



York College

94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.
Academic Core AC-3D01 (In-person)
12:00pm-2:00 pm
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026

SENATE PLENARY AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, May 12, 2026
3. President's Report (Claudia Schrader)
4. Faculty Caucus Report (Emmanuel Chang)
5. Student Caucus Report (Favour Ogueri)
6. Guest Presentations:
 - a. Dean Wright presentation on **OT York College Academic Excellence Fee**
 - b. CIO Gregory Vega on **IT Updates**
 - c. Russell Platzek **Recap on Charter next steps**
 - d. Eduardo Rios **Financial Update**
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment

94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.

Academic Core AC-3D01 (In-person) 12:15-1:50 pm

SENATE PLENARY MINUTES

May 12, 2026

Present:

Faculty Senators: Alapo, Alcindor, Baron, Berwid, Birk, Brathwaite, Chang, Dean, de Leon, Ditoro, Emtage, Forester, Githuku, Henry, Hornung, Lilavois, Lee, Majerovitz, Meddeb, Peal, Penn, Radhamohan, Richards, Saad, Sesay, Shearin-Patterson, Sheidlower, Smith-Sanchez, Thompson, Wang, Wani, Werber Zion

Student Senators: Akinyooye, Ambati, Assad, Bishundayal, Daniels, Dawkins-Haynes, Dorismond, Fearon, Germain, Ibeh, Joseph, Latour, Maharaj, Mohammed, Mohan, Molien, Ndengue Toumba, Ogueri, Onwude, Oumar Gueye, Patino, Persaud, Polack, Santos, Sinclair, Sookraj, Yamin

Administration: Brazill, Fellows, Rios, Schrader, Williams

Guests:

1. Call to Order

12:23 PM

2. Approval of Minutes for Tuesday March 24th, 2026 and April 28th, 2026

- Approval of April minutes motioned by Sheidlower, seconded by Werber Zion.
- Votes: 100% Yes
- Approval of March minutes motioned by Berwid, seconded by Werber Zion
- Votes: 98% Yes, 0% No, 2% Abstained

3. Student Caucus Report (Polack)

- SGA President will graduate this spring.
- Appreciation was expressed to faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the senate for their collective efforts and contributions toward ongoing progress.
- Students serving the Senate were acknowledged.

4. President's Report (Schrader)

- Senate was referred to the recent monthly report for salient updates; another monthly report will be released prior to Commencement.
- VP Rios will be sharing a report in coming days re: finance and administration.
- Expressed appreciation and gratitude for students, faculty, and staff; urged all to continue to be active in Senate.
- Expressed congratulations, gratitude, and best wishes to students.
- Expressed gratitude to the college community for voting to choose the title for next strategic plan (188 votes); announced title will be “York Rising: York Strategic Plan 2026-31.”

5. Faculty Caucus Report (Sheidlower)

- Expressed gratitude to Faculty Caucus representatives and officers (Debbie Majerovitz, Harlan Penn, Julian Dean) for their service.
- Caucus determined that Leader Sheidlower will schedule and convene the first fall Caucus meeting despite his term ending this spring.
- People running for UFS: Donna Chirico, Alex Costley, Sarwar, Vincent Jones
- At last Caucus meeting, Laurie Hoeffner and Tim Paglione presented Academic Master Plan processes and procedures answered questions from faculty; Curriculum Executive Report was discussed

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Committee on College Curriculum (Dinsman)

- New courses in Behavioral Science – Policial Science and Sociology, History and Philosophy, Performing and Fine Arts, Mathematics and Computer Science
 - One senator expressed concerns about the difficulty they have had getting cross-listed courses merged in BrightSpace. Another senator responded that this problem can be resolved.
 - Prof. Dean motioned to approve, VP Williams seconded
 - Votes: 95% yes, 2% no, 2% abstained
- Course Changes in Earth and Physical Sciences, Behavioral Sciences – Political Science, History and Philosophy, Biology, Math and Computer Science, Occupational Therapy, Health Professions
 - One senator expressed concern that chemistry pre-requisite courses would not be required. Another reassured that they are still gateway courses, they are just not required prior to taking the courses in question.
 - One student senator asked how the increase in credits by Health Professions supports accreditation. Another answered that the change in credits is being made to reflects the work actually being done in the course.
 - VP Williams motioned to approve, Prof. Wani seconded
 - Votes: 93% yes, 5% no, 2% abstained.
- Minor Redesigns in Behavioral Science – Policial Science and Sociology, Performing and Fine Arts – Music Production:

