



The Senate of York University – Minutes

Meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2026, 2:30 pm Via Zoom

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

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Patricia Burke Wood, welcomed Senators to the 725th meeting of Senate. Senate was updated on the establishment of the first Inuit-led university in the Arctic, Inuit Nunangat University, planned to open in Arviat, Nunavut, in 2030. Senate extended best wishes to the planners and community, and looked forward to opportunities for shared learning.

A correction was noted to the agenda to include an ASCP item concerning minor revisions to the Policy on Registration Eligibility in Summer Courses as a consent item. 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

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

4. President's Items

Lisa Philipps, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, reported on recent visits to laboratories, studios, and classrooms, noting strong student engagement and interdisciplinary activity. She highlighted conversations with newly appointed faculty members about teaching, research supports, and early-career experiences at York.

The President updated Senate on discussions with Glendon Faculty Council related to the Faculties of the Future report, reaffirming the University's commitment to Glendon's bilingual mandate. Work is underway to explore integrated models for bilingual programming across Faculties. A first-phase land-use study by the York University Development Corporation identified potential uses of portions of the Glendon lands, consistent with provincial expectations that universities assess financial sustainability opportunities. Any future steps would involve extensive consultation and remain guided by academic priorities.

She briefed Senate on federal and provincial policy developments, including Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy and its emphasis on universities' research and innovation roles. At the provincial level, the new tuition and operating grant framework represents progress but does not close the structural deficit; and, advocacy continues for York's share of new high-demand program spaces. Updates were also provided on federal infrastructure funding prospects, including York's forthcoming request for support for the School of Medicine building in Vaughan alongside significant commitments from York Region and donors.

The President noted year-over-year increases in undergraduate applications for Fall 2026 and ongoing conversion efforts supported by experiential education and program renewal initiatives. She reported continued advancement of the MD Program's accreditation process, including Quality Council approval, fall site-visit preparations, agreements with three anchor hospitals, and active clinical faculty

recruitment.

She concluded by acknowledging recent faculty recognition, encouraging nominations for the President's Staff Recognition Awards, and highlighting updates to the University's budget transparency website.

In response to questions, Senate was advised that staffing levels at the Centre for Indigenous Student Services remain largely stable despite staff changes, including a recent retirement. The University awaits details on new provincial Indigenous Student Services funding.

On budget projections and the provincial funding announcement, the President noted that updated modelling will be included in the 2026–27 budget materials which will be available in May

Some Senators also raised concerns about the Glendon land-use study and the Wood bequest. The President emphasized that academic uses will continue to anchor the campus and that all options remain preliminary. She confirmed that the Phase 1 YUDC report cannot be shared due to commercial sensitivities but that future phases will consider community needs.

Further questions addressed whether new provincial funding could accelerate balanced-budget timelines; the President noted it will help but that multiple variables, including enrolment trends and federal limits on international students, make projections fluid.

5. Executive Committee

a. Presidential Search Nominees

On behalf of Senate Executive, the Vice-Chair moved that Senate approve the slate of candidates for nomination to the Presidential Search Committee, as set out in the agenda package.

No discussion was offered.

It was moved, seconded, and *carried* **that Senate approve the slate of candidates for nomination to the Presidential Search Committee as set out in the agenda package.**

In the subsequent discussion, Senators sought an update on questions previously directed to the Board of Governors. The Vice-Chair noted that a response memo had arrived just before the meeting and would be circulated once reviewed.

In response to questions raised, the Vice-Chair explained that Senate Executive reviewed all candidate profiles for eligibility and availability, noting that one faculty nominee and six student nominees were deemed ineligible, and two additional students withdrew. She outlined that Senators would vote for one nominee in each

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faculty grouping and one in each student grouping, with all faculty names also appearing in the at-large category. Voting will occur electronically from February 27 to March 6, with candidate profiles available on the Presidential Search website.

Questions were raised about nominees appearing in multiple categories and potential strategic voting. The Vice-Chair confirmed that Senators may vote for the same person in more than one category and that the at-large seat will go to the faculty nominee not otherwise elected who receives the next highest vote count. She acknowledged logistical complications and noted that they would inform future procedural improvements.

Concerns regarding equity and representation on the Search Committee were also raised. The Vice-Chair reminded Senators that diversity is a guiding principle of the search and that Senate Executive reviews the slate to ensure it is collectively inclusive.

Additional comments encouraged reconsideration of limiting eligibility to full-time faculty, as the policy refers more broadly to “faculty.” The Vice-Chair acknowledged the point for future review. A suggestion to adopt a preferential ballot to reduce the impact of repeated names was also raised; however, the Vice-Chair advised that technical constraints make alternative ballot structures impossible at this time.

b. Information Items

The Committee reported on the following information items:

- The Committee continues its review of the *Rules of Senate* as well as the membership and seat distribution for the 2026–2028 period.
- Senate was informed that the Executive Committee approved a faculty-designated member from the Faculty of Education for service on the Senate Executive Committee.

