

The Senate of York University – Minutes

Meeting: Thursday, 12 December 2024, 3:00 pm

Via Zoom

L. Sergio (Chair)	J. Elwick	R. Lee	M. Poirier
P. Burke Wood (Vice-Chair)	O. Eyawo	R. Lenton	M. Ramaj
P. Robichaud (Secretary)	T. Farrow	M. Macaulay	S. Rehaag
G. Abdel-Shehid	M. Fiola	A. MacLachlan	T. Rimmel
G. Alboiu	S. Gajic-Bruyea	J. Magee	P. Safai
O. Alexandrakis	L. Gilbert	V. Mago	C. Sandilands
M. Annisette	M. Giudice	H. Mahon	V. Saridakis
C. Ardern	J. Goodyer	C. Mallette	R. Savage
E. Armstrong	K. Gray	A. Mapp	R. Shao
A. Asif	R. Green	A. Maxwell	D. Sinclair
G. Audette	J. Hafner	G. McGillivray	B. Spotton Visano
M. Baljko	M. Hamadeh	A. McKenzie	J. Sutherland
M. Balyasnikova	E. Hamm	J.J. McMurtry	C. Swenson
L. Bay-Cheng	A. Harvey	K. McPherson	K. Tasa
S. Bay-Cheng	M. Haslam	B. Meisner	A-M. Tarc
S. Bell	M. Herbert	M. Mekouar	A. Taves
D. Berbecel	W.M. Ho	M. Morrow	J. Thienpont
M. Biehl	A. Horkova	Y. Munro	J. Trevett
K. Bird	Y. Hwang	N. Murugarajan	P. Tsaparis
M-H. Budworth	K. Kanagaretnam	R. Nasrazadani	P. Tsasis
S. Bury	S. Karimi	L. Nguyen	A. Valeo
E. Clements	T. Kelly	R. Ophir	J. van Wijngaarden
N. Couto	R. Kenedy	A. Ouedraogo	G. Vanstone
A. Czekanski	T. Kirchner	D. Palermo	R. Vivès
S. Datta	N. Kishinchandani	S. Paradis	R. Wang
A. Dawson	T. Kubiseski	P. Park	A. Weaver
S. Desai	M. Lambert-Drache	S. Peacock	R. Wellen
M. Di Paolantonio	G. Langlois	A. Pechawis	B. Weobong
J. Eastwood	F. Latchford	E. Perkins	R. Whiston
M. Ebrahimi	S. Lazarev	D. Peters	M. Winfield
C. Ehrlich		S. Pisana	D. Zwick

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the 712th meeting of Senate. She reflected on equity, diversity, and inclusion and acknowledged with sorrow the 35th anniversary of the horrific anti-woman attack at the Polytechnique Montréal. Appreciation was extended to UIT colleague Grant McNair for his valuable technical support in delivering Senate meetings and best wishes were offered for his retirement. Thanks for his contributions

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to governance at the University were conveyed to Senator Robichaud at the attendance of his final Senate meeting.

A request to change the order of the agenda was made to the Chair to facilitate the timely completion of approval items at this meeting. Noting the Executive Committee had already adjusted the statutory order of items for this agenda, and having confidence that the time allotments for each item of business will lend to the completion of business within the meeting time, the Chair confirmed the agenda as distributed.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Inquiries and Communications

a. Communication to Academic Colleagues to Council of Ontario Universities

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

Committee Reports

4. Executive Committee

Senate Executive informed Senate of the following:

- The Committee's ongoing consideration of a change to the statutory meeting time of Senate to address scheduling concerns, for which notice of motion of a recommended change is planned for the January meeting of Senate.
- the authorization for a hortative motion pertaining to school of medicine planning to proceed to Senate for review at its December meeting.

5. Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

a. Extension of waiver of required Attending Physician's Statement for deferred standing/petitions

It was moved and seconded that "**Senate waive any requirements for an Attending Physician's Statement to support deferral of in-class work, from 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025.**"

Following a brief discussion of the scope of the motion, the mover and seconder *accepted a friendly amendment* to revise the text to read: "***That Senate waive any***"

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requirements for an Attending Physician’s Statement to support deferral of everything but final examinations from 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025.