- VP Williams motioned to approve, **Geraldine** seconded
 - Votes: 98% yes, 0% no, 2% abstained.
 - Major redesign in Health and Human Performance – Gerontology:
 - VP Williams motioned to approve, Lindamichele Baron seconded
 - Votes: 95% yes, 2% no, 2% abstain
 - Program Redesign in Health Professions – Physician’s Assistant:
 - VP williams motioned to approve, Faith Ibeh seconded
 - Votes: 95% yes, 2% no, 2% abstained
- b. Committee on Governance (R. Platzek and S. Sheidlower)
- R. Platzek and S. Sheidlower presented the review process and overall layout/structure of the document.
 - Report on College Charter evaluation and recommendations for possible reforms has been distributed to Caucus and has been published on the College Senate website.
 - Slides were distributed with the meeting agenda.
 - A separate four-page document containing just the recommendations was distributed to Senate in hard copy.
 - The Senate was asked to review the documentation in preparation for further discussion/debate/evaluation in the fall.
 - Following review in the fall, it is expected that the Senate may direct additional questions about the report to Governance and/or may move and vote to adopt one or more of the recommendations. Upon a positive vote, the recommendation will be referred back to Governance for incorporation of the recommendation into the Charter.
 - President deferred questions regarding specific recommendations to Fall 2026 Plenary meetings.
 - A searchable .pdf file was requested by several Senators. This will be compiled by R. Platzek and uploaded to the Senate website as well.
- c. Committee on Campus Environment and Facilities (François)
- Earth Day Bloomification project (decoration of ampitheater outside AC Bldg on Guy R. Brewer Blvd.) took place and was a success.
 - Ongoing Projects:
 - Classroom improvements: Greet has been surveying faculty for ideas regarding potential modifications, some of which may be instituted over the summer.
 - Room Door Braille audit: some entryways on campus need improvements to accommodate visually-impaired individuals.
 - Pavers in the walkway at the 160 Street entrance need to be evened out/reset.

7. Guest Presentations

a. Provost Derrick Brazill: Presentation of Course Cancellation & Scheduling Procedures

Presentation:

- Contextualized presentation within a larger framework of increasing student retention rates (chart presented).
- Scheduling Process Goals: ensure timely student progress, support student success, use instructional resources efficiently (e.g., adjunct budget), optimize classroom capacity, improve retention and graduation.
- Course scheduling process is meant to be proactive and informed by:
 - data regarding past enrollment and fill rates (students enrolled/course cap)
 - predicted demand using available tools; i.e., CourseDog demand projections based on degree maps and section heat maps showing class section times preferred by students; EAB Navigate to determine which courses are needed by students to complete majors.
- At the end of the day, chairs select courses to be offered.
- Scheduling and cancellation process:
 - Departments are given target number of sections to be offered based on projected enrollments and fill rates.
 - 80% fill rate is targeted.
 - Courses are cancelled 3 weeks prior to the semester.
 - Decisions to cancel are made in collaboration between Department Chair, Dean, and Provost.
 - The focus will be on sections that are less than 60% full and contain less than 15 students; this is a guiding metric, not a hard-and-fast rule.
 - Students needing the class to graduate/progress will be accommodated.
- Course caps – Provost has been working with department chairs to make sure that course caps are pedagogically appropriate.

Q&A:

- A faculty Senator expressed concerns about historical trends of students with Bursar holds being unable to register for courses until after course cancellation deadlines. VP Rios and Provost Brazill responded that students with Bursar holds should be directed to the Bursar and/or V-READY for assistance with payment options/payment plans; V-READY is searchable on the York College website.
- A student Senator expressed concerns about the inability of students to anticipate course cancellations, particularly those who register for courses early, and that two-to-three weeks is not enough time for students to find another course to replace one that has been cancelled. Provost Brazill reported that lists of courses in danger of being canceled have been published 2 weeks prior to the cancellation in the past and offered to reinstitute this procedure.
- A faculty senator asked whether it is still the case that the number of sections offered cannot be greater than what it was at the same semester of the prior AY. Provost confirmed that this is the case.
- A faculty senator asked if the wait-list can be re-instituted. Provost responded that wait lists are currently being piloted in a number of departments.

- President Schrader indicated that the goal is to be able to increase the number of courses and sections offered as enrollment rises.
- One faculty senator suggested that courses with low fill rates that end up canceled may still have a considerable number of students in them that we then lose to other colleges in search of courses that fit their schedules.
- A faculty senator expressed concern about the guiding metric used for course cancellations (i.e., % fill rate), which is dependent on course caps. Course caps can easily be manipulated to improve fill rates, with the rationale that low course caps are generally pedagogically advantageous. The question was asked whether having an absolute enrollment threshold (filled seats) that is based on the real cost to run the course would make more fiscal sense. Provost responded that this is not possible because the cost of running a course is difficult to determine (e.g., enrollment by full-time students has a different cost basis than that by part-time students).
- A faculty senator expressed concern that the limitations on course scheduling may be driving the increased scheduling of WEB courses, which fill quickly, leading to a concomitant decrease in the number of in-person courses. Students who prefer in-person courses have complained to the senator that they are having difficulty finding courses that fit their schedule.
- Fill rate for sections are averaged over departments. Low-enrolled courses can be counter-balanced by high-enrolled courses.
- Increases in enrollment and enrollment timelines from Tableau are taken into account for course cancellations.

