

Pearson Resolution

From the April 9, 2014 Executive Council Minutes:

Dean Waterman explained that after it was ruled that the resolution presented at the special meeting of the faculty on October 9, 2013, should have been reviewed in committee before a vote were taken the resolution was distributed to the program directors and put on the agendas of the four Area Committees for discussion. The Area Committees' views are summarized in their respective minutes. The humanities and social science committees were almost unanimous in endorsing the resolution as it stands, in part reflecting a reluctance to overturn the vote already taken, mostly out of sympathy with the resolution. The two science committees were opposed to endorsing the resolution as it stands, mostly to do with a refusal to impose on colleagues a ban on free choice of online platforms. All were concerned about faculty consultation and about issues of intellectual property, issues pertaining to the university, not to the Pearson contract.

The Council, after extensive discussion, reached the following consensus:

The Council recommends to the Faculty that it not endorse the resolution earlier presented, but rather that it adopt a resolution asking the Executive Vice President to have a report prepared on the workings, so far, of the Pearson agreement. The report should address the effectiveness of Pearson in facilitating and delivering online master's programs, the financial success of the agreement for the university, and any issues that have arisen regarding censorship of content. The report should also describe how faculty consultation will be implemented as we go forward. Finally, the university should provide clarification and if possible reassurances as to its intentions with regard to the intellectual property entailed in online programs and the faculty members' rights with regard to their online course developments.