

# Meeting Notes

## Integrated Planning Committee Meeting

January 24, 2018

11:30 – 12:30pm

A-2029

### Attendance:

**Dr. Noreen Golfman**, Provost & VP (Academic) (Chair)  
**Dr. Donna Cox-Hardy**, Social Work  
**Dr. Ian Sutherland**, Music  
**Dr. James Feehan**, Humanities & Social Science  
**Dr. Donald McKay**, Medicine  
**Dr. Laura Robinson**, Arts & Social Science, Grenfell  
**Dr. Aimée Surprenant**, Graduate Studies  
**Jillian Kavanagh**, Marine Institute  
**Renata Lang**, MUNSU  
**Lori Pike**, Budget Office  
**Keith Matthews**, Associate Director, Academic Budgets  
**Paul Chancey**, CIAP  
**Réanne Kinsella**, CIAP

### Unable to attend:

**Younis Abdalla**, GSU

## 1. Review of meeting notes from December 18, 2017

The meeting notes from December 18, 2017 were reviewed and accepted by the committee.

## 2. Consultation Process Discussion

The majority of the budget consultations have now been held and most IPC members have attended at least one session. Dr. Golfman noted that participants have provided lively discussions and valuable information. Some individuals have also followed-up with emails offering further thoughts after sessions. Several recurring themes are emerging from the process.

Members of the IPC offered the following thoughts regarding the process:

- Almost all groups consulted agreed with the priorities of academic excellence and comprehensiveness.
- Most sessions identified the undergraduate experience as a priority; specifically in terms of academic experience and access to supports and services. Participants raised concerns that the quality of the undergraduate experience is being affected by recent and ongoing budget cuts.
- One important theme that has emerged from each session is communication and the need for more and better information-sharing within the university community, as well as with the public. It is hoped that the Budget Consultation website will provide further information on some key areas of concern identified during the sessions.
- Many individuals emphasized the need for a united voice among the university community, and in particular, in communicating with the provincial government.
- It was noted that different units and campuses had different perspectives but there was significant overlap on the priorities and key issues. The context at MI was markedly different from what has been noted at the St. John's Campus and Grenfell Campus.

- The inappropriateness of across-the-board cuts came out at most sessions. There were suggestions that the university focus on where our strengths lie and pursue innovative revenue streams in these areas.
- There was support for administrative areas that provide direct support to faculty or student services. There was also widespread support to decrease expenditures by increasing efficiency and decreasing bureaucracy. Concern about the salary scales and size of administration was expressed at a number of sessions.
- The need to raise tuition, while maintaining accessibility for those who cannot afford to pay tuition, came up at most faculty/staff sessions and at one student session. Many recognize that keeping tuition frozen is no longer sustainable, given the financial situation of the province. Most participants in the student session argued tuition should remain frozen.
- Other recurring themes included:
  - Infrastructure and the poor state of university facilities
  - Research as an ongoing priority, and support for graduate student growth
  - The changing demographic of Newfoundland and Labrador and the potential negative impact on enrolment
  - The too-low cost of parking on campus
  - Early retirement packages
  - Cuts to senior administration salaries

Following the Jan 29 consultation session, an online feedback form will be distributed throughout the university community in order to gather additional feedback.

Dr. Golfman proposed the idea of holding a focus group with 8-10 individuals throughout Memorial to gather reactions to the draft report summarizing what we have heard during consultation sessions and putting forward initial recommendations. The Committee was in support of this idea and members were encouraged to think of individuals who would be well suited to this task or who hold a particularly strategic background.

The IPC briefly discussed the need for a strategic vision beyond the current frameworks and plans as a way to decrease the silos among the university, improve Memorial's brand, and therefore, recruitment (of students, faculty and staff).

### **3. Development of Draft Report**

The Committee has committed to the ambitious timeline of completing a draft report by the end of February. Currently, CIAP is organizing the information gathered in the consultation sessions by theme. It was decided that a working group would be established to complete the draft report. It was proposed that the working group include Dr. Golfman, Ms. Pike, Mr. Matthews and Mr. Chancey. In addition, Dr. Sutherland, Ms. Lang and Ms. Kavanagh volunteered to serve on the working group.

### **4. Other Business**

No other business was raised. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.