

York University Board of Governors Minutes

Meeting: Open Session, 24 June 2025

In person in Room 524 Kaneff Tower and via videoconference

Present:	Regrets:	Others:
Paul Tsaparis, Chair Francesca Accinelli Doug Bergeron (zoom) Stefanie Lamonaca Caputo Antonio Di Domenico Frank Fazzari David Garg Michael Giudice Uma Gopinath (zoom) Ruth Green Naomi Ierullo Harshit Jaiswal Noorez Lalani Loretta Lam Rhonda Lenton Sham Madhok Carole Malo Helen Polatajko (zoom) Eugene Roman Nadine Spencer Katie Taylor (zoom) Mary Traversy <i>Sarah Willey-Thomas, University Secretary</i> <i>Leikha Bisera, Assistant Secretary</i>	Sheraz Arshad David Garg	Marcia Annisette Amir Asif Anthony Barbisan Laina Bay-Cheng Shannon Brooks Christine Brooks-Cappadocia Priyanka Debnath Kathryn Doyle – Incoming Board Member Rebecca Elming Marco Fiola Susana Gajic-Brueya Keshia Gray Alice Hovorka Jacqueline Janelle Barbara Joy Margaret Kierylo Narin Kishinchandani Julie Lafford Weiling Li Ijade Maxwell Rodriques Kim McLean JJ McMurtry David Peters Sonia Pettinella Christine Silversides Darus Suharto Ryan Whitson – Incoming Board Member Elaine MacRae, Governance Coordinator Alexander Munin, IT Tech for Open Session

II. Open Session

1. Chair's Items

The Chair welcomed Governors and community members to the 490th meeting of the Board of Governors of York University and delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

The Chair announced the Nar Singh has agreed to serve as Chair of the Academic Resources Committee starting July 1. Congratulations were extended to Francesca Accinelli for receiving

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the King Charles III's Coronation Medal for her contributions to public service. The King Charles III's Coronation Medal is a commemorative distinction awarded to Canadians who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and commitment to the well-being of Canadian society. The Chair also congratulated Frank Fazzari for being named the 2025 Philanthropic Business Person of the Year at the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce's 35th Annual Business Achievement Awards. The Award is in recognition of his longstanding commitment to community service and leadership in the business sector.

Appreciation was extended to Ruth Green, Sheraz Arshad and Stefani Lamonaca-Caputo are completing their two-year terms on the Board this month. Recognition was also given to departing external member, Eugene Roman, who also ends his term on the Board at the end of the month. The Chair welcomed Sarah Willey-Thomas to her first Board meeting as University Secretary. The Chair also welcomed new and returning governors, including Kathryn Doyle, Jennifer van Wijngaarden, Ryan Whiston and Nadine Spencer.

Members were reminded that that a board photo will take place following the meeting prior to the Hail and Farewell dinner.

a) Report on Items Decided in the Closed Session

During the Closed Session, the Board approved the following appointments:

- Accept notice from Rhonda Lenton to end her term as President and Vice-Chancellor of York University effective 31 December 2025;
- appointment of Lisa Philipps as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of York University effective 1 January 2026;
- appointment of Professor Brandon Vickerd as Dean, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2025;
- appointment of Dr. Maydianne Andrade as Dean, Faculty of Science for a 5-year term commencing 1 January 2026;
- re-appointment of Dr. Detlev Zwick as Dean, Schulich School of Business for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2026;
- re-appointed Nadine Spencer for a second four-year term to start July 1, 2025;
- Appointment of Ryan Whiston as Graduate Student member for a two-year term beginning 1 July 2025;
- Appointment of Jennifer Van Wijngaarden as a Senate member, for a two-year term beginning 1 July 2025; and,

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- Appointment of Kathryn Doyle, as a Non-Academic Employee member for a two-year term beginning 1 July 2025.

b) Consent Agenda Approval

The Board approved the following items under consent:

- Minutes of the April 29, 2025 Meeting
- Tuition Fee Increase for the Bachelor of Engineering Mechatronics Program
- Banking Resolution
- Compass Group Agreement

2. Executive Committee

The Chair reported that at its meeting that morning, the Committee received updates from the President, received a status update on the Auditor General of Ontario recommendations, received an update on the Presidential Search Principles Working Group, considered appointments and reappointments, reviewed and discussed the Board Executive Terms of reference, and heard from Committee Chairs on key issues and action items 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 dealt with an update to a collective bargaining mandate pursuant to its authority under Article 3 Section 3.02 (d) (iii) of the York University Board of Governors – Transitional Terms of Reference.

3. President's Items

The President expressed thanks for support over the course of the governance year. The President provided an update on the impact of the enrolment cap on international students, but also noted the positive impact of strong international rankings. The strategic planning landscape at York was also highlighted, including updates to the President and Vice-Presidents Integrated Resource Plan and University Academic Plan, noting the positive impact of a strong planning culture to guide York in a VUCA environment. The Board heard about the impact of various government policies on the University's finances and the impact of the York U Forward Action Plan. The President outlined other key initiatives and factors impacting the University, including AI, philanthropic environment, global engagement and community partnerships.

The Board discussed the Economic Social Impact Report and plans to update and republish the report. The Board also discussed branding opportunities related to online course offerings.

