



York University Senate

Notice of Special Meeting

Thursday, 18 January 2024, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Via videoconference

AGENDA

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1. Chair's Remarks (P. Puri)	
2. Business for Which Due Notice has been Given.....	1
a. <i>The Report of the Auditor General of Ontario on York University</i> : Discussion of university governance and academic policy and planning matters arising from the report.	

Note: At a Special Meeting of Senate, no business is transacted except for items listed on the agenda page (i.e., there is no “other business” at a special meeting; Rules of Senate, S. 3.3. b).

P. Robichaud, Secretary

Executive Committee

At the Special meeting of Senate of 18 January 2024

The Value-for-Money Audit: York University Operations and Capital report; Recommendations that Concern Senate's mandate for academic policy.

The [*Value-for-Money Audit report of the Auditor General of Ontario on York's Operations and Capital*](#) was released on 6 December 2023. Thirteen recommendations are set out in the report. Several of them are directed specifically to the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Governors and processes that fall under its mandate. Some are focused on operational and / or safety matters of the University. Two recommendations specifically relate to the status of academic programs, degree program delivery, resources, enrolments, admissions and recruitment, and planning for these matters going forward.

The purpose of this special meeting of Senate as defined by the group of Senators who requested it is a discussion of university governance and academic policy and planning matters arising from the report of the Auditor General of Ontario (AGO). Senate Executive has responsibilities for preparing Senate agendas [Rules of Senate, 5.9]. For this special meeting where discussion of a lengthy report is the item of business, commentary and input from Senators would be most welcome on the AGO recommendations that relate to the matters falling within Senate's mandate. To that end, broad questions to help facilitate constructive dialogue and debate are offered to surface thoughts and guidance on next steps in response to the audit report.

The two specific recommendations in the AGO report are as follows:

Recommendation #2:

To strive for better financial sustainability across all faculties, combined as well as individually, we recommend that York University:

- complete an analysis of profitability at the academic program and department level;
- regularly analyze and monitor department and program enrolment and profitability trends within all faculties; and
- for programs that are not profitable, develop strategies for improvements in program design, course planning and resource allocation or assess whether to stop program intake and phase out the program.

Recommendation #3:

To reduce the risk to the financial sustainability of the university as a whole, in the event that international enrolment from one nation or region were to suddenly decline, we recommend that York University:

- develop faculty-level targets for an optimal level of international student enrolment
- develop a contingency plan for faculties found to be overly dependent on international student tuition revenue; and
- regularly monitor whether recruitment strategies are resulting in the admission of international students from diverse countries.

Executive Committee

Senator input is welcome on:

Academic policy, planning or governance observations, considerations or questions about the two recommendations for attention and / or action.

Specific actions to suggest for Senate or its committees to take in response to these two recommendations.

Observations, considerations or questions on any of the other eleven AGO recommendations that Senators think important to raise for discussion within this plenary body.

Poonam Puri, *Chair*

Lauren Sergio, *Vice-Chair*