

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 726th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 26 March 2026

Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the 726th meeting of Senate and highlighted recent institutional developments, including York University's new Memorandum of Understanding with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Updates were provided on the formation of the Presidential Search Committee and the development of Senate's advisory statement to the Search Committee. An updated synopsis from the February Senate meeting was also posted to the Secretariat website.

President

Lisa Philipps, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, reported on recent visits across York's campuses, noting strong examples of academic excellence. She noted productive engagements with student groups regarding upcoming OSAP changes and financial-aid impacts. The President provided updates on external partnerships, community workforce initiatives, and York's role in international networks. She also reported growth in co-op opportunities, upcoming expansion of active learning spaces, and successes in experiential education. She concluded by noting that, due to evolving provincial funding information, the University's budget presentation will shift from April to June.

Approvals

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

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

- The establishment of the Master in Athletic Therapy (MAT) as a new degree type, to be housed in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science, Faculty of Health, effective Spring 2027.
- The establishment of the MAT degree program, to be housed in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science, Faculty of Health, effective Spring 2027.
- The closure of the Biodiversity and Conservation Stream, and the Environmental Dynamics Stream in the joint Environmental and Urban Change (EUC) and Faculty of Science (FSC) BSc in Environmental Science degree program, housed in EUC and FSC, effective Fall 2026.
- The closure of the Classics and the Classical Studies BA degree programs, housed in the Department of Humanities, LA&PS, effective F2026, and the establishment of a new direct-entry Stream in Ancient World Studies, ANCW, in the Department of History, LA&PS, effective F2026.

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- The addition of a part-time option and changes to the degree requirements for the MBA in Technology Leadership degree program, housed in the Schulich School of Business, effective F2026.

Other Motions

Senate debated a hortative motion expressing Senate’s opinion that significant decisions affecting the longer-term direction of the university should await the appointment of the next President, given the current period of transition between the departure of President Lenton and the selection of the next President. The motion was defeated.

Notice of Statutory Motions

Executive Committee

The Committee provided Notice of Statutory Motion for Senate to approve the membership of Senate for the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028, with a maximum of 169 members and the distribution of seats as set out in the report.

Committee Information Items

Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- Approval of student-nominated members to fill remaining positions on Senate committees for the 2025–2026 governance year.
- Continued review of the Rules of Senate, with recommendations expected later this term.
- Review of proposed revisions to the Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of Labour Disputes Resulting in the Disruption or Cessation of University Business, reflecting lessons from recent disruptions; a revised policy is expected to come forward in April.
- Summary of the annual joint meeting with the Board Executive Committee, with discussion focusing on institutional strengths, areas for improvement, and strategies to support long-term success.
- Discussion on issues arising from recent weather-related suspensions of academic activities, including challenges related to shifting modes of course delivery during closures; further review will continue.
- Consideration of a substantive motion requesting academic accommodations for a student day of action but determined that conditions for an e-vote were not met due to insufficient notice and related constraints.

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- Consideration of a request for Senate discussion on the academic implications of new campus security initiatives; additional information will be sought from senior administration before determining next steps.
- A communication received from Glendon student senators regarding the cancellation of mandatory courses; the President met with the students and will update Senate.
- Review of a hortative motion submitted with due notice, requested clarification from the mover, and confirmed the revised motion was in order for Senate's consideration.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC)

Information items included the following:

- Continued work on the renewal of the University Academic Plan, incorporating comprehensive feedback from the March 19 meeting, with an updated draft to return to the committee and future consultation with Senate and the community.
- Senators' questions on the 2025 Annual Research Report, with further information from the Vice-President Research & Innovation to support discussion of academic planning and resource allocation; APPRC will report back once follow-up discussions are complete.
- Review of the Senate Policy on Organized Research Units, to be carried out jointly with the APPRC ORU Subcommittee and the AVPR, supported by the University Secretariat and informed by a forthcoming report on strengthening research excellence in ORUs.
- Receipt of preliminary information on York application data and early indicators for the Fall 2026 enrolment forecast, with further analysis to be provided as data become available.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

Information items included:

- Minor modifications to degree requirements and updates to the academic calendar for programs housed in the Faculties of Education, EUC, FGS, LA&PS/AMPD/GL, LA&PS, Lassonde, and Science.
- Provided an update on ASCP priorities for the remainder of the academic year, noting that several items are progressing toward Senate consideration at upcoming meetings, including work related to course assessment and feedback, ASCP's role in the grading-scheme conversion, and other ongoing policy and curriculum initiatives.

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Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC) & Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

Senate received the December 2025 Report of the Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **26 March 2026** for further details on the items reported.

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held virtually at **2:30 pm on Thursday, 23 April 2026**.