

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 723rd Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 11 December 2025

Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the 723rd meeting of Senate. This being the final Senate meeting for both in their current positions, President Lenton and Chair Sergio were commended for their leadership and contributions to Senate over their terms.

President

The President spoke to the challenging external environment for post-secondary education, highlighting York's proactive measures to sustain the University's financial health and advance its academic priorities. She emphasized progress on strategic initiatives such as enrolment recovery, research expansion, innovation and launch of the integrated Co-op and Career Centre. Recent efficiency reviews, including that of the Auditor General of Ontario and Efficiency and Accountability Fund (EAF) were reported, noting alignment of review recommendations with the PVP-IRP and Forward Action Plan projects.

Inquiries and Communications

The October 2025 report from the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was received for information.

Senate discussed the synopsis of the Board of Governors meeting on 1 December 2025, including concerns raised by some Senators with respect to the Board of Governor's consideration of Senate's recommended changes to the Presidential Search Principles.

Approvals

Executive Committee

Senate approved the grouping of Faculties for the purpose of nominating the five full-time faculty members to serve on the upcoming Presidential Search Committee.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

On the recommendation of the Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Senate approved:

The Senate of York University Synopsis

- The establishment of the undergraduate degree of Doctor of Medicine as a new degree type to be housed in the York University School of Medicine, Faculty of Health, effective Summer 2028.
- The establishment of an undergraduate Doctor of Medicine degree program to be housed in the York University School of Medicine, Faculty of Health, effective Summer 2028.
- The establishment of the degree of Master of Engineering as a new degree type, to be housed in the Lassonde School of Engineering, effective F2026.
- The establishment of a Master of Engineering degree program in Sustainable Energy Systems to be housed in the Lassonde School of Engineering, effective F2026.

Committee Information Items

Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- A status update on the review of the Principles Governing a Presidential Search, including the communication from the Chair of Senate conveying its expectation that the principles be reviewed by the Board for decision at its next possible meeting, and the response from the Chair of the Board of Governors.
- Approval of a candidate nominated by a Faculty Council to the Senate Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials Sub-Committee.
- A communication from the Chair of the Glendon Faculty Council pertaining to a statement issued by the Council on the Faculties of the Future initiative.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

Information items included the following:

- An update on the committee's discussion of feedback received on the University Academic Plan renewal at the Open Forum on 27 November 2025 and upcoming consultations.
- The Committee's concurrence with the recommendation of the Provost jointly with the Interim Dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies to establish *The Irving Abella Chair in the Social Scientific Study of Diaspora Jewry in Canada* within LAPS.
- Reporting on the Faculties of the Future project provided by Provost Philips, including the Provost's receipt of reports from almost all Faculties conveying the progress of Faculty-based discussions.
- Briefing given by the VPRI regarding new investment in Canada's research and innovation included in the recent federal budget.

The Senate of York University Synopsis

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

Information items included:

- Minor modifications to degree requirements and updates to the academic calendar for programs housed in the Faculties of AMPD, Glendon, and Health.
- An update on the committee's academic priorities, including the continuing consultations on the proposed Undergraduate Degree Framework, consideration of revisions to the *Senate Policy on the Limits on the Worth of Examinations in the Final Classes of a Term* to include a ceiling on the weight of final examinations, reviewing the Undergraduate Certificate guidelines and Graduate Diploma Guidelines, and developing a framework for student reservist leave. Additional updates include launch of the Co-op and Career Centre, provincial grant received to create a new, large active learning classroom and request for volunteers to participate in two working groups focused on modes of delivery and AI in teaching and learning.

Senate Appeals Committee (SAC)

The Appeals Committee annual report on Faculty and Senate adjudications for 2024-2025 was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **11 December 2025** for further details on the items reported.

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held virtually at **2:30 pm on Thursday, 22 January 2025**.