b. Eduardo Rios Final Plan Budget Update

- Third quarter projections indicate that the deficit reduction will be 1.8M this FY26.
- Hiring freeze remains in effect.
- Next year is expected to be marked by will be austerity given cuts to federal and state budgets for education.
- President: it isn't just CUNY that is feeling the pressure, colleges are closing.
- Line items for PAC and other sources of income are baked into the estimates.

c. Academic Master Plan (Tim Paglione)

- deferred to fall due to time constraints

d. Artificial Intelligence (Timothy Paglione): deferred to fall due to time constraints

- deferred to fall due to time constraints

e. Naming of Computer Research Lab (Radoslaw Wojciechowski & Thitima Srivatanakul)

- deferred to fall due to time constraints

8. Old Business

- None.

9. New Business

- None.

10. Announcements

- None.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:03 PM

Submitted by: Olga G. Berwid

Date: May 12, 2026



Board of Trustees of The City University of New York

RESOLUTION TO

**Authorize an Academic Excellence Fee for the Master of Science (MS)
Occupational Therapy Program**

York College

September 22, 2026

WHEREAS, York College (“York” or “College”) offers graduate-level degrees that are nationally recognized for their quality and impact; and

WHEREAS, The York College BS/MS Dual Program in Occupational Therapy is a professional, accredited program recognized by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), 2022; American Occupational Therapy Association [AOTA], 2020). and

WHEREAS, York College is committed to expanding access for historically underserved students. Its OT program helps diversify the workforce and prepare practitioners to serve marginalized communities in New York City. Research shows underrepresented students benefit from strong academic support, structured exam prep, and simulation training (AOTA, 2020). The

proposed Academic Excellence Fee supports these strategies and aligns with York's equity mission and

WHEREAS, The program enhances student success through investments in simulation, lab resources, fieldwork systems, accreditation support, and licensure prep. These are essential for maintaining quality, meeting standards, and staying competitive in the New York tristate OT education market and

WHEREAS, York College is requesting the approval of an Academic Excellence Fee of \$800 per semester per student to be used solely to support and enhance the program; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Academic Excellence Fee aligns with the cost of specialized programs across the University, and appropriately reflects the greater academic rigor, sustained faculty engagement, and comprehensive student support services associated with a graduate-level the Master of Science (MS) Occupational Therapy Program; and

WHEREAS, The College administration engaged faculty and student representatives in discussions regarding the proposed fee and its intended uses at the College Senate meeting on September, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Academic Excellence Fee aligns with the cost of specialized programs at York College, and appropriately reflects the greater academic rigor, sustained faculty engagement, and comprehensive student support services associated with a graduate-level OT program; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Excellence Fee he proposed is essential for York College to remain competitive in the densely populated tristate OT education market, meet ACOTE accreditation standards, support high-quality simulation and clinical training, and ensure student success on the NBCOT exam required for New York State licensure; and

WHEREAS, The funds will be used to support and enhance the OT student experience through investment in areas such as simulation tools and standardized patient encounters, clinical lab equipment, accreditation management systems, licensure exam preparation, and instructional technology.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York authorizes York College to charge an Academic Excellence Fee of \$800 per semester for students registered in the Master of Science (MS) Occupational Therapy (OT) Program, effective for students entering the program beginning in the Fall 2027 semester; and

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That York College will conduct ongoing assessments of the effectiveness of the fee in enhancing student experience, learning, and success—including retention, graduation rates, and career placement—and will provide a summary report of assessment findings every five (5) years to the Board of Trustees Committee on Finance and Administration, and share it widely within the campus community.

EXPLANATION:

York College offers an array of graduate-level degrees in its various schools, which are regularly recognized nationally for their outstanding quality, and are consistently viewed as among the best in their fields in the New York area. The low level of tuition at York (both in-state and out-of-state) adds to the value of these programs.

The York Master of Science (MS) Occupational Therapy (OT) Program is uniquely distinguished by its strong commitment to serving historically underserved and underrepresented communities in New York City, preparing culturally responsive practitioners through community-engaged learning, integrated fieldwork, and hands-on, practice-focused instruction in a diverse urban setting.

The addition of an AEF to the Master of Science (MS) Occupational Therapy (OT) Program strengthens academic rigor, enhances student outcomes, and sustains the program's ability to deliver innovative, equity-driven occupational therapy education while preparing competent, practice-ready professionals.