October 18 Report from the Academic Planning Task Force (2012-2013)Mandate: The Task Force, using the consultation process established by the 2010-2011 APTF (including but not limited to sponsoring a series of widely accessible town-hall meetings to address specific key issues, and the use of an interactive website) shall consider, as recommended by the 2010-2011 Academic Planning Task Force, the issues of:

1. virtualization and online learning, and
2. faculty renewal

The Academic Planning Task Force shall submit its Report, including recommendations and observations concerning the implementation of previous recommendations, to Senate for approval before the May meeting of the Senate.

In order to ensure the continuous cycle of Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring of the Academic Plan endorsed by Senate, the APTF shall also recommend a new planning issue or set of issues to be investigated by the task force of the subsequent year.

Membership	Department	Student Year	Status	Term Ends
E. Berkok		B.Comp'13	Elected	May-2013
T. Bridges		PhD'13	Elected	May-2013
J. Atkinson	Psychology		Elected	May-2013
L. Davidson	Surgery		Elected	May-2013
C. Moyes	Biology		Elected	May-2013
M. Swartz	Library		Elected	May-2013
S. Elliott	Education		Elected	May-2013

Chair: C. Moyes
Secretary: L. Knox

APTF Progress to date

In our first meeting (September 27), the APTF established a working plan for addressing the issues assigned to the committee by the 2010-11 APTF. We identified as our first priority Issue 1: Virtualization and Online Learning, and devised a structure to identify the issues that concern the academic community. We will consider Issue 2: Faculty Renewal after making sufficient progress on our first priority, likely beginning with our December meeting.

We have identified three themes within the sphere of online learning, enabling subsets of the committee to focus in on more specific issues between monthly meetings of the APTF.

>   Theme 1. Promoting a Long-term Institutional Strategy for Online Learning (*Moyes, Davidson, Berkok*)
>   Theme 2. Assessing and Recommending Quality Control Mechanisms for Online Courses (*Moyes, Atkinson, Swartz*)
>   Theme 3. Identifying Problems and Solutions for Challenges with Technology and Support (*Moyes, Elliott, Bridges*)

A major priority in this work is to engage the community in identifying strengths and weaknesses in current practices in online learning. This will involve meetings between identified stakeholders and the APTF committee, as well as utilization of the online forums to sample opinion more broadly. Each month, beginning November 1, we will post a new question on the interactive web forum accessible from our website (http://www.queensu.ca/saptf/). We anticipate submitting a preliminary report in March, soliciting further comments, and holding a town hall discussion on the draft. A final version of the report is to be submitted for the May Senate meeting.

In our second meeting of the full committee (October 29), we will hold a discussion focused on **Theme 3: Technology and Support**. Based on those discussions we will submit a specific topic to the web forum by November 1 for discussions over the month of November.

In our third meeting (December 3), we will focus on **Theme 2: Quality Control Mechanisms.** Based on those discussions we will submit a specific topic to the web forum for discussions over December and early January.

Feel free to contact me directly if you have questions. We welcome suggestions on how to optimize communication with the broader Queen's community.

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