On a vote the motion as revised *carried*.

b. Minor revisions to the Academic Conduct Policy and Procedure

It was moved and seconded, that Senate **approve each of the following revisions to the Academic Conduct Policy and Procedure attached as Appendix A:**

- **Section 3.3: Faculties must have a process in place to implement this policy within their jurisdiction. Such process must be approved by the relevant Faculty Council and Senate by way of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) Committee, and the Senate Appeals Committee (SAC).**
- **Section 5.3.b.: Allegations of misconduct in a graduate course or in the process of working towards a graduate degree, will be dealt with by the PPR or PPR Designate and the appropriate committee(s) and associated processes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies**
- **Section 5.5.e.: In keeping with Ontario laws governing the protection of privacy, a request for disclosure of any information about academic conduct will be considered in the first instance by the Office of the University Registrar, the University’s sole central repository for its records concerning students.**
- **Section 5.6.a.vii: failure in the course**

Senate *defeated* a motion to refer the motion to back to ASCP to have greater consultation and further review by the Senate committee.

Noting the four components of the motion, the Chair, with the agreement of the mover and seconder, divided the motion such that each separate revision will be voted on separately to help Senate deal effectively with it.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that **Senate approve a revision to Section 3.3 of the Academic Conduct Policy and Procedure to: *Faculties must have a process in place to implement this policy within their jurisdiction. Such process must be approved by the relevant Faculty Council and Senate by way of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) Committee, and the Senate Appeals Committee (SAC).***

It was moved, seconded, and carried that **Senate approve a revision to Section 5.3.b of the Academic Conduct Policy and Procedure to: *Allegations of misconduct in a***

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graduate course or in the process of working towards a graduate degree, will be dealt with by the PPR or PPR Designate and the appropriate committee(s) and associated processes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that **Senate approve a revision to Section 5.5 e of the Academic Conduct Policy and Procedure to: *In keeping with Ontario laws governing the protection of privacy, a request for disclosure of any information about academic conduct will be considered in the first instance by the Office of the University Registrar, the University's sole central repository for its records concerning students.***

Noting a question about the proposed revision to Section 5.6.a.vii pertaining to the sanction of failure in the course, the mover withdrew this motion for further review by ASCP.

c. Information Items

ASCP reported to Senate:

- In concert with its 2024-2025 committee priorities, the launch of a new comprehensive website dedicated to generative AI in teaching and learning, the establishment of a central AI hub to link teaching resources, research innovation, and university operations, and plans of the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning for events to engage with AI's role in education, starting with a teaching showcase in January 2025.
- minor changes to degree requirements for the following programs, all effective FW'25:

BSc in Kinesiology and Health Science
BA in Movement and Health,
BSc in Psychology
BSc in Global Health
MA and PhD in Mathematics & Statistics

6. Appeals

a. 2023-2024 Annual Report on Petitions and Appeals

In the absence of the Chair for this item, the report will be carried forward to the January meeting of Senate.

7. Tenure and Promotions

a. 2023-2024 Annual Committee Report

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The 2023-2024 Annual report from the Tenure and Promotions Committee was *noted*. Receiving a question about an apparent discrepancy in the data reporting on the gender break-down of the Senate Committee's recommendations on applications (Table 2 of the report), the Chair will review the matter and provide a corrected version of the report for Senate at the January meeting.

8. President's Items

The President advised Senate on the ongoing advocacy efforts of the Council of Ontario Universities with the provincial and federal governments to address the challenges faced by the post-secondary education sector arising from policy decisions pertaining to tuition freezes and international students. Securing increased operating funding and adjustments to the international student cap were both highlighted as critical to the sustainability of the post-secondary sector.

Referring to presentation slides (a copy of the slides is filed with these minutes and posted with the Senate agenda on the Senate website), the President addressed earlier queries from Senators about the University's operating budget and the actions being taken to address the financial challenges. Referenced specifically were measures to support Faculties facing significant financial pressures while maintaining the University's commitment to academic excellence and equity. The President also emphasized the important role of strategic initiatives in generating new revenue streams - such as program innovation and interdisciplinary research - to help address budget shortfalls along side expenditure reductions.

