

The Senate of York University – Minutes



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Meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2026, 2:30 pm
Via Zoom

P. Burke Wood (Chair)	M. Giudice	K. McPherson	P. Theophanidis
L. Farley (Vice-Chair)	A. Glasbeek	B. Meisner	J. Thienpont
S. Willey-Thomas (Secretary)	K. Glover Berger	R. Metcalfe	N. Timotewos
A. Alam	J. Goodyer	A. Moradi	G. Tourlakis
G. Alboiu	K. Gray	M. Morrow	J. Trevett
M. Baljko	J. Hafner	Y. Munro	S. Trivedi
L. Bay-Cheng	M. Hamadeh	Y. Murugarajan	P. Tsasis
S. Benmahbous	E. Hamm	R. Nasrazadani	E. Tungohan
D. Berbecel	A. Harvey	R. Ophir	A. Valeo
M. Biehl	M. Hayward	M. Ott	C. van Daalen-Smith
K. Bird	M. Herbert	D. Palermo	J. van Wijngaarden
S. Blake	R. Hili	P. Park	W. van Wijngaarden
S. Brooke	S. Hillier	S. Peacock	E. VanBerkel
M. Bunch	W-M. Ho	A. Pechawis	B. Vickard
C. Burton	A. Horkova	E. Perkins	V. Vuong
S. Bury	T. Kelly	D. Peters	A. Weaver
E. Clements	R. Kenedy	L. Philipps	R. Wellen
N. Couto	A. Kimakova	D. Pilon	R. Whiston
C. Cowdy	T. Kirchner	S. Pisana	M. Winfield
A. Czekanski	N. Kishinchandani	M. Podolsky	S. Winton
S. Datta	T. Kubiseski	S. Rehaag	X. Yu
A. Dawson	M. Lambert-Drache	T. Remmel	D. Zwick
S. Day	F. Latchford	N. Richardson	
M Delgerbayar	M. Longford	N. Ruest	
J. Eastwood	P. Luthra	P. Safai	
J. Ehiagwina	P. Lynch	C. Sánchez-Rodríguez	
D. Ellis	W. Maas	R. Savage	
C. Fanelli	M. Macaulay	S. Scialdone	
T. Farrow	A. MacLachlan	T. Shanahan	
M. Fiola	A. Mapp	R. Shao	
S. Gajic-Bruyea	N. Martineau	B. Spotton Visano	
M. Giesler	P. McMahon	J. Sufrin	
		T. Taylor	

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Patricia Burke Wood, welcomed Senators to the 724th meeting of Senate and offered brief opening remarks, welcoming Vice-Chair Lisa Farley and acknowledging the transitional period for the University. Several senior administrative transitions effective January 1 were also acknowledged, including the appointments of the Lisa Philipps as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, Laina Bay-Cheng as Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, Parissa Safai as Interim Vice-President Equity, People & Culture, and Maydianne Andrade as Dean of

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the Faculty of Science.

The Chair noted the current transitional period for the University and highlighted recent developments such as Senate's approval of a medical school and progress at the Markham Campus. The Chair noted the role of Senate in academic governance and encouraged participation in Senate's discussions, particularly in relation to matters of the future of the University.

As no requests were received to remove the item from the consent agenda, it was deemed approved.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Inquiries and Communications

There were no inquiries or communications.

4. President's Items

Lisa Philipps, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor began her remarks by expressing her appreciation to Senate and outlined her commitments for the coming year which reflect both internal priorities and the evolving expectations of governments and partners across the sector. President Philipps identified three imperatives for the coming year: maximizing research impact, building learning capacities and championing York's purpose. She conveyed her intention to organize her presentation to Senate around these three imperatives to provide Senate with a coherent overview of institutional progress and strategic direction.

She explained that her operating principles would be openness and transparency, and actively listening to colleagues across the University as well as external partners. She emphasized collaboration and teamwork as essential to addressing the complex and fast-changing issues facing the sector. She noted the University's commitment to academic achievement and broader social purpose, referencing *tentanda via* and the University's commitment to leave no talent behind, and spoke about returning to the University's foundational values.

In maximizing research impact, the President Philipps noted the importance of deepening excellence in fundamental theoretical research, reported increased graduate applications and ongoing student recruitment efforts, and referenced ongoing recruitment efforts linked to new federal funding initiatives. She noted her plans to visit labs and classrooms in the coming months to strengthen her understanding of ongoing research and to help communicate York's work to external audiences. She emphasized the importance of enhancing the University's visibility and recognition for its research impact.

With respect to building learning capacities, President Philipps then spoke about the

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rapid evolution of teaching and learning, emphasizing the need to provide opportunities for students and support instructors as they adapt pedagogy, assessment, and curriculum. The significant efforts underway to redesign pedagogy, assessment, and curriculum were also noted, as were the importance of communities of practice, in supporting ongoing instructional innovation. She noted efforts to expand experiential education and described current initiatives such as the Teaching Fellows program, the YSpace network, and the development of new active learning classrooms. She highlighted the importance of creating environments in which students can develop the skills needed to navigate an increasingly digital world.

Finally, in championing York's purpose, she emphasized the importance ensuring a resource base to maintain core academic activities and encouraged participation in upcoming budget consultations.

5. Executive Committee

a. Information Items

The Vice-Chair reported that the nominations process for Senate-elected members of the Presidential Search Committee is underway, noting that the call for nominations had been circulated earlier that day to both faculty and students and follows the nomination model approved by Senate in December. She drew Senators' attention to the timelines for the nominations exercise as outlined in the Executive Committee report and highlighted that the communication initiating the process includes minor language updates aligned with Senate's prior direction.

