

The Senate of York University – Minutes

Meeting: Thursday, 25 April 2025, 3:00 pm

Dr. Robert Everett Senate Chamber, N940 Ross Building

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

1. Chair's Remarks

Senators were welcomed to the meeting. The Chair announced the 2024-2025 recipients of the Robert Everett Exceptional Leadership in Student Governance Award, Taline Apelian-Sutor and Senator Ryan Whiston, sharing with Senators their significant contributions to governance at the University. Appreciation was extended to Senators for participating in the recent special meeting of Senate. Senator Tamara Kelly was thanked for stepping in as Acting Vice-Chair at this meeting.

No requests were received to move any of the items on the consent agenda to regular business, as such the consent items were deemed to be approved.

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2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Inquiries and Communications

There were none.

4. President's Items

President Lenton provided Senate with a comprehensive update on the University's response to sector-wide and institution-specific challenges; a copy of the presentation slides is filed with these minutes. Emphasized was that York's priorities must not be driven by financial pressures alone but aligned to support the University's long-term vision and academic priorities. The ongoing advocacy of all the universities collectively with both provincial and federal governments is an essential part of institutions' strategies for responding to the financial challenges each is facing.

Shared was York's undergraduate enrolment data for the past decade showing a declining enrolment trend and the significant negative impact of international student caps and repeated labour disruptions in that period. Comparative post-secondary institutional applications data for FW'25 shows York lagging many Ontario peer institutions, raising concerns about competitiveness and reputation. The early estimate of performance for FW 2025-26 is under target in almost all Faculties and at Markham campus. Improving and strengthening labour relations within the University, a shared responsibility, is a critical factor to help reverse the applications and enrolment trends upwards. Also critical is the opportunity presented with the projected enrolment growth in Ontario, indicating approximately 200,000 additional spots between now and 2046. The opportunity that growth presents, notably centred in our neighboring York and Peel regions, must be taken up in the University's enrolment strategy.

Additionally, York's Forward Action Plan, with initiatives focused on program innovation, cooperative education, and improved student support, is an important strategy aimed at strengthening our programs and aligning them to meet student need and demand.

By way of a brief budget update, reported was that York has a placement of "medium risk" under the Province's *Financial Accountability Framework* and as a result has been invited to submit a financial sustainability plan for an external review of the University's recovery plan. Expected is a balanced budget to be achieved within five years. To that end, with the support of the Board of Governors, the University is shifting to a five-year rolling budget to align with government expectations. The five-year time-frame will serve as an important bridge to some of the growth and new revenue that will come from the strategic initiatives in progress (e.g., co-op programming, school of

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medicine, Markham campus), and helps reduce the immediate emphasis on cost-cutting measures. A five-year budget scenario is currently being developed.

Sorrow was expressed over the passing of Professor Jerry Carrothers who was instrumental in creating environmental studies at York.

5. Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee reported on the following items:
 - The annual call for expressions of interest in Senate committees and elected positions will soon be issued, with most terms beginning July 1, 2025.
 - Draft revisions to the Senate and committee feedback surveys, which were reviewed in April, and will be used in this year's survey cycle.
 - Communications from the Department of Physics and Astronomy and Glendon Faculty Council regarding the recent suspension of admissions to undergraduate programs, expressing concern over the process followed.

6. Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

- a. Establishment of a School of Medicine: Notice of Motion

APPRC served notice of its intention to put the following statutory motion at the May meeting of Senate.

“That Senate approve the establishment of the School of Medicine as a new academic unit in the Faculty of Health, effective 1 July 2025.”

A robust discussion of the proposal ensued, in which input and requests for additional information were offered, including the following:

- Clarification / confirmation of firm funding commitments from the Province, providing specificity on amounts, and whether that funding covers staff costs.
- On the topic of overhead and shared resources costs include overhead costs in Table 11.2 within the proposal coming in May and confirm shared services processes are included in resource plans (e.g., research ethics, registrarial and IT functions etc.)
- Information on how existing faculty members could teach in the SoM
- Clarity of differences between teaching roles for medical school curriculum and clinical work/supervision of residents
- Information on hiring committee and tenure and promotion processes for non-clinical faculty members in the SoM
- consider representation within the School's administrative structure for the Black community

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- advise whether unconscious bias training be taught in the curriculum explicitly reflecting what should be York’s commitment equivalent the Black community as well as to Indigenous issues
- Fuller information on the backup plan for an inaugural location of the School on the Keele campus

The input was gratefully received and will be discussed by APPRC for response and follow up with Senate when bringing forward the statutory motion for approval in May.

b. 2024 Annual Report on Research

The Annual Report on Research was presented along with a summary of key items. These included:

- A record high of over \$120 million in externally sponsored research revenue, marking the highest in York’s history.
- Sustained growth in Tri-Council funding, with York achieving its highest-ever income across all three granting councils.
- An increase in research output, including 3,245 publications in 2023 — a 3.5% year-over-year increase.
- Strategic gains in artificial intelligence research, with York leading among Canadian comprehensive universities in publication growth in the field.
- A plan to double research productivity over the next five years through interdisciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, and international grant participation.
- Anticipated research expansion linked to the School of Medicine and the Markham Campus, including access to new clinical and health-related funding streams.

In the discussion of the report, it was noted that the presentation of research outputs and achievements included limited attention to the institutional costs required to achieve those outcomes. It was hoped that metrics such as the ratio of income to the cost to the university of securing that income — particularly in the form of matching funds or faculty complement— would have been provided alongside income figures, particularly for the large Connected Minds research grant.

The Vice-President Research & Innovation advised that most reported figures represented external research income and that a large portion of university contributions stemmed from existing faculty hires that aligned with strategic research areas. Emphasized was that York performs efficiently on research investments and returns relative to peer universities. Information on return-on-investment outcomes will be provided at a future meeting in response to the question.

It was moved, seconded and *carried* **“that Senate extend the meeting by ten minutes.”**

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7. Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

Speaking to the Committee’s report in the agenda, the Chair noted the minor revision made to the Senate Academic Conduct policy. Referring to questions at the last meeting of Senate pertaining to the implementation of the Conduct of Examination Policy, a few details have been provided in the ASCP report, and the Committee will come back with more information on the remaining gap between the number of students with YU and digital cards.

8. Academic Policy, Planning and Research / Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy

a. 2023-2024 Annual Non-Degree Studies

The 2023–2024 Annual Non-Degree Studies Report was *received*.

The historical significance of non-degree studies at York was noted during the discussion, particularly as an access pathway for non-traditional students through Atkinson College and bridging courses. Concern was expressed that such access points no longer exist and APPRC and ASCP were encouraged to take up the question in future reviews of the non-degree studies annual reports. Information in response to a question pertaining to the revenue stream to the university from non-degree studies and the trends over time will be provided at a subsequent meeting.

Consent Agenda Items

9. Minutes of the Meeting of 27 March 2025

The minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2025 were approved by consent.

10. Minor revisions to the Academic Conduct Policy

Minor revisions to the Academic Conduct Policy were approved by consent.

Lauren Sergio, Chair _____

Cheryl Underhill, Interim Secretary _____