

Senate Academic Planning Task Force

Senate Notice of Motion

24 October 2011

The Process

The Principal proposed a vision for Queen's University in *Where Next* (January 2010) and the Academic Writing Team's *Imagining the Future* (August 2010) explored and expanded on a number of possibilities.

The Queen's community of students, faculty and staff responded extensively to both these documents.

The Academic Planning Task Force (APTF) was struck by the Senate "to develop an Academic Plan for Queen's University." (Senate Motion 10-72).

During its initial meetings in January 2011, the APTF laid out a work plan and started to develop its core concepts as the Four Pillars of the Academy. The initial texts, unit and individual responses, and the literature were reviewed and discussed. A series of community consultations were held during February, March and early April, that included reports and sessions at Senate on January 20, February 17, March 24, and an interim report to the Senate on April 28.

To ensure a transparent and accessible process, activities were published on the APTF interactive website and the Queen's community was invited to review and comment on any aspect as the development of the Academic Plan unfolded.

Additional meetings with groups and individuals continued during May and June. At the same time the individual APTF members undertook to author the full versions of the Four Pillars of the Plan. Authors circulated their drafts to the other members who returned comments and suggestions that resulted in revised texts. This process continued during July, August and into early September.

On September 27 the Senate received and discussed documentation, also presented on the website, that included an Introduction, Four Pillars, Recommendations, and Appendices.

In early October, the APTF met four times to discuss the feedback received at the Senate, via email and the website, and in personal and group meetings. The APTF members reaffirmed their commitment to the Four Pillars as the core of the plan; however, some revisions were made in response to concerns expressed at the 27 September Senate meeting and on the APTF website.

The list of eighty-nine separate recommendations has been removed; however, each Pillar continues to contain recommendations.

The Queen's University Academic Plan is supported by the Four Pillars and the Appendices that include the guiding documents, the list of consultations and the references.

Conclusion

The APTF presents the results of its work to the Senate as a Notice of Motion on October 24 for a vote by the Senate on November 22, 2011.

Given the importance of the Academic Plan, the APTF invites senators to review the material carefully before the October 24 Senate meeting at which it is prepared to answer any questions of clarification.

Before November 22, the APTF may make minor revisions for clarification and amplification and will correct any errors of fact.

On November 22, the APTF members request that they be discharged from their duties with respect to the Queen's University Academic Plan 2011.

Notice of Motion

(submitted to the October 24 Agenda for action by the Senate on November 22, 2011)

The Senate Academic Planning Task Force recommends:

(a) that the Senate approve the Queen's University Academic Plan 2011 and its supporting Four Pillars;

(b) that the Senate publish and disseminate these documents as a guide for the entire academic community: the students, the staff, the faculty, alumni and friends;

(c) that the Senate encourage the academic leadership, including the Provost, the Vice-Principals, the Deans and the Department Heads, to be guided by the principles of the Plan in planning decisions and to implement the recommendations when possible and practicable within the resources available.

(d) that the Senate endorse a continuous cycle of Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring under the leadership of the Provost.

Respectfully submitted by the Academic Planning Task Force

Members:¹

- P. Fachinger (English, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Senator)
- W. Flanagan (Dean, Faculty of Law, Senator)
- I. Reeve (Political Studies, PhD '13, Senator until August 31, 2011)
- V. Remenda (Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering, Senator)
- S. Tanner (Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, staff)
- P. Taylor (Mathematics and Statistics, Biology, Education) – Chair

¹ **M. Jones** (English, Senator) contributed as a member until his sabbatical began on July 1, 2011. He did not participate in the Task Force for the remainder of the summer, although he was included on email circulation of drafts and discussions during the development of the draft version of the Plan that was presented to Senate in September. He chose to write and publish a dissenting report when the Task Force made its submission to the Senate on September 27.

C. Rudnicki (Philosophy, BAH '11, AMS VP University Affairs) left the Task Force in August to continue his studies at another institution. K. Slobodin (AMS VP University Affairs) sat in as a resource on behalf of undergraduate students.