

Meeting Notes

Integrated Planning Committee Meeting

March 19, 2019

3:30 – 4:30pm

A-2029

Attendance:

Dr. Noreen Golfman, Provost & VP (Academic) (Chair)
Dr. Neil Bose, VP (Research)
Dr. Sean Cadigan, Associate VP (Academic)
Dr. Danny Dyer, Science
Bailey Howard, MUNSU
Sana Jamil, GSU
Dr. Aimée Surprenant, Graduate Studies
Dr. Ian Sutherland, Music
Keith Matthews, CIAP
Réanne Kinsella, CIAP

Unable to attend:

Dr. Claude Daley, Engineering and Applied Science
Jillian Kavanagh, Marine Institute
Roxanne Millan, Office of the Provost
Dr. Laura Robinson, Arts & Social Science, Grenfell
Lori Pike, Budget Office
Jennifer Batten, Office of the Provost

1. Review of March 4, 2019 meeting notes

The Committee reviewed and approved the meeting notes from March 4, 2019.

2. 2019 Operating Budget Report

Dr. Golfman explained that both PBC and VPC have provided feedback on the Operating Budget Report, consisting of editorial and language revisions for the most part. The IPC discussed the draft Operating Budget Report. The following points were raised by Committee members:

- Committee members asked for further clarification regarding appendix C, specifically regarding the use of boxplots. It was suggested that the appendix should clearly show where Memorial falls in each figure as well as indicate the number of universities included in the figure. The Committee also recommended that the appendix include a thorough explanation as to how a reader should interpret a boxplot figure, as well as the rationale for presenting Humanities data specifically.
- It was suggested that an additional boxplot be developed to represent comparative tuition rates for 2021. This would show Memorial's position among the distribution after proposed tuition rate increases would be implemented.
- Dr. Golfman explained that PBC suggested that the report more directly state the severity of the \$8 million pension liability should the University be required to cover this cost during 2019-20. IPC members agreed that the report should explicitly state that a further reduction of \$8 million would have profound consequences on the University and would require revisiting the guiding principles established during consultations.
- The report should emphasize that the dependence on Government is largely a result of the long-standing government-mandated tuition freezes.
- It was noted that the report provides clear recommendations; however the decrease in provincial government funding constrains Memorial's ability to fully address the severity of the issue. It was noted that the Post-Secondary Education review may provide further opportunity to emphasize the need for appropriate funding levels.
- It was suggested that the report use simpler budget language.

- It was noted that specific units at Memorial bring in revenue which partially offsets some of the operating budget expenditures (MI, bookstore, tech services, Animal Care, etc.). It is important to note this in the report as it shows that Memorial is entrepreneurial and continues to diversify its revenue streams to reduce its reliance on government funding.
- A question was posed whether the report could break down funding amount by student. Dr. Golfman noted that Memorial is working on this analysis. There is a common misconception regarding the cost per student as information that has been published externally does not account for factors unique to Memorial (multi-campuses, exclusion of the Faculty of Medicine, the Marine Institute's funding through industrial outreach, and scope of programs). This information will also be important for the Post-Secondary Education review.
- A question was posed regarding the timeline for the release of the report. Dr. Golfman noted that once the document is finalized, it will be delivered to the President, and then posted publicly on the IPC website.
- It was suggested that the University be proactive in communicating the major issues and recommendation to the public, perhaps by issuing a press release concurrently with the report.

3. Other business

Further revisions will be circulated to IPC over email for approval. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.