

Proposal for full university status goes to OCUA

A proposal for full university status for Ryerson is in the government's hands, after receiving the enthusiastic and unanimous support of the Board of Governors at its May 27 meeting. Academic Council gave its unanimous approval on the same day (see story page 2).

The 269-page proposal went forward on June 1 to the Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA), the appointed advisory body to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

The minister, **Richard Allen**, has stated that the matter is a priority for him and has asked for OCUA's advice by Sept. 1 this year (*Forum*, May 24).

Ryerson is seeking changes in its governing act that would result in:

- A fully funded research role.
- Authority to develop graduate programs.
- Unrestricted powers in terms of degree designations.
- Authority to regulate and validate its academic programs internally.
- A name change to Ryerson Polytechnic University.

President **Terry Grier** has said his goal is to have legislation encompassing these changes enacted before his term expires in 1993.

Board member **Anthony Ferracuti** (Arch. '59) said, "I think the idea of graduate degrees is very exciting and I'm all for it. The president has done a super job on this and no one could represent our position better to the government."

Isabel Bassett, who became chair of the Board on July 1, commented that "this will be a great move in putting us on a level playing field. You have done a great job, Mr. President."

Ron Osborne, while supporting the in-

Unanimous support received from Board, Council

tent, expressed concern about the nomenclature, wondering if Ryerson will spend the next 20 years explaining what a polytechnic university is after spending the last 20 defining a polytechnical institute.

But **Ron Besse** (Business '62) said he hires Ryerson grads because "they are good, quick-start workers. I'm in favour of Ryerson Polytechnical University to retain our uniqueness."

In his covering letter for the proposal, Mr. Grier says, "Ontario must be more competitive in order to earn the income to pay for the social policies its citizens call for ... If we are to succeed as a province, applied education must be given the full

opportunity, the complete acceptance and recognition it still does not have.

"What is the message, when the one institution in the province (indeed in the country) that specializes in degree-level applied education lacks the status which tells people that what it does is truly seen as important?"

"If Ontario is truly serious about the role of applied education in its future, it will send the one signal that cannot be misunderstood. It will give Ryerson the full status of a university, and to its polytechnic mission the ungrudging status it deserves."

Currently, the Institute's operating grant
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EGGED ON: Institute mascot Eggy the ram had lots to smile about at convocation this year, including near-perfect weather and plenty of tasty turf in the quad. Full convocation coverage on pages 3 to 7.

Academic Council unanimously endorsed a motion supporting full polytechnic university status for Ryerson.

Council held a special meeting May 27 that heard speaker after speaker express enthusiastic support for the move.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime, a historic moment for Ryerson," said John Easton, chair of Applied Chemical and Biological Sciences. "This place has a lot to offer but we've always lacked outside recognition."

Some speakers praised the administration for acting promptly to seek full status after Minister of Colleges and Universities Richard Allen indicated his support.

"Quite often we knock the administration for not being dynamic enough, but they deserve our accolades for acting swiftly on this opportunity," said Ken Jones, chair of Applied Geography.

Council backs full status enthusiastically

Student Union President Tony Francescucci said students already think of Ryerson as a university.

"Students already know it's a university so it's about time we told everyone else," he said.

Marie Dowler of English said she was speaking on behalf of the Faculty of Arts in support of full status.

"I've been at Ryerson 25 years and this is the most exciting time I've lived through."

Prof. Dowler said full status represented a "tremendous opportunity" for the future of the Faculty of Arts at Ryerson, opening

up the possibility of a general Bachelor of Arts degree program. She said such a degree could take advantage of the tripartite curriculum at Ryerson.

President Terry Grier said Ryerson's reputation for a "willingness to be at the leading edge of public policy as well as the leading edge of educational policy" has brought it to its current stage of evolution.

"As a result, Ryerson is seen as part of the societal solution and not part of the problem.

"I have no difficulty saying to the government that if you are serious about this kind of degree-level, applied, professional education, then you can send no better signal to the people of this province than to say Ryerson stands shoulder to shoulder with other universities. Until you take this step (full status for Ryerson), you haven't quite said it." ■

Graduate programs would fill provincial gap

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is discounted by about 10% because it has no mandate for research and this costs Ryerson an estimated \$8 million per year.