9. Academic Policy, Planning and Research

a. School of Medicine Planning: Senate consultation on administrative architecture

At the invitation of the Chair of Senate to facilitate Senate's deliberations, the Chair of APPRC's Ad hoc Oversight Group, Professor Lisa Farley, and the Co-Chairs of the School of Medicine Planning Group, Professors Christopher Parry and Nancy Sangiulano, joined the meeting as resources for this item of business. Professor Farley provided context for the consultation, noting the importance of hearing from Senate its views on the different models for a school of medicine to be integrated into the planning process.

A broad discussion of issues related to plans for a school of medicine was held. Those who spoke to the matter of the administrative architecture of planned new academic unit expressed general support for model two of the three presented, which is locating the school within the Faculty of Health. Others suggested input on that aspect of the plans is premature in the absence of fuller information about the overall resource plans for the school, including whether infrastructuring funding for it will be provided by the Province.

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Within the wide-ranging discussion, questions were voiced about the financial risks of investing in the initiative amid the serious budgetary circumstances at the University and the uncertainty of the resource impact on existing Faculties. In addition to the potential impact on Faculties of the operating costs of a school of medicine, the resourcing of the planned new building for the school is a specific area of concern. Senators were reminded that the establishment of a school of medicine as an academic unit at the University is distinct from a capital project for a building, with the latter being a matter under the purview of the Board of Governors. Some opined that the lack of concrete information at this stage in planning on the faculty and staff complement, forecasted enrolments and philanthropic support for the school makes it difficult to reasonably assess the opportunity.

Noting the business on the agenda still to come, the Chair sought and received the required support of Senate to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Several other Senators pointed to the alignment of a medical school with York's strategic vision and the array of advantages it would bring the University, including revenue and enrolment growth, opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary programming, expansion of research strengths and funding and, critically, the University contributing to meeting the dire need for doctors in the province. Emphasized as a consideration of consequence is the high likelihood of losing this once-in-a-generation opportunity to position the University as a leader in addressing societal needs if it is not taken up at this rare juncture.

The extension of the meeting by a further 15 minutes received the required support by Senate.

Professor Farley thanked Senators for the valuable discussion, advising that Senate's feedback and advice will inform the ongoing work of the Planning Group, APRPC and its Ad Hoc Oversight Group.

10. Other Business for which Due Notice has been Given

- a. Hortative Motion: School of Medicine funding

It was moved and seconded that

Senate hereby expresses its view that the capital costs associated with the establishment of a York University medical school should be fully funded by government and/or external sources rather than by existing internal funds or revenues from existing operations.

In opening the debate, the mover expressed the view that in the absence of confirmation of the necessary funding up front for the capital costs to support the school of medicine, there is concern with the impact the initiative will have on the rest

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of the University. The stance put forward that the University is in a financial position to proceed with the plans was noted as puzzling juxtaposed against earlier assertions to faculty that the University is not in a financially stable position. Calling for the capital costs for the medical school to be funded solely by external sources is the intent of the hortative motion.

Senators exchanged views on the motion. The President advised that the intention is to fund the capital building project through government and philanthropy money, reserving the possibility for some internal contributions from the University to be used as has been the case with many prior capital projects that support strategic initiatives and academic priorities. It is neither the plan nor a possibility to source the full \$300M cost of a building by internal funds.

The extension of the meeting by a further 15 minutes received the required support by Senate.

Raised for consideration was the question of whether the establishment of the medical school and the building project have to occur concurrently, specifically whether proceeding with the creation of school is jeopardized if a building is not ready by 2028.

Several expressed disagreement with the motion, finding its impact negative, carrying the potential to interfere with fundraising efforts, and creating another barrier to taking up the extraordinary opportunity in front of the University.

On a vote, the motion was defeated with 49 voting in favour and 51 opposed.

11. Other Business

There was none. The meeting was adjourned.

Consent Agenda Items

12. Minutes of the Meeting of 28 November 2024

The minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2024 were *approved by consent*.

Information Item

13. Senators on the Board of Governors: 26 November 2024 Meeting of the Board of Governors

The synopsis of the Board of Governors meeting of 26 November 2024 as conveyed by Senators Green and Giudice was noted.

Lauren Sergio, Chair_____

Cheryl Underhill, Acting Secretary_____