

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 714<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 27 February 2025, via Zoom

### Remarks

#### Chair

The Chair opened the 714<sup>th</sup> meeting with the University's land acknowledgment and brief remarks on *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Congratulations were extended to President Lenton, Professors Colla, Constantinou, D'Agostino and Sharma, and Ms Cole on their receipt of the *King Charles III Coronation Medal*, and to Amir Asif on his re-appointment as Vice-President Research and Innovation. Senators were also advised that nominations for the 2025 *Robert Everett Exceptional Leadership in Student Governance Award* are now open.

#### President

The President provided updates on the *YorkU Forward Action Plan*, highlighting efforts to reduce the University's deficit, improve financial sustainability, and continue to advance the priorities of the University Academic Plan. Challenges from declining public funding, tuition freezes, and international enrolment drops are framing the planning landscape, requiring the need for revenue growth and cost streamlining to reach a balanced budget position by 2027-2028. Actions taken to date in connection with the 17 projects were reported, including administrative efficiencies, temporary academic program suspensions for low-enrolment programs, and cost-saving measures. Also provided were updates on the University's response to the report of the Ontario Auditor General (integrated within the *Forward Action Plan* projects) and the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA-4) negotiations, the latter outlining key financial and enrolment metrics that impact provincial funding to the University.

### Approvals

As amended in the meeting, on the recommendation of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, the establishment of the *Policy on Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work*, effective 1 September 2025.

On recommendation from the Executive Committee:

- an amendment to the Rules of Senate to change the statutory meeting time to 2:30pm to 4:30pm, effective of 1 July 2025; and
- a candidate for election to the the Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) for a three-year term, retroactive to 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2027, with the result being the acclamation of the nominee.

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Having been ruled in order by the Chair, and that decision sustained after an appeal of the Chair's ruling was defeated, Senate approved the addition of a motion to the agenda of this meeting and subsequently approved the motion after debate as follows:

*That the University hold in abeyance the suspension of admissions to the set of 18 degree programs recently announced until such time as a framework for guiding the assessment of program sustainability has been reviewed and endorsed by Senate, and*

*That, consistent with its mandate, APPRC review a draft framework for assessing program sustainability and bring its recommendation to Senate for Senate's consideration and endorsement.*

## Reports

The 2024 Annual Research Report was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

## Committee Information Items

### Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- Approval of a nominee from a Faculty Council for a Senate committee for a term of 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027.
- Approval of Student Senator nominees for various Senate committees for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- The final membership for the Board-Senate working group to review the *Principles Governing a Presidential Search*.
- Finalization of the terms of reference and membership for the new APPRC *Advisory Sub-committee on Academic Resource Allocations*.
- The approval of two new candidates and the renewal of three existing ones in the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients.

### Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

Information items included the following:

- An update on next steps for the proposed School of Medicine, including addressing Senate feedback on financial and academic planning matters.
- Its review of the *Faculties of the Future* draft Interim Report, with input from APPRC to refine its final version.
- The preparation of a retrospective report on achievements toward the priorities of the 2020-2025 University Academic Plan.

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- An update on enrolments and FW'25 applications at the Markham Campus.
- A status report on the implementation of the *Discover York Academics* tool.
- An update on the ongoing work related to two academic projects within the *Forward Action Plan* strategy, the *Supporting Program Innovation* and *Redesigning the Undergraduate Degree Framework*.

## Academic Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

Information items included the following:

- an update on the Committee's priorities, which include revisions to examination standards requiring YU-card identification (expected for approval in March 2025), and the ongoing progress on the transition from a 9-point to a 4-point grading scheme.
- minor changes to degree requirements for the following programs, effective Fall 2025 unless otherwise noted:
  - FGS: Updates to PhD in Digital Media course requirements and thesis formatting; *Film/Cinema & Media Studies* renamed *Cinema & Media Arts* (MA, MFA, PhD), with FILM rubric changed to CMA and terminology updates.
  - AMPD: Updates to BFA in Dance and Integrative Arts; revisions to MA, MFA, and PhD in Cinema & Media Studies / Film & Video, including FILM 7020 rubric change to PANF 7020; direct entry added for BFA in Production & Design (Fall 2026).
  - Glendon: Admission requirement changes for BA Accelerated Honours in Professional Translation; graduation requirement updates for Certificate in Teaching English as an International Language.
  - LA&PS: New 3.0-credit 1000-level options in French Studies; course title and sequencing updates for BA Specialized Honours in Cognitive Science (Machine Learning stream); revisions to Honours Minor in English Language Studies.
  - Lassonde: Degree requirement and course numbering adjustments for BASc in Computer Science & Digital Technologies; updates and elective additions for BEng in Mechanical, Computer, Software, and Civil Engineering; expanded Mechatronics Certificate access for Mechanical Engineering students.
  - Schulich: Course requirement updates for Graduate Diploma in Financial Engineering and MBA in Management (Sustainability); academic calendar, course code, and title updates for Master of Finance (Fall 2025), Master of Management & Master of Supply Chain Management (Winter 2026).

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## **Academic Policy, Planning and Research / Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy**

Senate received the November 2024 report from the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

### **Additional Information about this Meeting**

Please refer to the full Senate agenda of **27 February 2025** for details about the items reported.

Senate's next meeting will be held at **3:00 pm on Thursday, 27 March 2025**.