"There is no longer a valid justification for Ryerson to be denied a research role," Mr. Grier says. "It is time for our teaching to be backed up by proper funding for the kind of research, scholarly, and creative work that our faculty and students can do best, and which is essential to first-rate undergraduate teaching, to accreditation, to advanced studies, and to technology transfer. We are doing a certain amount of this now (\$10-million worth since 1985) but without formula funding support."

Continued denial of this role, the proposal says, "will stifle faculty growth and interest and will seriously limit Ryerson's ability to attract good people," which will affect both the quality and accreditation potential of programs.

Ryerson is empowered to grant only specific undergraduate degrees—bachelor of applied arts, bachelor of business management, bachelor of technology, and two newly approved designations: bachelor of engineering in Electrical Engineering, and bachelor of social work.

The Institute is currently seeking B.Eng. designations in five more programs. In

addition, the proposal argues that Ryerson has a number of distinctive undergraduate degree programs in Applied Arts and elsewhere that are maturing and professionalising, creating a need for relevant graduate programs that, in many cases, do not exist in Ontario.

"Ryerson is well positioned to fill this educational gap at the provincial level," the proposal says. "It has the specialized facilities, faculty strengths, and curricular expertise upon which to build." In particular, it adds, the new Rogers Communications Centre "provides an exceptional breadth of opportunity (for new interdisciplinary programs) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels."

At present, the Institute must assess its programs on a seven-year cycle for societal need, academic excellence, and financial viability and resubmit them to the government with full documentation and a request for continued funding.

"We are now mature enough to exercise responsibly the same power internally to determine the academic validity of programs and degrees that is enjoyed by other universities," Mr. Grier says.

Other points made in the president's letter and the proposal:

- A polytechnic university is fully on a

par with other Ontario universities, distinguished from them only by its focus on applied and professional education.

- The word "polytechnic" is a descriptor, not a limitation. A polytechnic university is not a new species, it is not "limited purpose" and it is no more "special purpose" than any other university with a distinctive mission. "Polytechnic" is not an absolute requirement in Ryerson's university title, it simply reflects the Institute's program focus and provides a link with its past.

- The changes sought by Ryerson would "open doors to future evolution that are still closed today" but they "will not mean a revolutionary transformation in what we do or in who we are...our undergraduate programs will continue to be our centre of gravity and our great strength."

- Ryerson does not intend to pursue core programs in arts and humanities but faculty do have "an interest in applying arts disciplines to the solution of societal problems" through "distinctive interdisciplinary programs that would logically lead to a bachelor of arts degree." Examples of such programs are: applied ethics, art and technology, the impact of technology on human values, mass media and the arts, and the sociology of technology transfer. ■



Class of '93 gets first university degrees!

Ryerson Polytechnic University is a reality—and more than 3,000 graduates in the Class of '93 have the documents to prove it.

They were the first to receive degrees, diplomas, and certificates bearing the new university designation, at six convocation ceremonies June 16-18.

In fact, graduands, family, and friends at each ceremony responded with resounding cheers and applause when Vice President Academic **Dennis Mock** welcomed them to the 1993 spring convocation, adding "the first for Ryerson Polytechnic University."

It was a "first" made possible when the Ryerson Polytechnic University Statute Law Amendment Act, 1993, received third and final reading in the Ontario Legislature on May 18 and was subsequently signed by Lieutenant Governor **Hal Jackman** and then proclaimed into law, effective June 14. The Ryerson Bill had been introduced for first reading on April 13.

Minister of Education and Training **Dave Cooke**, who was responsible for the legislation, was on hand at the start of the first ceremony (Applied Arts) to extend congratulations from the Ontario government and to present President **Terry Grier** with a framed copy of the Ontario Gazette containing the proclamation of Ryerson as a university.

Inside Forum

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- *A second Ryerson Gold Medal for the Hollingworth family. Page 9.*
- *There were 11 formal harassment complaints in 1992. Page 11.*



Garbis

Christene Anacleto of Fashion was first to receive a Ryerson degree with the university designation. Eggy and President Terry Grier joined in the celebration.

Mr. Cooke said Ryerson has long been recognized as "one of the most significant institutions in our country. The legislation was passed with a sense of pride and I congratulate all of you who have worked so incredibly hard for this.

"I have never seen a piece of legislation go through so smoothly and quickly in my sixteen years in the Legislature. I can tell you it wouldn't have happened without the incredible lobbying effort of the administration, faculty, staff, and students. This is a historic occasion."

