

York University Board of Governors Minutes

Meeting: Open Session, 25 February 2025
via videoconference

Present:	Regrets:	Others:
Paul Tsaparis, Chair Francesca Accinelli Sheraz Arshad Doug Bergeron Stefanie Lamonaca Caputo Antonio Di Domenico Michael Giudice Uma Gopinath Ruth Green Naomi Ierullo Harshit Jaiswal Loretta Lam Rhonda Lenton Sham Madhok Carole Malo Helen Polatajko Nar Singh Mary Traversy <i>Leikha Bisera, Assistant Secretary</i> <i>Leanne De Filippis, Advisor</i>	Sheraz Arshad David Garg Ingrid Minott Dee Patterson Eugene Roman Nadine Spencer Kathleen Taylor	Chris Ardern Amir Asif Anthony Barbisan Shannon Brooks Priyanka Debnath Marco Fiola Susana Gajic-Bruyea Vinitha Gengatharan Keshia Gray Aïssata Hann (YFS President) Alice Hovorka Barbara Joy Jacqueline Janelle Margaret Kierylo Narin Kishinchandani Laina Bay-Cheng Weiling Li Alice MacLachlan Ijade Maxwell Rodriques Kim McLean JJ McMurtry Oluwakemi (Kemi) Oke Patricia E. (Ellie) Perkins David Peters Sonya Pettinella Michelle Roseman Louise Spencer Graeme Stewart Darus Suharto Susan Webb Bobbi-Jean White Elaine MacRae, Governance Coordinator Alex Munin, IT

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II. Open Session

1. Chair's Items

The Chair welcomed Governors and community members to the 488th meeting of the Board of Governors of York University and read the Land Acknowledgement.

The Chair thanked members for their continued commitment to York and thanked Doug Bergeron for taking on the leadership role as Chair of the Land and Property committee and Dee Patterson for taking on the role of Chair of the Finance and Audit committee.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair extended condolences to the family of John Hunkin, former Board members who passed away in January. John Hunkin supported student excellence at York and was a longtime member of the York University Board of Governors and the York University Foundation Board. His leadership and vision were instrumental in shaping the University's future.

The Chair congratulated President Rhonda Lenton who will be honoured with the King Charles III's Coronation Medal in a special ceremony in March. The medal commemorates the coronation of King Charles III and is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Canada, their local communities, or have achieved remarkable accomplishments abroad that reflect positively on Canada.

Members were reminded that the next Board Education session will be on Strategic Enrolment Management scheduled on March 14.

a. Report on Items decided during the closed session

The Chair reported that at the Closed Session, the Board approved the following appointments/re-appointments as set out below:

- **VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT** – appointment of **Antonio Di Domenico** as Chair-Elect to serve a three-year term starting 1 July 2025.
- **RE-APPOINTMENT** - re-appointment of **Dr. Amir Asif** as Vice-President Research and Innovation for an additional five-year term commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030.
- **APPOINTMENT** – appointment of **Noorez Lalani** and **Frank Fazzari** to the Board of Governors for a four-year term from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

b. Consent Agenda Approval

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The Board approved the minutes of the November 26, 2024, meeting, amendments to the Banking Resolution to reflect changes in the VPFAs Division and updates to the Signing Authority Policy under the consent agenda. Members also noted amendments to the procedures of the *Human Rights Policy and Procedures* and the Points of Pride for information.

2. Executive Committee

The Chair reported that at its meeting earlier, the Executive Committee received an update from the President, considered appointments and re-appointments as announced, discussed the Terms of Reference of the Board Executive committee and reviewed key issues from committee chairs from this Board cycle's meeting.

a. Action Taken on Behalf of the Board

The Chair reported that since the last meeting of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee Executive Committee dealt with two items of business pursuant to its authority under Article 3 Section 3.02 (d) (iii) of the York University Board of Governors – Transitional Terms of Reference:

- the negotiated settlement for the renewal of the collective agreement with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3903 Unit 4 (CUPE 3903-4)
- the negotiated settlement for the renewal of the collective agreement with the York University Staff Association Unit 1 (YUSA-1)

3. President's Items

President Rhonda Lenton welcomed members to the meeting and provided an update covering several key topics: planning for the School of Medicine, an overview of the SMA-4 and the future of higher education. The President provided updates on the establishment of the School of Medicine, noting that the York University Senate approved in principle to establish the School of Medicine with the Faculty of Health and spoke to the four tracks of approval that will continue to advance: accreditation, establishment within the Faculty of Health, medical degree program approval, and capital planning. President Lenton highlighted the School's unique community-based learning approach.