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4. Presentation: Student Representative Roundtable Annual Report

The Board received a report on the activities of the *Student Representative Roundtable* in 2024-2025. The Roundtable actively discussed and participated in consultations on the following:

- Orientation and transition support
- Community safety and campus involvement
- University budget & student services
- Faculties of the Future
- Interim student referenda process
- Access to campus spaces
- Mental health support

5. Academic Resources Committee

Antonio Di Domenico provided a summary of key items of business discussed by the Committee, including work integrated learning; update on Faculties of the Future consultation; and key achievements from the Vice-President Research and Innovation, including key partnerships and the doubling of research income.

- a. Establishment of the School of Medicine as an academic unit within the Faculty of Health

The Board received a recommendation related to the establishment of the School of Medicine as a new academic unit.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the School of Medicine as a new academic unit in the Faculty of Health effective 1 July 2025.**

6. External Relations Committee

Francesca Accinelli provided a summary of key information items discussed by the Committee, including key accomplishments in 2024-2025; York alumni elected as well as those serving in ministerial roles in the recent provincial and federal elections; success of the Hometown Heroes campaign; key priorities in international recruitment; and key social media KPIs. Following the meeting, a presentation from Advancement pertaining to alumni engagement, will be shared with the Board of Governors.

The Board discussed international recruitment strategy and key areas of focus.

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7. Finance and Audit Committee

Dee Patterson presented a series of decision items on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee.

a. Appointment of External Auditors

The Board received a recommendation on the appointment of external auditors for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the reappointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the auditor for the University for the fiscal year 2025-26.**

b. Consolidated Financial Statements for Year Ended April 30, 2025

The Board received a recommendation on the approval of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2025.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2025.**

c. Multi-Year Budget Plan 2025-26 to 2029-30

Narin Kishinchandani, Vice President, Finance and Administration delivered a presentation on the multi-year budget plan, highlighting discussions undertaken regarding the transition to a five-year plan, progress to date and key challenges facing the University.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the multi-year budget plan for 2025-26 to 2029-30.**

i. Ancillary Services Budget – Spring 2025

The Board received a recommendation related to the approval of the Ancillary Services Operating and Capital & Major Maintenance Plan.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the Ancillary Services Operating and Capital & Major Maintenance Plan for 2025-26 through 2029-30.**

ii. Executive Learning Centre Budget – Spring 2025

The Board received a recommendation related to the approval of the Executive Learning Centre long-term plan and budget.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the long-term plan and related budget for the Executive Learning Centre (ELC).**

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d. Line of Credit Increase

The Board received a recommendation related to the increase of the University's Operating Line of Credit and related provisions around the use of the accordion feature.

It was duly *agreed* that the **Board of Governors approve an increase of the University's Operating Line of Credit from \$20 million to \$70 million with an accordion feature of \$30 million.**

Management will provide regular updates on any drawdowns on the Operating Line of Credit and will seek prior approval from the Finance and Audit Committee before utilizing the accordion feature.

8. Governance and Human Resources Committee

Helen Polatajko provided an overview of the two decision items coming forward as a result of the Auditor General's recommendation.

a. Board Committee Terms of Reference and Change of Committee Name

Polatajko noted an updated to item 3b for the Executive Committee terms of reference and a name change to the Governance and Human Resources Committee to the Governance, People and Culture Committee.

It was duly *agreed* that the **Board of Governors approve the revised Terms of Reference for the following as reflected in Appendix A:**

Academic Resources Committee

Executive Committee

External Relations Committee

Governance and Human Resources Committee

Finance and Audit Committee

Investment Committee

Land and Property Committee

Subcommittee on Digital Transformation

and;

that the name of the Governance and Human Resources Committee be changed to *Governance, People and Culture Committee*.

b. 2025-2026 Board and Committee Workplan

The Board received a recommendation related to the Board and committee workplans.

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It was duly *agreed* that the **Board of Governors** approve

- a. the 2025-2026 Workplan for the following committees as reflected in Appendix A:**

**Academic Resources Committee
Executive Committee
External Relations Committee
Governance and Human Resources Committee
Finance and Audit Committee
Investment Committee
Land and Property Committee
Subcommittee on Digital Transformation; and,**

- b. The Board of Governors Workplan for 2025-2026 as reflected in Appendix B.**

9. Investment Committee

Mary Traversy spoke to key discussion items at the committee including the diversification of investments; updates to the Committee's terms of reference; and follow up discussions from the Board retreat.

- a. Endowment Distribution Accrual Rate 2025– 26**

The Board received a recommendation related to the endowment distribution accrual rate for 2025-2026.

It was duly *agreed* that the Board of Governors approve a 2025-26 distribution accrual rate of \$5.16 per unit, being an increase of \$0.42 per unit rate over the 2024-25 distribution accrual rate of \$4.74 per unit.

10. Land and Property Committee

Doug Bergeron delivered highlights of the Land and Property Committee, including timelines and requirements for the School of Medicine and reviewing the University's work on capital construction projects, including challenges with building in the current context.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. In Camera Session

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

Paul Tsaparis, Chair _____

Sarah Willey-Thomas, University Secretary_____