

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 727th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 23 April 2026

Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the 727th meeting of Senate, welcoming Leanne De Filippis as incoming Secretary of Senate and expressing thanks to Sarah Willey-Thomas for her contributions as University Secretary over the last year. Best wishes were extended to Pamela Persaud on her retirement from a 30 year career at the University.

President

Lisa Philipps, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, reported on her activities supporting external engagement and the University's positive national profile, emphasizing advocacy with government, successful federal investments in clean energy research, alumni and community philanthropy, and expanding entrepreneurship initiatives for students, faculty, and staff. The President also reported on financial sustainability efforts amid sector-wide challenges, underscoring progress toward a balanced budget while protecting the core academic mission. The remarks concluded with recognition of faculty excellence and the announcement of Spring 2026 honorary doctorate recipients.

Inquiries & Communications

The February 2026 report from the Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was received for information.

Approvals

Executive Committee

Having provided Notice of Motion to Senate in March, Senate approved the Executive Committee's recommendation for the membership and distribution of Senate for the period of 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028 with a maximum of 169 members.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC)

On the recommendation of the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee, Senate approved a change in name of the Department of Cinema & Media Arts in the School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design, to the Department of Film & Media Arts, effective 1 July 2027.

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Academic Standards, Curriculum, and Pedagogy (ASCP)

On the recommendation of the Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP), Senate approved minor revisions to the Transfer Credit Policy and rescission of the existing Senate Policy on *Pan-Canadian Protocol on the Transferability of University Credits*.

Notice of Statutory Motions

Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee provided Notice of Statutory Motion to revise the Rules of Senate. Final approval to be sought at the May meeting of Senate.

Notice of Motions

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC)

The Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee gave notice of its intention to recommend approval of the 2026-2030 University Academic Plan (UAP) at a subsequent session of Senate this term, and facilitated a consultation of Senate on the draft UAP.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP)

The Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee gave notice of its intention to recommend Senate approval of the Undergraduate Degree Framework at a subsequent meeting of Senate this term, and facilitated a consultation of Senate on the proposed Framework.

Committee Information Items

Executive Committee

Information items included the following:

- Revisions to the Senate Policy on Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessation of University Business and a discussion of the proposed changes with Senate providing feedback on them.
- Other matters discussed in the Committee's review of Senate rules, including questions and possible changes such as the scope of fulltime faculty eligibility for seats on Senate and Senate committee, and the maximum percentage of student members on Faculty Councils
- Addition of nine new candidates to the pool of prospective honorary degree recipients

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- An update on the request for Senate discussion on potential impact of campus security initiatives on academic activities, addressed in a communication from the Provost to the Chair of Senate
- Update on clarifications made on various University websites to clearly distinguish the joint JD/MBA academic degree program and the associated Hennick support program for the JD/MBA
- Executive's issue of the 2026 Call for Expressions of Interest in Membership on Senate Committees and Other Positions Elected by Senate

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC)

Information items included the following:

- Responses to Senators' questions on the 2025 Annual Research Report through supplementary documentation provided by the Vice-President Research & Innovation

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 AMPD, FGS, Glendon, Health, LA&PS, Osgoode and Schulich.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **23 April 2026** for further details on the items reported.

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held virtually at **2:30 pm on Thursday, 28 May 2026**.