

# The Senate of York University

## Meeting Synopsis

The 724<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 22 January 2026

### Remarks

The Chair, Patricia Burke Wood, welcomed members to the 724<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate and offered brief opening remarks, welcoming Vice-Chair Lisa Farley and acknowledging the transitional period for the University. The Chair emphasized the importance of Senate's collegial role in supporting academic governance and constructive dialogue, particularly during such periods of change.

### President

Lisa Philipps, Interim President & Vice-Chancellor expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address Senate during a period of leadership transition and reaffirmed her commitment to openness, transparency, listening, and collaboration in serving Senate and the University. She emphasized the value of returning to York University's core principles, including its long-standing commitment to access, inclusion, and the principle of *Leaving No Talent Behind*.

The Interim President identified three near-term institutional imperatives requiring focused attention over the coming year: maximizing York's research impact, building learning capacities, and championing the University's public purpose, and provided examples of the same.

### Committee Information Items

#### Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- Briefing on the process and timelines for the election of Senate-nominated faculty and student representatives to the Presidential Search Committee.
- Confirmation that a communication from the Chair of the Senate to the Chair of the Board was sent seeking clarification on the process the Board followed for the consideration of Senate's revision to the Principles Governing a Presidential Search, and the rationale for the Board's consideration of the revision in closed session at its December meeting.
- Update on the Committee's review of the Senate Rules and Senate membership, with detailed discussions underway and a Notice of Motion anticipated later in the term.

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- Update on ongoing discussions related to the JD/MBA degree program and the associated Hennick JD/MBA support program in response to questions raised through Senate.
- Approval of Faculty Council-nominated members to Senate committees.
- Approval of student-nominated members to Senate committees.
- Communication concerning the role of Organized Research Units within Senate governance, which was referred for follow-up to the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee.

## **Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee**

Information items included the following:

- Update on the renewal of the University Academic Plan, including ongoing consultations and a revised timeline targeting circulation of a draft Plan for community feedback in spring 2026 and Senate by June 2026.
- Upcoming University budget consultation process, and feedback provided by APPRC's Advisory Sub-committee on Academic Resource Allocations and APPRC on the budget presentation.
- Agreement by APPRC to co-sponsor, with the Vice-President Research and Innovation (VPRI), the Research & Innovation Working Group within the University's AI Strategic Oversight Framework.
- Discussion of a communication from the Glendon Faculty Council regarding the Faculties of the Future initiative, with follow-up discussions between senior administration and the Council to be reported back to APPRC.
- Briefing given by the VPRI regarding forthcoming federal research programs and funding opportunities, including initiatives related to defense research and national artificial intelligence infrastructure.

## **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, Health, and Lassonde, and LA&PS.
- ASCP's approval of a proposed Master of Athletic Therapy degree program, which has proceeded to APPRC for concurrence. A Notice of Motion to be brought forward to Senate following APPRC's concurrence.
- Update on ongoing consultations related to the Undergraduate Degree Framework.
- Update on the establishment of two joint working groups with the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning focused on artificial intelligence and modes

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of delivery. A call for volunteer to participate in the Working Groups was also shared.

## Senate Appeals Committee (SAC)

The Appeals Committee filed its annual report on Faculty and Senate adjudications for 2024-2025.

## Tenure and Promotions (T&P)

T&P transmitted its 2024-2025 Annual Report filed its annual report on tenure and promotion activity in 2024-2025.

## Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **22 January 2026** for further details on the items reported.

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held virtually at **2:30 pm on Thursday, 26 February 2026**.