President Lenton provided an overview of the Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA-4), where the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) launched the SMA4 process in August 2024, covering the period from 2025 to 2030. President Lenton noted that while six metrics from the SMA3 were carried over, two new metrics emphasize investment, innovation, and institution-specific objectives. York's Forward Action Plan under project 6: Improve SMA Performance aims to enhance York's performance across relevant SMA metrics by implementing strategic initiatives. The President discussed the financial challenges facing

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higher education institutions globally as universities face challenges due to underfunding, tuition fee freeze, and restrictions on international students. Factors influencing higher education were discussed including public perception, enrolment and demographics, hybrid campuses, sustainable business models student career readiness and well-being and artificial intelligence.

The President spoke to the YorkU Forward Action Plan which detailed updates on initiatives for program enhancement, enrolment recovery, and administrative efficiencies, with significant savings and strategic improvements projected. Additionally, President Lenton discussed York's global engagement efforts, aimed at strengthening higher education ties and expanding partnerships.

4. Academic Resources Committee

Antonio Di Domenico referred to the Committee's written report and spoke to items discussed which covered a budget and enrolment update, initiatives to improve enrolment management and updates related to the planning of the School of Medicine and select projects under the York University Forward Action Plan. The committee also received updates on the 2024 Annual Research Report and noted several research accolades and honors received by York. Additionally, for five consecutive years, the university has sustained externally sponsored research income, reaching an all-time high of \$120 million in FY2023, the highest in its history.

5. External Relations Committee

Francesca Accinelli provided highlights of items discussed at the committee which focused on core themes around fundraising, York's brand positioning and discussions on developments in government and community relations and its impact on higher education. A survey on York's brand strategy indicates that it is time to evolve the strategy, and that brand evolution will begin when the new University Academic Plan (UAP) is in place.

6. Finance and Audit Committee

On behalf of the committee, Sham Madhok provided the report of the committee included in the agenda package. Discussions focused on the budget and enrolment update, noting that the committee spent time on its impact on finance. In addition, the committee reviewed the annual Debt Policy and received the report of the Internal Auditor for the period of November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025.

a. Fees 2025 -2026

Referring to the documentation distributed, Ms. Madhok spoke to the proposed recommendations.

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i. Tuition Fees

Documentation was *noted*. It was duly *agreed* that the **Board of Governors approve the 2024-2026 domestic and international tuition fees as outlined in the summary table below, and in [Appendix A and B](#):**

Program	#	Fee Type	2025-26 Proposed Fees
Domestic Tuition Rates	1	Domestic undergraduate & masters - Ontario	Frozen at 2019-20 Rates per MCU
<i>Regular Arts & Science and Professional Programs (Undergraduate and Masters)</i>	2	Domestic undergraduate - Out of Province	5% for years 1 and 2; upper years frozen at 2019-20 rates
	3	Domestic masters - Out of Province	5% for all years
	4	Domestic - Ontario & Out of Province (tuition anomaly programs)	increase at MCU approved rates (max 7.5%/year) up to the approved cap
International Tuition Rates	5	International undergraduate - New Students	0% - 9.2%
<i>Regular Arts & Science and Professional Programs (Undergraduate and Masters)</i>	6	International undergraduate - Continuing Students	0% - 6.5%
	7	International masters - New Students	0% - 6%
	8	International masters - Continuing Students	0% - 5%
Research-based Graduate Programs	1	Domestic masters & doctoral - Ontario	0%
	2	Domestic masters & doctoral - Out of Province	up to 5%
	3	International masters & doctoral	up to 5%
Full Cost Recovery Programs (Domestic & International)	1	Diploma in Law for Law Enforcement	4%
	2	Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting	5%

II. New Programs beginning In September 2025

a. Ph.D. in Disaster and Emergency Management program

b. Graduate Diploma in Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (PHCNP) program

Appendix A sets out the proposed Tuition Fee changes for Domestic Students, detailed by Program.

Appendix B sets out the proposed Tuition Fee changes for International Students, detailed by Program.

ii. Centrally Collected Ancillaries

Documentation was *noted* and that the proposed increase is to offset inflationary pressures on operational expenses and maintain the quality of student services.

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It was duly *agreed* that the **Board of Governors approve a 12.0% increase in centrally collected ancillary fees for the fiscal year 2025-2026, effective May 1, 2025.**

- For undergraduate students, the increase is \$3.19 per credit, raising the fee from \$26.60 to \$29.79, resulting in an increase from \$798.00 to \$893.76 (\$95.76) for full-time students enrolled in 30 credits.
- For graduate students in professional programs, the increase is \$47.86, from \$398.81 to \$446.67 per term. Part-time graduate students pay 50% of the full-time fee.

iii. Parking Rates

Referring to the documentation distributed, Ms. Madhok spoke to the revised recommendations for parking rates following committee discussions.

