, the U of T Engineering admissions process asked students to write short essays in addition to the supplementary information form, first on their extra-curricular activities and how these activities will help them to be successful at U of T Engineering, and second, why they chose Engineering, and why the University of Toronto. This practice further distinguishes us from other faculties who only consider marks when admitting students.

The Dean thanked members for their efforts in increasing the visibility and reputation of the Faculty.

(e) Graduate Applicants

The Faculty continues to be the premier destination for graduate students in Canada. The number of applications, especially those of international students, has increased from last year. However, the percentage of international admissions has been decreasing over the years because of the high cost of tuition and lack of funds provided by the Province for international students. The Faculty is addressing this concern by raising more research funds and considering mechanisms to decrease costs.

(f) Annual Celebrating Engineering Success Event

Staff and faculty members are invited to join the third annual Celebrating Engineering Success event on April 27 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to honour our colleagues' recognitions throughout the year, and to celebrate our collective achievements.

The Dean's report was received for information.

6. IBBME PhD with Clinical Engineering Concentration

The Speaker reminded members that Faculty Council meetings are formal and the Rules of Order and standard parliamentary procedure require that a motion be seconded before discussion ensues.

He noted that the following motion is being presented to Council as a Special Motion requiring approval by no less than two-thirds of members present, and confirmed that the report was distributed to members 14 days in advance of the meeting.

Professor Tom Chau of the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering presented Report 3280, which proposes the establishment of a Clinical Engineering concentration in IBBME's PhD program. The offering will start in September 2011. This concentration also allows the fast-tracking of MHSc clinical engineering graduate students into the PhD program, and requires an additional half-course requirement for graduate students without a clinical engineering background, a required joint engineering-health scientist supervisory arrangement, and research to be conducted within a clinical healthcare environment.

The Speaker invited discussion. No discussion arose.

On a Special Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the Faculty approves the creation of a Clinical Engineering Concentration in the existing IBBME PhD program as described in the attached Major Modification Proposal.

7. Engineering Minor in Robotics and Mechatronics

Professor Graeme Norval, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, presented Report 3283, a proposal for the establishment of a new Engineering Minor in Robotics and Mechatronics. He emphasized the structural difference between this and existing Minors is

that not all the six courses required can have the same course prefix. He further stated that this Minor provides a strong base upon which can be built additional courses in areas such as robotics, mining, or oil and gas.

The Speaker and Professor Jim Wallace, Vice-Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, added that this Committee is responsible for approving curriculum, which evolves over time and is continually strengthened.

A member asked if there is a cap to the number of Minors that students can pursue concurrently. Professor Norval responded that there is no cap, but said that most students can handle one Minor within a normal course load. Professor Bryan Karney, Associate-Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs, added that because there is a rule within the Faculty that prohibits triple-counting of courses, there is a practical limitation on the number of Minors that can be taken.

On a Regular Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the Engineering Minor in Robotics and Mechatronics be approved and introduced in the 2011-2012 academic year.

8. Graduate Degree Level Expectations

Professor Chris Damaren, Chair of the Engineering Graduate Education and Research Committee, presented Report 3281 which outlines Graduate Degree Level Expectations for the MASc, MEng and PhD programs. He described recent quality assurance developments at the provincial and university level, in particular how the achievement of Degree Level Expectations is an indicator of academic excellence supporting the University of Toronto's commitment to being an internationally significant research university.

The Speaker invited discussion. No discussion arose.

On a Regular Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering adopt the attached Graduate Degree Level Expectations for the following graduate programs: Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy.

9. General Terms and Conditions for Academic Awards

Professor Graeme Norval, Chair of the Scholarships and Awards Committee, presented Report 3279, a proposal to modify the General Terms and Conditions for Academic Awards to allow students taking a reduced course load to be eligible for academic awards.

The Speaker invited discussion. No discussion arose.

On a Regular motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the modifications to the General Terms and Conditions of Awards be approved.

10. Changes to Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Professor Phil Byer, Vice-Chair of the Admissions Committee, presented Report 3284, which proposes to change the core requirements for Ontario high school students. He explained that although Advanced Functions is one of a list of five courses students may choose from, it serves as a prerequisite to Calculus and Vector and so the vast majority of students will have already taken it. He also remarked that Advanced Functions is a good predictor of student success in their first year.

A member questioned why Faculty Council approval is being sought for this straightforward report, yet other reports that are much more extensive are being put forward for Faculty Council's information only. The Speaker responded that a governance mechanism exists to re-classify the approval level of reports.

On a Regular Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT the Faculty approve the recommendation to make Advanced Functions a required course for Ontario High School students and eliminate the 'one of Advanced Functions, Mathematics of Data Management, Biology, Earth and Space Science or Geometry and Discrete Mathematics' requirement.

11. Reports of Standing Committees

The Speaker reminded members that the following motions are for Council's information.

(a) Engineering Graduate Education and Research Committee

Report 3282, listing ten new courses, a change to PhD admission and program requirements in The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a proposed change to IBBME's PhD program requirements, was circulated in advance and was received for information.

(b) Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

(i) Edits to Regulations on Self-Initiated Minors

Report 3285, outlining modifications to the Regulations on Self-Initiated Minors, including timing of completion; International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), General Certificate of Education (GCE), French Baccalaureate (FB), and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) credits; Majors and Specialist programs; and course overlap, was presented.

A member enquired about the timeline for implementing this change, specifically, how long it would take to convert IB credits to university credits. Professor Norval responded that normally it is based on the year a student enrols at the University. He commented that Arts & Science has converted these credits for several years and that students can work with the Registrar to get this done.

The Report, circulated in advance, was received for information.