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

a. 2025 Annual Report on Research

The Vice-President Research & Innovation presented the 2025 Annual Research Report, noting that York’s research enterprise remains stable and well-positioned for continued growth. He highlighted strong researcher achievements and emphasized four priorities guiding ongoing efforts: advancing large-scale multidisciplinary research, expanding research-driven revenue through commercialization initiatives, strengthening collaboration and research supports, and deepening global partnerships.

In the subsequent discussion, questions were raised as to why York’s CIHR funding remains low despite strong health-related publication output. In response, the Vice-President explained that York is ineligible for approximately half of CIHR

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programs, those requiring a medical school and hospital affiliation, and that competitiveness is high. He noted that the forthcoming School of Medicine is expected to expand eligibility and increase opportunities for CIHR-funded research.

With respect to concerns raised about York's participation in federal defense and dual-use technology funding and calls for broader Senate discussion on this area of research, the Vice-President responded that some defense-related projects already exist at York and emphasized that the University's approach is guided by academic freedom. He noted that researchers may choose to participate or not, and both choices will be supported.

Questions were raised regarding how research priorities are determined and how internal resources, including matching funds and administrative support, are allocated, with concerns expressed that external funding opportunities may be exerting undue influence on York's research. The Chair referred the questions to APPRC for further examination.

In response to a question seeking clarification on program-area rankings, particularly in Education, the Vice-President acknowledged that changes in methodology and the number of institutions ranked complicate year-to-year comparisons and committed to providing more detailed information at a future meeting. He also clarified that reported research income figures reflect only externally sponsored funding.

b. Information Items

The Committee reported on the following information items:

- An update was provided on the University Academic Plan renewal, noting that APPRC has reviewed community feedback on draft framing questions, identified key themes for the 2025–2030 Plan, and is preparing a draft outline for discussion at its next meeting. A full draft UAP is expected for Senate's review at its meeting on 23 April 2026.
- The Committee's continues work on academic programming and planning for the Markham Campus, and was briefed by the Deputy Provost Markham on program development, enrolment trends, the addition of a BEd cohort, upcoming continuing-education offerings, and preparations for upper-year delivery and new partnership opportunities.
- Ongoing discussions around major research initiatives highlighted York's participation in the federal Canada Global Impact+ Research Chairs program.
- A communication from the Director of an Organized Research Unit prompted further discussion about the role of ORUs within Senate governance. A meeting involving the ORU Director, the Vice-President Research & Innovation, and APPRC leadership has taken place, with follow-up actions identified to address

the issues raised.

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

a. Establishment of Master in Athletic Therapy degree type: Notice of Motion

The Committee Chair presented the Committee's intention to seek Senate's approval of the establishment of the Master in Athletic Therapy (MAT) as a new degree type, along with a companion resolution to establish the MAT degree program, effective Spring 2027.

b. Information Items

The Committee reported on the following information items:

ASCP reported that it had approved minor changes in the following programs:

- *Glendon*: Closure of the Specialized Honours option and changes to degree requirements for the BA and IBA Business Economics degree program and BA and IBA Economics degree programs (all options), Department of Economics, Business, and Mathematics, effective F2026; closure of the Specialized Honours option and changes to degree requirements (all options) for the BA and IBA Economics degree program, Department of Economics, Business, and Mathematics, effective F2026; clarifying edits and minor updates to Faculty Rules in the undergraduate academic calendar, effective F2026.
- *Health*: Change to the program names to remove "Primary Health Care" for the MScN Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner degree program, and for the Graduate Diploma program in Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner. The new degree program name will be MScN Nurse Practitioner, and the diploma program name will be Graduate Diploma Nurse Practitioner, effective F2026.
- *Lassonde*: Changes to the core requirements for the Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology (BEST) Cross-Disciplinary Certificate program, all Lassonde undergraduate degree programs, effective F2026; changes to the Complementary Studies course requirement for all Specialized Honours BEng degree programs, effective F2026; changes to degree requirements for the Specialized Honours BEng in Mechatronics Engineering, Office of the Dean, Lassonde, effective F2026; change to the program name from "Computer Security" to "Cybersecurity," for the Specialized Honours BA and BSc degree programs, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, effective F2026.
- *LA&PS*: Name change to certificate programs in Language Proficiency: from Certificate of Basic French Language Proficiency to Certificate of French Language Proficiency – Independent User I (CEFR: B1 Level) with accompanying changes to the program GPA requirements for successful

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completion of the Certification, and French Language Proficiency – Independent User (CEFR: B2 Level) to Certificate in French Language Proficiency – Independent User II (CEFR: B2 Level), with accompanying changes to the program credit requirements, Department of French Studies, effective F2026

- *Schulich*: Changes to degree requirements, elective credits, for the BBA degree program, effective F2025; changes to the admission requirements for non-Schulich students, for the Master of Accounting (MAcc) degree program, Accounting area, effective Summer 2026.

8. Other Business

There were no matters of other business.

Consent Agenda Items

9. Minutes of the January 2025 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2026 were *approved by consent*.

10. Revisions to the Policy on Registration Eligibility in Summer Courses

Senate *approved by consent* revisions to the Policy on Registration Eligibility in Summer Courses. The Policy was updated to include clearer language and additional relevant definitions.

Patricia Burke-Wood, Chair _____

Sarah Willey-Thomas, Secretary _____