

**Meeting Notes
Planning and Budget Committee (PBC)
March 23, 2022
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Remote**

Attendance

F. Strzelczyk, VPA and Provost (Chair)

K. Anderson, Education

C. Bazan, Engineering

E. Kendall, Medicine

A. Marland, Humanities and Social Sciences

K. Matthews, CIAP

L. Pike, Budget Office

J. Porter, Registrar's Office

M. Woods, Medicine

Unable to Attend

F. Ahmed, MUNSU

P. Brett, Marine Institute

D. Patel, GCSU

H. Usefi, Science

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as presented.

2. Review of notes from the January 26th meeting

The meeting notes from January 26th, 2022 were approved.

3. Updates

a. Centres Policy

F. Strzelczyk noted that the proposed new policy is ready to be submitted to the President's Advisory Team next week for discussion. The deadline for submission to the President's Office for transmittal to the Board of Regents is Friday, April 22nd.

4. PBC Annual Plan 2021-22 – April to August 2022

1. Committee Terms of Reference

Committee members were asked to provide their thoughts on PBC's role amid a broader revisioning of Senate and its various committees as part of a possible Senate reform process.

- J. Porter will locate a document on Senate Reform that was written in 2015 and it will be shared with the committee members in advance of the April meeting.
- Other comments included:
 - There is no mechanism for senators to report back to the constituents they represent.
 - Senate doesn't always know what it wants its committee to do. A committee should have purpose and be productive. If not, it should be reformulated or disbanded.

- Senate discussions largely revolve around program review and should include a greater emphasis on intellectual debate about substantive academic issues facing the university.
- Senate committees often don't feel empowered to make recommendations to Senate.
- PBC's scope of activities should centre on academic priorities and planning as there is no authority for budget. PBC could be the primary decision-making committee of Senate, facilitating the development of a voting mechanism.
- The Committee should be more aggressive in bringing forward debate topics, either through the bi-annual special meetings or through regular meetings of Senate. If there is follow-up, this committee could assign responsibility to an appropriate Senate committee.
- It needs to be recognized that any committee is an instrument of the main body (Senate) from which it receives instruction.
- It would be useful for this committee to draft an aggressive terms of reference for itself and then bring it forward to Senate for debate.

2. Committee Website

It was agreed that substantial changes to the PBC website (currently containing its meeting notes and terms of reference) should be deferred until a discussion around its terms of reference has taken place.

3. Evaluation of University Plans and Frameworks

The template as designed is appropriate. Critically, there needs to be mechanism by which the Committee can make the Plan/Framework proponents take the exercise more seriously. The Committee also needs to consider how it updates Senate on what it sees in these reports.

4. University Budget Model

F. Strzelczyk noted that discussions regarding a potential new budget continue to take place. This item should remain on the agenda.

5. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.