(ii) Curriculum Changes for the 2011-2012 Academic Year (Revised)

Report 3286, revised to correct a factual error, details a number of minor curriculum changes in Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Engineering Science, Mineral Engineering and Engineering Minors.

The Report, circulated in advance, was presented and received for information.

(c) Examinations Committee

(i) Deferred Final Examinations

Report 3287, containing guidelines developed to offer a limited number of deferred final exams, was circulated in advance for information.

A member had several comments and questions. He stated that it would be helpful if the Report included descriptions of the types of students to which it applies, for instance, if it is meant to address "repeat offenders" who consistently miss final examinations and who would have had academic issues throughout the semester. He pointed out that students with a high number of examination deferrals would likely have their record questioned. The member pointed out that some of the solutions in the Report have different implications (particularly regarding the effect on their time) depending on the faculty involved.

Professor Tom Coyle, Chair of the Examinations Committee, responded that the issue of deferred final examinations has been considered by the Examinations Committee over the past two years. He said that the type of student being considered under the Report is one who seeks a deferred examination due to a legitimate reason such as a death in the family or medical reason. The Committee uses its discretion to evaluate the petition, and historically, the result has been an assessment of the student's grade.

However, if a student petitions for every final examination, even with a physician's note, an assessed grade would relieve him or her from any work; this would not be the case if they were to write a deferred examination. Professor Coyle said that the Committee would also consider a retroactive withdrawal, including term work.

Professor Coyle stated that the volume of students who have accumulated a large number of assessed grades is aligned with cases appealed to the University of Toronto's Academic Appeals Committee. This Committee has been critical of the Faculty's practice of assessing grades and have overturned many of the assessed grades we assign. The Examinations Committee would like to accommodate students with valid petitions, while ensuring that students take enough course work to fairly assess them against their cohort.

Regarding the time commitment required of Faculty members to produce and administer deferred final examinations, Professor Coyle stated that the Committee also has no desire to set additional examinations, however, the practice of assessing grades is unique to our Faculty within the University context. Deferred examinations, not assessed grades, are the standard at our institution and at other Ontario engineering schools.

Regarding the time commitment, Professor Bryan Karney remarked that for a stable course, there is typically one examination that isn't published which can therefore be re-used. Another member pointed out that our Faculty's Engineering Society had spoken with undergraduate student societies at other universities that do offer deferred examinations, and that all of these universities require disclosure of their final examinations.

A member asked if there is an option for a student to decide if he or she would like to write a deferred examination. Professor Coyle responded that the Committee would decide on what accommodation is to be made. It would apply standard criteria regarding an acceptable absence, then decide on which route to take.

A member stated that it takes a full day to create a new final examination, supervise the student, etc., and that this amount of time would be disproportionately high for what might potentially be a single student. He then asked if we are unique in that we fully disclose final examinations, and if we could place a limit on the number of questions asked in a final exam. The member suggested the Report under discussion be sent back to the Examinations Committee to elaborate, and that they consult best practices at similar schools.

Another member commented that one reason in support of deferred examinations is that there are too many assessed grades, with 7-8% of students petitioning. He asked if students were petitioning more or if the Committee is accepting more petitions, and if it is possible to handle this issue differently. Professor Coyle responded that the issue with assessed grades is that the number of Did Not Writes (DNWs) have risen substantially, and that the number of assessed grades is now very high.

Another member suggested that it is not convincing for the Committee to say that the number of petitions will not decrease. He asked if the Committee could investigate trends, similarities and differences regarding content, disclosure, TA assistance in marking, and supervision.

A member noted that there is a push to modify our policy on deferred examinations at Governing Council. He further stated that our Faculty's practice of offering assessed grades makes our grading system less credible and affects the way external bodies view our examinations. He said that offering deferred examinations, especially for core courses, would be a good opportunity for students to prove their knowledge of a subject.

A member stated that the best argument was presented earlier, in that the Report would actually minimize the workload for faculty members. He suggested that the Examinations Committee emphasize this point and provide relevant context.

Another member suggested that the real focus should be on the unfairness of a marking system that is based on 25% of marks completed, and that if other top universities can offer deferred examinations, we should be able to as well.

A member asked if the increase of students not writing final examinations last year is a one-time event, to which Professor Coyle responded that the trend is continuing this year.

A member stated that the University wants clearly transparent policies and asked if the Report will be internal, or if it will be published in the calendar. Professor Coyle responded that the Report would be made available publicly via a decision of the Academic Appeals Committee, but acknowledged that it is not easily accessible.

Dean Amon asked what else the Committee could do to shed more light on this issue, to which Professor Coyle responded that they could provide excerpts from Academic Appeals Committee rulings to illustrate the University's discomfort with our policy of assessing grades. He also suggested the Committee could gather more information from similar universities regarding deferred examinations policies.

A member commented on the process by which this Report was being presented for Faculty Council's information. The member acknowledged that the Report is a work in progress, but suggested that it come back to Faculty Council in a way that allows members the opportunity to vote on it.

The Speaker explained that the process for rejecting the Report is to carry a motion to not accept it for information, and to bring it back to a subsequent Faculty Council meeting as a major report. The Speaker invited discussion on referring the Report back to the Committee. A member spoke in favour of the motion to refer the report back to the Examinations Committee, as it needs further input and debate from all faculty.

On the Regular Motion duly moved, seconded and carried, it was resolved

> THAT Report 3287: Deferred Final Exams, not be accepted for information but be brought as a major report before Faculty Council at its April 28, 2011 meeting.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Next Meeting

The date of the next Faculty Council meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2011.

14. Adjournment

The Speaker thanked members for attending and participating in the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.