

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 721st Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 23 October 2025

Remarks

President

The President delivered an update on sector advocacy, noting efforts to secure increased provincial operating grants and to address federal-level issues such as talent development, visa processing, and research security. An update on enrolment, including the Markham campus, was shared. York's Forward Action Plan remains a core way to achieve financial sustainability in a way that advances the University's core priorities. The President provided an overview of the Efficiency and Accountability Fund (EAF) Review, noting Deloitte's external review and alignment of its recommendations with York's Forward Action Plan. A further update was provided regarding the School of Medicine, noting the University is progressing with temporary space in the Dahdaleh building on Keele campus pending Board of Governors approval of the capital renovation project.

Inquiries & Communications

A report from the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was received for information.

Approvals

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

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

- A dual-degree option between the Schulich School of Business and the Esade Business School in Barcelona, Spain, for the BBA degree program, effective Fall 2026.
- A dual-degree option between the Schulich School of Business and the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (ESSEC) Business School in France, for the BBA degree program, effective Fall 2026.
- Exemptions for the York University School of Medicine Doctor of Medicine Program from the following four university policy frameworks, effective upon Senate approval of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program: Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work, Grade Reappraisal Principles, Grading

The Senate of York University Synopsis

Scheme & Feedback, and Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing.

Motion for Which Due Notice Has Been Given

Senate approved a motion to amend the Principles Governing a Presidential Search to include the: addition of language from the York Act as it relates to roles and responsibilities of Board and Senate pertaining to the appointment of the President; and, the addition of a process by which shortlisted candidates will be invited to deliver a presentation to a closed session of Senate where there is agreement among all of the short-listed candidates to do so.

As the authority for the Principles lies with both Senate and the Board of Governors, the revisions approved by Senate will proceed to the Board of Governors for approval.

Facilitated Discussion

Under the auspices of the *Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee*, Senate engaged in a facilitated discussion of the Faculties of the Future Final Report issued by the President, including reflections or questions about the process moving forward for Faculties' consideration of planning options and possible models of reorganization offered in the report.

Committee Information Items

Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- Committee approval of student members to serve on Senate committees, as nominated by the student senator caucus, for 2025-2026.
- Confirmation of the Committee's 2025-2026 annual priorities, which include the review of the *Senate Policy on Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes*, the review of the *Principles to Govern Presidential Search Committees*, and the review of the Senate Rules and the Senate membership.
- Receipt of the 2025-2026 annual priorities of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC) and the Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy Committee (ASCP).
- Receipt of recommendations from the *Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials Sub-Committee* to add individuals to the pool of prospective recipients of honorary degrees for a five-year period.
- Anticipated meeting of Senate on 11 December 2025 to discuss pending time-sensitive business. Final confirmation will be made in advance.
- An update on the Committee's discussion of a question about the recent naming announcement of the Hennick JD/MBA program and designations.

The Senate of York University Synopsis

- The Committee's discussion on Senate's feedback on the Joint Board-Senate Working Group's review of the *Principles Governing a Presidential Search* (the *Principles*), including the Committee's decision, based on the feedback of Senate, not to proceed with the Working Group's recommended change to the Principles from a special majority to simple majority voting rule.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

Information items included the following:

- Confirmation of the Committee's 2025-2026 annual priorities.
- Planning for the preparation of the succeeding University Academic Plan and circulation to Senate of the 2020-2025 UAP Retrospective Report.
- An update on the development of the School of Medicine towards its launch in 2028, noting accreditation timelines, academic program planning, and temporary teaching space arrangements on the Keele campus for the initial cohort of the MD program.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

Information items included:

- Minor modification to degree requirements in a program housed in the Faculty of Health effective.
- Updates on the ASCP priorities, the implementation of the Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work Policy, ongoing work with the Office of the University Registrar related to changes to administrative fees for deferred examinations, and plans to bring forward a Notice of Motion to Senate for two new proposed degree types: Master of Engineering (MEng) and Doctor of Medicine (MD).

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **23 October 2025** for further details on the items reported.

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held at **2:30 pm on Thursday, 27 November 2025**.