

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 720th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 25 September 2025

Remarks

President

The President reported on the University's planning context, highlighting the various external factors and internal planning documents which inform the strategic planning framework. An update was provided on enrolment and workforce trends, including international and domestic enrolment. The President further provided a budget overview, noting York's progress in reducing its projected deficit from \$132M to \$51M. The 5-year budget allows York to realize the goals of the York University Forward Action Plan and other initiatives, namely program enhancement, strategic enrolment management, and administrative efficiencies. She highlighted leadership changes beginning January 1 and invited Senators to attend fall Convocation.

Approvals

On the recommendation of the Senate Executive Committee, Senate approved the election of members to non-designated Senate Committees.

On the recommendation of the Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved:

- The addition of a new Honours BA Major in Philosophy of Law to the existing BA degree program in Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, LA&PS, effective effective FW 2026-27.
- The granting of degrees, diplomas, and certificates listed in Appendix B at the University's Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 convocations, and individually throughout the year, to students who have fulfilled requirements for receipt of degrees, diplomas and certificates; and forwarding of recommendations for certification by the Faculty of Education to the Ontario College of Teachers for students deemed "recommended for certification" by the Council of the Faculty of Education.

Committee Information Items

Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- Discussion of the outcome of the Joint Board-Senate Working Group's review of the Principles Governing a Presidential Search.

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- Approval of the individuals nominated by Faculty Councils for membership on Academic Policy, Planning and Research, Executive, and Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials committees effective 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2028.
- Preliminary discussion of priorities for the 2025-2026 academic year, including the planned actions and timelines supporting them, in addition to the call to other committees to set annual priorities.
- Review of the annual Senate and Senate Committee survey results. The Committee shared observations and recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of Senate meetings and suggested topics to come forward this year.
- Receipt of the final report on Senate attendance for the FW 2024-2025 academic year.
- Advising that no decisions were made by Executive under summer authority over July and August 2025.
- The approval of the schedule of Senate meetings for 2025-2026 including the revised start time of 2:30pm.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

Information items included the following:

- Ongoing work to establish its priorities for the year, which are expected to be provided to Senate at its October meeting through the Senate Executive Committee.
- The Committee's focus this year on producing the succeeding University Academic Plan and bringing forward a retrospective report on the 2020-2025 UAP in early autumn this year.
- Supporting the ongoing work of the new School of Medicine, including monitoring and contributing to the academic planning aspects of this major initiative and keeping Senate apprised of developments, seeking its input on planning matters as appropriate.
- Receipt of a preliminary FW 2025-2026 enrolment report, a discussion of the University's strategy to counter the challenges associated with the international student caps and visa processing, and initiatives being taken to support international student enrolment.
- Its review of the Faculties of the Future draft final report for feedback. Senate confirmed its desire to discuss the report at the 23 October 2025 meeting of Senate. The full Report can be accessed online using Passport York credentials: <https://www.yorku.ca/forward/wp-content/uploads/sites/901/2025/09/Faculties-of-the-Future-Final-Report-September-2025.pdf>.
- An update on a report provided by the Vice-President Research & Innovation to the Committee, which included the 2025-2026 Vision for Research & Innovation.

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Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

Information items included:

- Minor modifications to degree requirements and minor edits in programs housed in the Faculties of Education and LA&PS.
- Updates on the implementation of the *Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work Policy* and the new Grading Schemes exercise.
- Confirming membership of the Coordinating & Planning and Quality Assurance Sub-Committees.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC) & Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

Senate received the May 2025 Report of the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

Motion For Which Due Notice Has Been Given

Senate debated a substantive motion to pause the implementation of the *new Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work* for one year and reinstate the waiver of Attending Physician's Statements for most coursework, and direct ASCP to address operational issues before resuming the policy in 2026–2027. The motion was defeated.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **25 September 2025** for further details on the items reported.

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held at **2:30 pm on Thursday, 23 October 2025**.