The first person to receive a graduation award from Ryerson Polytechnic University was **Georgina Atkinson**, who accepted her certificate in Business Communications,

earned through the Continuing Education Division.

The first diploma recipient was **Smadar Meiri**, in the design option of the Fashion program, and the first degree went to **Christene Anacleto**, also in Fashion.

The first male to receive a degree was Fashion graduate **Joeffer Caoc**.

In his closing remarks at each ceremony, Mr. Grier gave assurance that Ryerson, as a university, will maintain its relevance and preserve its focus on applied and professional education.

"That will continue to be our distinctive mission," he said. "We are known as a teaching institution of great distinction, (See UNIVERSITY, page 2)

University

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thanks to faculty like the men and women on our stage today.

"You, the graduates, know better than anyone else just how much their skill and dedication have meant to your education here. This will not change. Our undergraduate programs will continue to be our centre of gravity and our great strength."

But he added that a broader mandate—including applied research, graduate degrees, and technology transfer—accompanied by a phased move to equitable funding with sister universities, will enable Ryerson to play a leading role in the development of the more highly-skilled population needed "to generate prosperity for Ontario in the nineties...Every study of Ontario's economic future has reached the same conclusion: that this province must become more competitive, and must generate more wealth, to maintain and improve the social and cultural infrastructure we have come to depend on.

"Ontario's decision to recognize Ryerson as a full university is thus a clear recognition...of the importance of applied education.

"For 45 years we have been an institution committed to serve societal need in a practical, real way. Now, finally on a level playing field with our sister university institutions, we look forward to all the challenges the future will bring."

Mr. Grier also took time to offer his personal thanks to **Julie Davis** for her service on the Board of Governors over the past six years, the last two as vice-chair and then chair. She stepped down at the end of June, having served the maximum of two consecutive terms under the Ryerson Act.

"I have worked closely with Julie over the past two years and I want to express my warmest appreciation for her wonderful contribution to the university," Mr. Grier said. "She has played a very important role in achieving our new university status."

Ms. Davis responded with her own thanks for the opportunity to be involved with Ryerson and make a contribution in the final stages of its development as a university with a vital role in the future of Ontario.

At the Arts/Community Services ceremony, the president made special reference to **Sydney Stagg**, administrative assistant in



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the Faculty of Arts, where Mr. Grier had served as dean some years ago.

He cited Ms. Stagg, who received her degree in Public Administration, as an outstanding example "of all those who have worked and continued to study part-time to further their educations. She has volunteered beyond her regular duties to contribute to Ryerson over the years. Everyone has a favorite graduate at convocation and Sydney is my favorite."

Ms. Stagg, whose volunteer jobs include marshalling the grads at convocation, was greeted warmly by all of the front-row platform party as she crossed the stage to receive her degree.

During the three days, in addition to the traditional student Gold Medals and Ryerson Fellowships (see separate stories), there were two awards made for the first time at convocation:

- The Governor General's Silver Medal for highest grade point average at Ryerson was presented, in absentia, to **Andrzej Stefanowicz**, a degree graduate in Applied Computer Science who compiled a four-year GPA of 4.18 by recording 27 A+'s and 23 A's in his 50 one-term courses.

- The Brian Segal Award, named for Ryerson's past president, went to Urban and Regional Planning degree graduate **Helen Melbourne**, for a combination of sustained academic proficiency (top 2% of her class) and contribution to the cultural

life of Ryerson through her poetry in *White Wall Review*, organization of an art show at Oakham House, her work as a mentor for foreign students, and her efforts in the broader community on behalf of abused women seeking shelter.

At Community Services ceremonies, **Margaret Wilson** became the first graduate of the Child and Youth Care degree completion program for community college graduates by completing 16 courses in just nine months while working part-time (see separate story).

This convocation also produced the first graduates in four Continuing Education certificate programs—Facilities Management, Long-term Care Administration, Film Studies, and Family Life Education.

In addition, husband and wife **Robert Foo** and **Akemi Shimomura** each earned their 19th certificate—this time in Psychology of Human Relations—to go with their Ryerson Business degrees. Calling them "truly lifelong learners," Continuing Education Dean **Milton Orris** noted that Ryerson offers 62 certificate programs.

Staff members among the graduates included **Connie Wu-Tanenbaum** from Administration and Information Management (AIM), certificate in Telecommunications Management; **Margaret Zinn** of Student Services, certificate in Public Administration; **Chris Lam** of Computing
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