

## The Senate of York University – Minutes

**Meeting:** Thursday, 23 January 2025, 2:30 pm

Via Zoom

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

### 1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the 713<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate, with Cheryl Underhill as Acting Secretary of Senate.

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## 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. Noting the recent COU discussions, Senator Armour highlighted the need to communicate broadly within the province the importance of properly funding universities to address growing public questions about the broad value of government resources for post-secondary education, particularly in the current financial landscape where inflation is widely affecting peoples' personal finances. It is a challenge to effectively frame the message, but it is a critically important one that universities collectively have to give careful thought to to help foster understanding of the societal value and necessity of post-secondary education.

## 4. President's Items

The President briefed Senators about the continuing significant impact the cap on international student enrolments is having on post-secondary education institutions and the focused advocacy efforts being taken in Ontario to try to influence remediating actions by the government. That the federal government has stayed firm on its cap for FW 2025-2026 - and has now included within it graduate students and in-country VISA students - the flow-through effects of this policy on enrolments has necessitated a reassessment of our enrolment strategy to consider what is a viable international enrolment plan and how to mitigate further risk to enrolment recovery. That work is in progress now.

Also reported was that the University's federal pre-budget submission included positions on:

- investing in sustainable and capital infrastructure
- revising eligibility criteria making universities eligible to apply for green infrastructure project funding
- creating a unified national strategy for international education
- studying baseline funding for research security, better harmonization, and reciprocity of research security policies expanding financial support for commercialization programs and student work placements
- creating a pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization program

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Similarly, at the provincial level, the administration has been advocating both on behalf of York individually, but also through the Council of Ontario Universities, on a request for the government to fully implement the Blue Ribbon panel recommendations to: increase base funding for universities; increase the domestic enrolment corridor in areas with high labor market demand; enhance investments in deferred maintenance funding; include existing student housing infrastructure; increase funding for research and innovation; and to ensure that federal research funding opportunities are matched with the provincial investment requirements.

The impact of the recent external policy decisions has been a decline in enrolment across the University as a whole, which has created gaps between our expenditure and revenue structure. The *Forward Action Plan* and its collection of defined projects is focused on developing measures to balance the operating budget, prioritize opportunities for growth (including new programming and in research) and support enrolment recovery all towards the overarching goal of continuing to advance our academic plans. Draft recommendations from the projects are expected this term, with implementation commencing this spring on some plans and others beginning in the Fall and over the longer term. It is critical for the University to maximize the opportunities it has to mitigate the immediate impact of declining enrolment and revenue.

In support of these plans, highlighted was the decision that Faculties will retain 70% of SHARP revenue, and shared services units to receive 30%, to help Faculties' mitigate the impact of declining enrolments and stimulate streamlining actions in the shared services units over the next three years, beginning with reduced budgeted expenditures of 10% in 2025-2026 for the latter. Importantly, these decisions will afford Faculties time to focus on enrolment recovery and to align revenue with expenditures, all towards continuing to advance our vision.

In response to a question about the duplication of course offerings between the Keele and Markham campuses, emphasized was the principle adopted for program delivery at Markham that students be able to complete their degree requirements on that campus. In some cases the same courses will be offered to meet that requirement. However, efforts to minimize overlap in curriculum is being made to respect the principle of no competition among programs and campuses.

### 5. Executive Committee

#### a. Amendments to the Rules of Senate

Senate Executive gave notice of its intention to recommend an amendment of the *Rules of Senate* to change the statutory meeting time of Senate.

There was no discussion of the motion. Statutory approval of the change will be sought at the February meeting of Senate.

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### b. Information Items

Senate Executive reported on the following item:

- its response to a request for a new vote on a previously approved motion
- approval of a change to the Faculty Council Rules and Procedures of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change introducing revisions to the terms of reference and the composition of its standing Committee on Research.
- continuing plans on the development of a new *APPRC Advisory Sub-committee on Academic Resource Allocations*
- status of the exercise to review the joint Board-Senate *Principles Governing a Presidential Search*
- remaining vacancies to be filled on Senate committees

On the matter of the planned review of the *Principles Governing a Presidential Search* it was requested that Senate be provided an opportunity to express opinions on key matters to be considered in the exercise, and that the process review other universities' procedures for comparative purposes. Senate was reminded that information on the preparation for the joint Board-Senate Working Group was brought to Senate at both its October and November meetings this past autumn, which included the results of the comprehensive Senate consultation exercise on the *Principles* conducted in December 2019- January 2020. An invitation for further input on the review exercise was extended at that time, and was also reiterated at this meeting. The suggestion to consult other universities' procedures was received.

## 6. Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

### a. Proposal to Approve in Principle the Establishment of a School of Medicine within the Faculty of Health

For this item of business the Executive Committee extended an invitation to a non-senator to attend the meeting, Professor Lisa Farley, as Chair of the APPRC Ad hoc Oversight Group for the School of Medicine to participate in the discussion of the motion.

As Chair of APPRC, Senator Herbert noted in a preamble statement that the *approval in principle* recommendation is to receive an intention of Senate support for moving forward with plans to establish a school in the Faculty of Health, and also to receive Senate's guidance on any additional information or input remaining questions to be addressed in the final proposal for statutory approval.