In the discussion that followed, a Senator raised a question regarding the communication recently sent to the Board Chair about Senate's proposed revisions to the Presidential Search Procedures and the Board's response. The Senate Chair noted that the memo would be shared with Senate following the Senate meeting.

The Committee reported on the following information items:

- An update on the Principles Governing a Presidential Search, including a follow-up communication being prepared for the Chair of the Board.
- The Committee's progress on the Senate Rules Review for 2025–2026, noting detailed discussions have begun and that a Notice of Motion is anticipated for the March meeting, with a related review of Senate membership to follow once updated faculty complement data is available.
- Continuing discussions around the Hennick JD/MBA program and review of associated websites.
- Approval of Faculty Council-nominated members to serve on Senate committees including appointments to APPRC, Executive, and the Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonials.
- Approval of student-nominated members to serve on Senate committees,

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including appointments to the Awards Committee and ASCP.

- A communication received from the APPRC member designated by the ORU Directors regarding the position of ORUs within Senate’s governance structure and the Executive Committee agreed that the matter will be forwarded to the Chair of APPRC.

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

a. Information Items

The Committee reported on the following information items:

- An update on consultations on the renewal of the University Academic Plan, including across academic units, libraries, research directors, and student groups. Timelines have been adjusted to allow broader engagement, with a draft Plan expected for community feedback in April and Senate approval targeted for June.
- The start of the annual University Budget Consultation, with APPRC and its Advisory Sub-committee on Academic Resource Allocations providing advice to guide institutional priorities. Committee members raised questions regarding the 70/30 budget planning principle and assumptions underlying the five-year budget horizon.
- The Committee agreed to co-sponsor the Research & Innovation Working Group, with the Vice-President Research & Innovation, for the AI Strategic Oversight Framework to ensure alignment with academic governance and institutional priorities, and appointed Professor Anne MacLennan as the Committee’s representative.
- Receipt of an overview from the VPRI regarding upcoming federal research programs, including the Defence Industrial Strategy Investments and the Sovereign Artificial Intelligence Network, and potential opportunities for university participation and future calls for proposals.

Following the presentation of the report, the APPRC Chair responded to a question regarding the status of the Faculties of the Future Report. The Interim Provost and President spoke to the timeline associated with the Faculties of the Future report, noting ongoing discussions with various faculties regarding progress.

A Senator raised a question regarding how new federal research funding opportunities might affect the balance between centrally managed research funds and those allocated at the faculty level. In response, it was noted that most of the upcoming opportunities are project-based grants that flow directly to researchers and their faculties, with the exception of potential funding associated with the Defence Innovation Secure Hub, which would support establishing the hub itself. Existing processes for distributing Tri-Council research overheads were also reaffirmed as transparent and formula-based.

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

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a. Information Items

The Committee reported on the following information items:

- Minor modifications to degree requirements and minor edits in programs housed in the faculties of AMPD, Health, Lassonde, and LA&PS.
- Approval of a new Master of Athletic Therapy degree program, pending concurrence from APPRC. A notice of motion for a new degree type will be shared with Senate following APPRC concurrence.
- Ongoing consultations on the Undergraduate Degree Framework, with substantial feedback already received from Faculty Councils, faculty members and other community members and anticipated Committee review in March.
- The establishment of two joint ASCP–VPTL working groups, on AI and Modes of Delivery – with ASCP members co-chairing each working group.

In response to questions, the ASCP Chair clarified that the setting of deferred examination fees does not fall within ASCP’s authority but a deferred examination policy has been identified as a goal for ASCP. The Registrar further clarified that the fee would only apply to deferred examinations scheduled within the formal examination period. It was noted that the fee was not yet implemented, and that a full communication plan is forthcoming.

8. Senate Appeals Committee (SAC)

a. 2024-2025 Annual Report on Petitions and Appeals

The Committee Chair presented the 2024-2025 Annual Report on Petitions and Appeals, noting that overall volumes remained within the typical range, and late course withdrawal remained the most common type of appeal.

Faculty-level petitions and appeals continued rise across the University. Deferred standing petitions remain a substantial portion of cases and a challenge in the absence of a Senate-level policy. A sharp decline in academic honesty cases was observed, while the impact of generative AI and other technologies was noted.

A Senator noted that there was no reliable AI tracker as it relates to AI generated content. Discussions between ASCP and SAC were further highlighted as it relates to policies addressing shared areas of concern.

A discussion followed regarding the process related to academic honesty cases, and how some found the process to be onerous.

9. Tenure & Promotions

a. 2024-2025 Annual Report on Tenure and Promotions

The T&P Chair highlighted the Committee’s review of 109 tenure and promotion files in 2024–25, the same unusually high volume as the previous year. The number of applications for full professor has dropped and promotion to Associate

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Professor has dropped slightly.

He further highlighted continued work on updating and verifying unit-level standards, reviewing seven units' standards for alignment with the University policy and noting that some units still have revisions outstanding, in some cases dating back many years.

The Committee identified a series of procedural irregularities as a recurring problem. Planning workshops have been offered for faculty and staff who support the Tenure and Promotion process.

The Chair responded to questions concerning the length of time for files to be adjudicated, noting there are a variety of factors that can impact the length of time it takes for files to be reviewed. Further discussion followed regarding the process for the revision of standards, including approval pathway.

Senate discussed the use of student evaluations, with some Senators highlighting the related equity considerations.

10. Other Business

There were no matters of other business.

Consent Agenda Items

11. Minutes of the December 2025 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 were approved by consent.

Patricia Burke-Wood, Chair _____

Sarah Willey-Thomas, Secretary _____