

Meeting Notes
Planning and Budget Committee (PBC)
January 27, 2021
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, WebEx

Attendance

M. Abrahams, VPA and Provost (Chair)
Y. Alabed, MUNSU
K. Anderson, Education
C. Bazan, Engineering
P. Brett, Marine Institute
S. Cadigan, AVPA
E. Kendall, Medicine

S. MacKenzie, Humanities and Social Sciences
A. Marland, Humanities and Social Sciences
K. Matthews, CIAP
L. Pike, Budget Office
J. Porter, Registrar's Office
H. Usefi, Science
M. Woods, Medicine

By invitation: Dr. Ian Sutherland and Ms. Emily Wooley

Unable to Attend

P. Ravichandran, GSU

R. Nolan, CIAP

1. Review of agenda and meeting notes of November 23rd, 2020

M. Abrahams asked if there were any errors or omissions in the meeting notes. He noted that two student representatives listed as unable to attend are no longer on the committee. These have been removed from the meeting notes. The meeting notes for November 23rd, 2020 were approved as presented.

2. Updates

1. Review of PBC Terms of Reference

A. Marland noted that the working group has continued working on the Terms of Reference and is considering how to consult with current and former committee members. K. Matthews noted that the deadline to submit significant changes to the Terms of Reference has passed, which will allow time to consider the implications of the new Strategic Plan and the Public Post-Secondary Education review.

2. Centres Policy

K. Matthews noted that the Manager of the Policy Framework position with the Office of The Board of Regents Office has been filled. The working group will finalize the current draft of the policy and share with committee members for feedback prior to reaching out to the Manager for advice on finalizing the document.

3. Centre of Quantum Social and Cognitive Science.

Dr. E. Haven has indicated that the revised proposal for this Centre will likely be ready for review at the next meeting.

4. Campus Renewal Fee Projects

M. Abrahams noted that he anticipates the committee will review initiatives funded by the Campus Renewal Fee at the February meeting.

3. Update on Strategic Planning Process (I. Sutherland and E. Wooley invited)

The Co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Facilitation Team provided an update on the “What We Have Heard” document and next steps in the development of the Strategic Plan.

The document was based on information received from approximately 60 consultation sessions held with internal and external stakeholder groups. The internal groups included faculties, departments, administrative units, and undergraduate and graduate students. External groups included donors, alumni (local and international), and employers. Information was also collected through an anonymous survey, developed in partnership with the Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning (CIAP).

The resulting document strives to achieve a balanced, honest representation of the key messages heard.

The “What We Have Heard” document has been published and feedback from the community is being solicited through an online survey, developed in partnership with CIAP. February will be focussed on drafting the Strategic Plan, based on key elements from the “What We Have Heard” document and feedback received on it. The final draft document is expected to be completed on schedule at the beginning of March.

Members of the committee congratulated the team on its work to date and commented on its aspirational tone.

4. Budget Update

L. Pike delivered the annual update to PBC on the University’s 2020-21 Budget. The presentation included an overview of the total budget for the University (\$447m) and details on the sources of revenue (Provincial grant, tuition, student fees, interest revenue, etc..), how the budget is allocated (by portfolio), central overhead expenditures, and the cumulative cuts to the University budget since 2012/13.

5. Special Meeting Senate – Delegated Authority to Senate Executive Committee

M. Abrahams drew attention to the report “Decisions of an Academic Character made during the COVID-19 pandemic”, prepared by M. Tom Nault, University Registrar and Secretary of Senate. Section 2.4 deals with the role of the Executive Committee of Senate, noting:

A review of the Senate records included in the Handbook of Decrees and Resolutions does not show that the Executive Committee of Senate has been delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Senate and under what situations they could act on behalf of Senate other than those already included in the Terms of Reference.

The document proposes that “Senate should consider formally granting the Executive Committee of Senate the authority, including limitations of this authority, to make decisions during emergency situations or when Senate is not meeting or cannot reasonably be expected to meet.”

Committee members agreed that this is an appropriate topic for a special meeting of Senate, particularly noting that the membership composition of the Executive Committee would need to be reviewed in light of any changes. K. Matthews noted that Mr. Nault has also suggested including a discussion on

developing a policy on academic disruption: what causes an academic disruption and who has authority to say that an academic disruption exists.

The Senate By-Laws note that PBC is responsible for developing the agenda for the special meeting of Senate.

6. Other Business

No other business presented.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM