



The Senate of York University – Minutes

Meeting: Thursday, November 27, 2025, 2:30 pm
 Dr. Robert Everett Senate Chamber, N940 Ross Building

L. Sergio (Chair)	D. Ellis	W. Maas	C. Sánchez-Rodríguez
P. Burke-Wood (Vice-Chair)	T. Farrow	M. Macaulay	C. Sandilands
S. Willey-Thomas (Secretary)	M. Fiola	A. MacLachlan	V. Saridakis
G. Alboiu	S. Gajic-Bruyca	V. Mago	R. Savage
O. Alexandrakis	M. Giudice	A. Mapp	S. Scialdone
M. Annette	A. Glasbeek	N. Martineau	A. Solis
T. Apelian-Sutor	J. Goodyer	A. Maxwell	B. Spotton Visano
M-H. Armour	J. Hadlaw	P. McMahon	J. Sufrin
A. Asif	J. Hafner	K. McPherson	T. Taylor
M. Baljko	M. Hamadeh	B. Meisner	P. Theophanidis
S. Benmahbous	A. Harvey	M. Mekouar	J. Thienpont
D. Berbecel	M. Hayward	R. Metcalfe	J. Thomas
K. Bird	M. Herbert	A. Moradi	N. Timotewos
S. Brooke	R. Hili	M. Morrow	J. Tingley
M. Bunch	S. Hillier	Y. Munro	G. Turlakis
C. Burton	W-M. Ho	Y. Murugarajan	S. Trivedi
M. Cado	A. Horkova	O. Olofe	R. Tsushima
S. Bury	T. Kelly	R. Ophir	E. Tungohan
R. Caines	R. Kenedy	M. Ott	A. Valeo
A. Chinael	A. Kimakova	A. Ouedraogo	C. van Daalen-Smith
E. Clements	T. Kirchner	P. Park	J. van Wijngaarden
N. Couto	N. Kishinchandani	E. Perkins	B. Vickerd
C. Cowdy	K. Kontogiannis	D. Peters	R. Weaver
A. Czekanski	T. Kubiseski	L. Philipps	R. Wellen
A. Dawson	M. Lambert-Drache	D. Pilon	R. Whiston
S. Day	F. Latchford	M. Podolsky	M. Winfield
S. Desai	R. Lenton	S. Rehaag	S. Winton
J. Eastwood	M. Longford	T. Rimmel	X. Yu
J. Ehiagwina	P. Luthra	N. Ruest	
C-E. Enete	P. Lynch	P. Safai	

1. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair, Lauren Sergio, welcomed Senators to the 722nd meeting of Senate. Appreciation was expressed to Senators for their engagement, and thanks were extended to the President for her gesture of providing refreshments. The Chair also acknowledged the recent UAP planning forum and confirmed that the consent agenda items were approved as circulated. It was also noted that it was the final in-person meeting for both the Chair and the President. As no requests were received to remove the related item from the consent agenda, it was deemed approved.

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2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Senators asked for an update on the motion passed at the October meeting of Senate to amend the *Principles Governing a Presidential Search*. The Secretary confirmed that the next step is for Board Executive Committee to review the amendments at its next meeting and that the outcome of Senate's vote had been shared with the Chair of the Board of Governors. Several Senators stressed that the motion should go to the full Board for approval and highlighted the importance of shared governance. The mandate of the Board's Executive Committee was also clarified, including recommendations stemming from the Auditor General's report.

A motion requesting that the Board Executive Committee bring to the Board for approval Senate's approved revision to the Principles was proposed but ruled out of order by the Chair of Senate. The Chair committed to convey Senate's strong support and expectation for timely consideration of the proposed amendments to the Principles to the Chair of the Board of Governors.

3. Inquiries and Communications

There were no inquiries or communications.

4. President's Items

Prior to proceeding with this item, non-Senators interrupted the meeting. At the request of a Senator, the Chair determined that the Senate meeting transition from in-person to virtual format via Zoom. After a brief pause the meeting resumed virtually.

As a result of the disruption, the President's report was deferred to the December Senate meeting with the presentation slides to be posted on the Senate agenda site.

5. Executive Committee

a. Information Items included:

- appointment of a student nominee to a Senate committee for the 2025–2026 governance year and that efforts are continuing to fill remaining student vacancies on Senate committees.
- Review of feedback received from Senators on the preliminary inventory of sections of the Senate Rules identified for review this year. The scope of the review was finalized, and draft revisions will be prepared for Executive's consideration in early 2026, with recommendations to Senate anticipated in March (Notice of Motion) and April.
- Discussion of a concern raised about the naming of the Hennick JD/MBA program. It was confirmed that the program is distinct from the JD/MBA joint degree approved by Senate in 1973 (now referred to as a combined degree in accordance

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to the YQAP and Senate's academic nomenclature), clarifying that the Hennick JD/MBA program was established to support students enrolled in the combined degree program and will not be noted on University parchments or transcripts.

- Input provided on the draft bylaws for the new School of Medicine Council in order to ensure alignment with University governance practices; feedback was shared with the Dean of Record and will also be conveyed in writing.
- Consideration of a communication from Senators seeking clarity on the Faculties of the Future report. Executive concluded that the President will address these questions under her items at Senate to ensure transparency and collegial dialogue.
- A reminder about the virtual meeting scheduled for Thursday, 11 December 2025, to address time-sensitive business.

6. Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC)

a. Provost's Autumn Report on Enrolments and Faculty Complement

Provost and Vice-President Academic Lisa Philipps presented the annual autumn report on Enrolments and Faculty Complement drawing on the slides included in the agenda. Preliminary figures for 2025/2026 indicate that domestic undergraduate enrolments are ahead of target by approximately 3.7%, reflecting gains in both intake and retention. International undergraduate enrolments remain below target by 12.1%, though the shortfall is less severe than projected in January 2025. Markham Campus enrolments slightly exceeded expectations overall, supported by the addition of a new Bachelor of Education cohort.

Graduate enrolments show softness across all categories, with professional and research master's programs missing targets and doctoral intakes declining sharply on the international side, raising concerns about research capacity.

The Provost highlighted corridor funding, including grant funding provided by the province. The impact of accepting students beyond the corridor funding was highlighted, as well as opportunities for expanding enrolment at the Markham campus, which has separate corridor funding.

Faculty complement continues to be managed strategically, with 36 tenure-stream searches authorized for 2025–26 and 22 positions filled. While hiring rates are lower than in previous years, there is no freeze in effect, and recruitment for priority areas is ongoing. The overall complement has declined slightly in recent years due to higher departures than arrivals, though the reduction since 2020–21 is approximately 2%.

Questions during the pursuant discussion focused on the SHARP budget model and impact on faculty hiring and enrolment; the considerations and process for allocation

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of enrolment targets; loss of grant funding for accepting students above the corridor; the impact and clarification around new programs being offered at the Markham Campus; and process to request a new faculty position. Concerns were raised about the rates of hiring and retirement relative to enrolment. Opportunities were also discussed, and included program innovation, market alignment, and leveraging external funding opportunities.

b. Information Items

The Committee reported on consultations underway for the 2025–2030 University Academic Plan, including an open forum held earlier in the day and upcoming student sessions to inform a draft plan for March 2026. Senators were encouraged to review the updated 2020–2025 UAP Retrospective Report posted online and to participate actively in the renewal process.

7. Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

- a. Notice of Motion to Establish the degree of Doctor of Medicine, to be housed in the York University School of Medicine, Faculty of Health

Notice was given of a forthcoming motion to establish the degree of Doctor of Medicine, to be housed in the York University School of Medicine within the Faculty of Health, effective Summer 2028. It was noted that Appendix 17 was updated to reflect a more current list of university-wide faculty engaged in health-related research.

In discussion, comments highlighted the distinctive features of the curriculum, including person-centred physician, community-based primary and generalist care and interprofessional collaboration, research and discovery.

A question was asked regarding integration with LA&PS curriculum. It was noted that feedback will inform refinements prior to the motion returning for decision at the next meeting.

- b. Notice of Motion to Establish the degree of Master of Engineering, to be housed in the Lassonde School of Engineering

Notice was given of a forthcoming motion to establish the degree of Master of Engineering, to be housed in the Lassonde School of Engineering, effective Fall 2026. The proposed program, focused on Sustainable Energy Systems, is designed as a course-based master's degree to meet growing demand for expertise in renewable energy and sustainability.

- c. Merger of two existing degree programs to establish the BA degree program in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies, School of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies, LA&PS

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Questions focused on whether the legacy degree programs would continue to be offered alongside the new merged program. It was clarified that the existing programs will remain available until current students complete their studies. Appreciation was expressed for the collaborative efforts that enabled the merger, with thanks extended to faculty, staff, and administrators for their support in bringing the proposal forward.

It was moved, seconded and *carried* that **Senate approve the merger of two distinct BA degree programs – Sexuality Studies, and Gender & Women’s Studies – to establish the BA degree program in Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies, School of Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies, LA&PS, effective F2026.**

- d. Establishment of new Senate Transfer Credit Policy and rescission of existing Senate policies related to transfer credits

It was moved, seconded and *carried* that **That Senate rescind the following three Senate policies related to transfer credit and approve the establishment of a new Transfer Credit Policy, with both actions coming into effect, concurrently on Senate approval:**

- **Transfer Credit, Council of Ontario Universities policy**
- **Transfer Credit Policy: Accredited and Approved Institutions policy**
- **Transfer Credit Limits for Advanced Secondary Studies policy**

- e. Information Items

The Committee reported on the following items:

- Review of four School of Medicine program policies: Admissions Policy and Procedures, Essential Skills and Abilities Required for Entry to the MD Degree Program, Clinical Supervision and Assessment of Learners, and Timely Formative Feedback
- The 2026-2027 Sessional Dates schedule received from the Office of the University Registrar.
- Minor modifications to degree requirements and updates to the academic calendar for programs housed in the Faculties of AMPD, FGS, Glendon, Health, LA&PS, and Science.

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

Senate received the Report of the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance transmitted by the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee and the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee.

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Consent Agenda Items

9. Minutes of the September 2025 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2025 were approved by consent.

Lauren Sergio, Chair _____

Sarah Willey-Thomas, Secretary _____