

The Senate of York University

Meeting Synopsis

The 712th Meeting of Senate held on Thursday, 12 December 2024

Remarks

Chair

The Chair welcomed Senators to the 712th meeting of Senate. She reflected on equity, diversity, and inclusion and acknowledged with sorrow the 35th anniversary of the horrific anti-woman attack at the [Polytechnique Montréal](#). Appreciation was extended to UIT colleague Grant McNair for his valuable technical support in delivering Senate meetings and best wishes were offered for his retirement. Thanks for his contributions to governance at the University were conveyed to Senator Robichaud at the attendance of his final Senate meeting.

President

The President advised Senate on the ongoing advocacy efforts of the Council of Ontario Universities with the provincial and federal governments to address the challenges faced by the post-secondary education sector arising from policy decisions pertaining to tuition freezes and international students. Through presentation slides, responses were provided to earlier queries about the University's operating budget and actions being taken to address the financial challenges to bring the University to achieve financial sustainability. A copy of the presentation is posted with the Senate agenda on the Senate website.

Approvals

Senate approved the recommendations of its Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee to:

- waive any requirements for an Attending Physician's Statement to support deferral of everything but final examinations from 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025.
- revise three sections of the [Senate Academic Conduct Policy](#), specifically Sections 3.3, 5.3b and 5.5e. A proposed change to Section 5.6.a.vii of the Policy was withdrawn by the Chair for further discussion by the Committee.

Other Motions

Senate debated a hortative motion to “express its view that the capital costs associated with the establishment of a York University medical school should be fully funded by government and/or external sources rather than by existing internal funds or revenues from existing operations.” The motion was defeated with 49 voting in favour and 51 opposed.

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Facilitated Discussion

Under the auspices of Academic Policy, Planning and Research, a Senate consultation was held on the administrative architecture for the planned School of Medicine within the University's structure.

Reports

A communication from the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was received from the Academic Colleague to COU.

Committee Information Items

Executive Committee

Senate Executive reported on the following matters to Senate:

- Its ongoing consideration of a change to the statutory meeting time of Senate to address scheduling concerns, for which notice of motion of a recommended change is planned for the January meeting of Senate.
- the authorization for a hortative motion pertaining to school of medicine planning to proceed to Senate for review at its December meeting.

Academic Policy, Planning and Research (APPRC)

APPRC reported on the following items of business:

- The status of progress on its 2024-2025 priorities, including the preparation of a *UAP 2020-2025 Retrospective Report*, response to the *Report of the Task Force on the Future of Pedagogy* and oversight support of the *Faculties of the Future* initiative.

Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP)

ASCP reported on the following:

- the launch of a new comprehensive website dedicated to generative AI in teaching and learning, the establishment of a central AI hub to link teaching resources, research innovation, and university operations, and plans of the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning for events to engage with AI's role in education, starting with a teaching showcase in January 2025.
- minor changes to degree requirements for the following programs:
 - Health: changes to degree requirements for the BSc in Kinesiology and Health Science and the BA in Movement and Health, along with elective

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course changes for the BSc in Psychology and BSc in Global Health, and revised admission requirements for the BSc in Psychology, all effective F2025.

- Science: changes to degree requirements for Pure and Applied Mathematics streams, updates to thesis format guidelines for the MSc in Industrial & Applied Mathematics, and the addition of an alternate comprehensive exam course for the PhD in Mathematics & Statistics, all effective F2025.

Tenure & Promotions (T&P)

T&P transmitted its 2023-2024 Annual Committee Report, which highlighted discrepancies in unit standards data and ongoing efforts to reconcile records. Responses were provided to questions regarding tenure and promotion statistics, including clarifications on distinctions between recommendations and cases considered.

Additional Information about this Meeting

Please refer to the full Senate [agenda](#) of **12 December 2024** for details about the items reported.

Senate's next meeting will be held at **3:00pm on Thursday, 23 January 2025**.