Meeting Notes

Integrated Planning Committee Meeting

November 26, 2018 4:00 – 5:00pm A-5014

Attendance:

Dr. Noreen Golfman, Provost & VP (Academic) (Chair)
Dr. Donna Cox-Hardy, Social Work
Dr. Laura Robinson, Arts & Social Science, Grenfell
Dr. Aimée Surprenant, Graduate Studies
Jennifer Batten, Office of the Provost
Roxanne Millan, Office of the Provost
Keith Matthews, CIAP
Réanne Kinsella, CIAP

Unable to attend:

Dr. Sean Cadigan, Associate VP (Academic)
Bailey Howard, MUNSU
Jillian Kavanagh, Marine Institute
Dr. Donald McKay, Medicine
Dr. James Feehan, Humanities & Social Science
Dr. Ian Sutherland, Music
Rizza Umali, GSU
Lori Pike, Budget Office

Meeting notes

Quorum was not achieved; therefore, the meeting did not proceed as per the agenda. Instead, those present had a brief discussion regarding the information obtained to date from the consultation process and the next steps.

In total, 175 individuals attended the in-person consultation sessions with 28 additional individuals logging in through the livestream option. The large majority of attendees were staff members and many commented on the impacts on administrative and academic staff as a result of significant cuts. The online submission form received 68 responses. The general impression of members was that the sessions were productive, collegial, and forward-looking.

The Committee discussed some possibilities as to how to move forward with discussions regarding tuition, leading up to the development of a set of concrete recommendations in the final report. Dr. Golfman noted that the Professional Schools have been asked to provide proposals regarding their tuition structure. It was noted that during last year's discussions among IPC, the Committee did not feel comfortable with the gap between Canadian and NL tuition rates.

Other common priorities heard during this year's consultations were Indigenization, faculty renewal, staff support, the need to increase revenue, and the need to consider current global trends in higher education as Memorial considers its future.

A few members of IPC noted that, based on their own discussions with colleagues, it appears as though members of the University community recognize the severity of the fiscal situation following this year's consultation process. It was noted that perhaps the reality of the situation is more visible now that some programs are closing.

Dr. Golfman and Mr. Matthews have had some preliminary discussions regarding the potential organization and content of the What We Heard document based on the feedback received to date. The working group will meet to draft the document for review by the full Committee at the next meeting. The document will then be distributed to the University Community in December. It was suggested that a specific section be dedicated to the Marine Institute given their unique structure, close connections to industry and reliance on external revenue generation. The concerns expressed by members of the Grenfell campus community were very similar to those on the St. John's campus; however, it was suggested that a specific section be dedicated to the feedback specific to Grenfell as well.

The meeting on December 24th will be cancelled. There will be one more meeting of IPC before the holiday break, on December 10.

A note was also made that there are now two faculty vacancies on the Committee that must be filled. Some senior administrators have expressed an interest in joining the Committee. However, the Committee agreed that it is also important to maintain faculty representation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.