It was moved and seconded that Senate **approve in principle, the establishment of a School of Medicine in the Faculty of Health on the substantive merits of the initiative, specifically that:**

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- **proceeding in this direction will contribute to solving the crisis of primary care in Ontario and more broadly Canada, by offering a medical school rooted in principles of access and equity to address systemic and structural barriers to the medical profession and to health care.**
- **the innovative conceptual model of the School, with a patient-centred, community-based approach to medical education that embodies the ethos of York's mission and values.**
- **the milestone step of securing the provincial government's commitment to fund the school's operations has been achieved, along with the enthusiastic support of many regional healthcare partners to work in collaboration with the University to deliver this rare opportunity.**
- **it reflects Senate's support for this direction expressed in successive University and Faculty Academic Plans and planning documents over more than two decades to expand York's teaching and research into the area of medicine.**
- **embedding the school of medicine within the Faculty of Health is the best organizational option in order to advance interprofessional education and interdisciplinary perspectives on health, both of which are central to the vision for the school, and also to enable efficient sharing of supports.**
- **creating a medical school at this time will tangibly benefit our existing faculty, students, and staff by expanding academic and research opportunities well beyond the medical school itself and the Faculty of Health.**

Senator Herbert spoke to the core reasons in support of the recommendation, notably that the medical school will be contributing to solving the crisis of primary care Ontario and more broadly Canada and that it bring an innovative conceptual model with patient-centered community-based approach to medical education that embodies the ethos of York's missions and values.

Having been invited to address Senate, Professor Farley reiterated this approval in principle recommendations allows for Senate to express its views on plans to proceed with the initiative, and identify information to be provided or questions to be addressed in the ongoing planning and preparation of the formal proposal.

The decision to establish a school of medicine is distinct from other, separate aspects of the school as an academic unit, notably establishing a new building, the curriculum and academic policies. The Faculty of Health voted strongly in favor of the initiative at its January Faculty Council meeting, which was then strongly endorsed by APPRC. The background proposal provided to Senate for review in conjunction with the approval in

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principle recommendation has greatly benefited from university-wide consultation and includes details on the core plans in development of a school of medicine.

The Interim Dean of the Faculty of Health, Senator Ardern, confirmed the robust discussions that have occurred within the Faculty and others across the University on the School of Medicine planning and highlighted the opportunity the school brings to the University to build out interprofessional education, research and practice at an institution that is already known for and established in its commitment to social justice. The Faculty is committed to working with units and individuals around the University to pursue the vision of the new school.

An amendment to the APPRC motion was moved by Senator Wellen and seconded, as follows:

*To establish a School of Medicine as a new academic unit within the Faculty of Health, in principle to include “on the understanding that by the time a final statutory motion is brought to Senate, there shall be substantiated evidence provided that demonstrates financial capital spending required for its establishment will be funded by sources external to York (i.e., Government and philanthropy) at a level that equals or exceeds the proportion of capital funds that were provided in support of the establishment of the Lassonde School of Engineering.”*

As mover of the original motion, Senator Herbert did not support the change as a friendly amendment, finding it introduced a condition that was not the intent of either APPRC or the Faculty of Health Council, and speaks to the matter of capital spending which is a matter outside of Senate’s scope of authority.

The mover not supporting the amendment, the Chair ruled the amendment out of order on the grounds that it (i) substantially alters the intent of the main motion by introducing a condition for a matter that is not within Senate’s purview (i.e., capital spending); (ii) could be seen to bind the future vote of Senate on the statutory motion; and (iii) conflates the separate issues of establishing a new academic unit and a new University building. The Chair noted that the intent of the amendment was understood to signal to planners and the administration the expectation that external funding be the primary source of revenue for the planned school of medicine building, which the discussion of this meeting can record to inform ongoing planning for the school of medicine.

Upon an appeal of the Chair’s ruling, the appeal was *defeated*. Debate on the original motion continued.

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A robust and wide-ranging discussion ensued, with the Chair facilitating views from across all Faculties and constituencies represented on Senate. Attached as Appendix A to these minutes is a summary of the debate on the motion to approve in principle to establish a School of Medicine in the Faculty of Health, including Senate's input and queries to be taken up in ongoing planning and preparation of the full proposal and planning for related initiatives.

Recognized by the Chair as a motion that is always in order, a motion was made, seconded and *carried* "to put the question on the main motion to Senate for a vote." The Chair thanked Professor Farley for her participation in this item of business and excused her from the meeting.

On a vote, the motion as originally moved and seconded, *carried*.

### 7. Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

The information report from the Committee circulated with the agenda was *received*.

### 8. Appeals

#### a. 2023-2024 Annual Report on Petitions and Appeals

The Chair presented the 2023-2024 Annual Report on Petitions and Appeals, highlighting an increase in the number of student appeals submitted to Senate in the past year relative to the years prior, possibly indicating a return to pre-pandemic levels. Consistent with most years, the majority type of appeal application is for late withdrawal from a course with the majority decision being a denial of the request.

Noted too was the sharp decrease in the number of academic honesty cases from the prior year. The return to pre-pandemic conditions (less online instruction) and possibly difficulty in detecting the inappropriate use generative AI tools by students were cited as causes of the recent decrease. Some Senators urged exploring further the challenges that AI use is having on sustaining the integrity of the University's courses and programs, either through measures at a policy or educative level.

### 9. Other Business

There was none. The meeting was adjourned.

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**Consent Agenda Items**

**10. Minutes of the Meeting of 12 December 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2024 were *approved by consent*.

**11. 2023-2024 Annual report on tenure and promotions (corrected)**

The corrected annual report was *received*.

Lauren Sergio, Chair\_\_\_\_\_

Cheryl Underhill, Acting Secretary\_\_\_\_\_