Documentation was *noted*. It was duly *agreed* that the **Board of Governors approve the following 2025-2026 Parking rates:**

2025-2026 Permit Rates

Category	Rate	% Increase	Amount	Increase/month
Outer Reserved	\$104.00	12%	\$116.48	\$12.48
Reserved	\$116.00	14%	\$132.24	\$16.24
Garage	\$128.00	17%	\$149.76	\$21.76
Glendon Lower Level	\$81.00	12%	\$90.72	\$9.72

2025-2026 Weekend Rates

Location	Current Saturday Flat Fee	Current Sunday Flat Fee	Proposed Saturday Rate	Proposed Sunday Rate
Founders & Northwest Gate	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$1.75 per 1/2 hr. Max \$10.00	\$1.75 per 1/2 hr. Max \$10.00
Reserved Lots	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$1.75 per 1/2 hr. Max \$15.00	\$1.75 per 1/2 hr. Max \$15.00
Garages	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$1.75 per 1/2 hr. Max \$20.00	\$1.75 per 1/2 hr. Max \$20.00

2025-2026 HONK Multi Pack Rates

Category	Current 10 Pack Cost	% Increase	2025-2026 Cost	Increase
Surface	\$100.00	14%	\$114.00	\$14.00
Garage	\$120.00	17%	\$140.40	\$20.40

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b. Single Provider of Group Benefits and Employee Family Assistance Plan Services

Documentation was *noted*. Ms. Madhok spoke to the proposed recommendation noting that the renewal of the optional second term is conditional to Board approval.

It was duly ***agreed*** that the Board of Governors approve entering into a 10-year agreement with Sun Life Assurance of Canada for the provision of Group Benefits and Employee Family Assistance Plan Services. The projected value of the initial 5-year period is \$77.9M. The contract includes 1 additional optional 5-year renewal at York's discretion. The total estimated contract value of the initial period plus the optional renewal period (10-year potential period) is \$159.7M in Service Fees (excluding the claim amounts). Senior Administration will seek Board approval before proceeding with the additional optional 5-year renewal.

7. Governance and Human Resources Committee

Helen Polatajko highlighted key points from the committee report included in the agenda. She noted that the Division of Equity, People and Culture is now in its fifth year, which provides an opportunity to reflect on its evolution, clarify its current state and strengths, and plan for future developments and contributions. Additionally, the committee discussed milestones achieved under the Forward Action Plan's HR initiatives and events supporting Indigenous Initiatives.

The Chair noted that, following the recommendation of the Auditor General of Ontario, all Board committees reviewed their Terms of Reference. As part of this review process, all committee terms will now follow a consistent structure. Committee feedback will be incorporated, and the Governance and Human Resources (Gov&HR) committee will review all Terms for consistency and coherence before recommending them to the Board for approval in June. The committee received updates on board recruitment and reviewed the board skills matrix. They also discussed board education, including future opportunities for members to attend Senate sessions as part of director education.

8. Investment Committee

Mary Traversy spoke to the Investment Committee report included in the agenda package and provided an overview of discussions around the concept of the Long-Term Investment Fund, progress towards moving into a new asset class on private equity and a discussion on the sustainable investing report which intends to demonstrate York's progress and positions the University as a leader in sustainable investing and transparency.

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a. Revisions to the Endowment Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP)

Documentation was *noted* and that the proposed revisions to the Endowment Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP) is to reflect the recommendation adopting the Reference Portfolio.

It was duly ***agreed*** that the Board of Governors approve the revised Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP) due to future implementation of a Reference Portfolio and stating that the portfolio performance should meet or exceed a real rate of 4%. The revised SIPP is attached as appendix A.

9. Land and Property Committee

Doug Bergeron spoke to the Committee's report which covered discussions around the School of Medicine where the process for a Plan B to temporarily house the School at the Keele campus is being developed. Updates on progress made towards developing a Glendon Campus Vision and strategy were provided, together with the capital construction update on developments in the Keele, Glendon and Markham campuses. Following the opening of the Markham campus in September 2024, members noted that outstanding work on the building is progressing well, and that the project's substantial performance milestone is targeting towards May 2025.

10. Other Business

There were no other business.

11. In Camera Session

An *In Camera* Session was held. No decisions were taken.

Paul Tsaparis, Chair _____

Leikha Bisera, Assistant University Secretary_____