

The Senate of York University

Synopsis

The 698th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 28 September 2023

Remarks

In the absence of the Chair, Poonam Puri, Vice-Chair, Lauren Sergio presided over the meeting, as acting Chair, and Senator Patricia Burke Wood was acting Vice-Chair.

The Chair expressed thanks to new and returning members who attended the orientation session just before the meeting.

Inquiries and Communications

Senator van Wijngaarden delivered highlights from the report of the academic Colleague to COU. The full report is included in the document package.

Reports

Under President's items, President Lenton spoke to the following:

- Trip to India with Deans, to build and nurture linkages with international partners
- Audit update: meeting with the Auditor General of Ontario on the preliminary factual report document; the draft report from the Auditor is expected mid-October; the report will be tabled with the Ontario legislature in November
- The challenges resulting from a shortfall in international student enrolments for FW'23, a continued tuition fee freeze and additional economic pressures, and the significant cumulative impact on the University's operating budget.
- Candidates for Honorary Degrees at Fall convocation are:
 - Mr. Nnimmo Bassey: environmental justice activist, author, architect, poet
 - Mr. Wes Hall: Entrepreneur, philanthropist, community leader
 - Mr. Andromache Karakatsanis: supreme court justice, philanthropist
 - Ms. Itha Sadhu: educator, author, historian, community developer

The President's monthly "Kudos" report on the achievements of members of the York community was received.

Approvals

Senate approved upon recommendation by the Executive Committee the election of members to the non-designated Senate Committees of Appeals, Awards, Tenure & Promotions, and the Joint Sub-committee on Quality Assurance.

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Committee Information Reports

Executive Committee

The Chair, highlighted:

- the recently approved new/revised members on the Faculty-designated and non-designated Senate committees, adding the additional approval of Andrea Davis as the LA&PS designated member on APPRC as confirmed through an e-vote of Executive
- The Senate meeting schedule for this year, both the dates and modes of delivery

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC)

The Chair of APPRC, Senator Davis, described APPRC's role and relationship to Senate and how it fulfills its mandate, and spoke briefly to the written report circulated with the agenda.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

The Chair of ASCP, Senator Michasiw described ASCP's role and key priorities for 2023-2024.

Senate Appeals Committee (SAC)

The Chair of SAC, Senator Sutherland spoke to the Appeal Committee's mandate and role.

Awards Committee

The Chair of Awards, Senator Bashir described the Committee's mandate.

Tenure and Promotions Committee (T&P)

The Chair of T&P, Senator Bohn described T&P's role and mandate, and reiterated the critical need for faculty members to serve on the Committee to allow for the continuing review of applications, without interruption, asking Senators to convey the call to their units and Faculties.

Other Business with Due Notice Received

Senate approved the following substantive motion, authorized by Senate Executive:

- That Senate provide accommodation to students who participate in the national *Day of Action* against rising tuition fees to be held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023; and
- That faculty members be asked through the Deans / Principal to establish reasonable extensions of deadlines for graded work due on that date, and to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who participate in the

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event, including reasonable alternative access to materials covered during their absence that does not alter the academic standards with the missed activity.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate agenda and supplementary material [posted online](#) with the **28 September 2023** meeting for details about these items.

<https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate/meeting-agendas-and-synopses/>

Senate's next meeting will be held at **3:00 pm on Thursday, 26 October 2023.**