

Responses from the Faculty of Education via *SurveyMonkey* regarding the UAP

November 6, 2015

Since the Faculty of Education did not have a Faculty Council meeting scheduled before the deadline for responses, we opened a *SurveyMonkey* survey in order to collect feedback. The comments listed below were collected directly and anonymously from the online survey, which was sent out to all members of Faculty Council in October, with a reminder sent out on November 5. Responses have *not* been edited.

1. What sets York apart from other universities and how is this advantageous?

- York's student demographic is more diverse than perhaps any other Canadian university. This is a potentially enormous recruiting advantage for York. We should be targeting a wide student demographic (and make it plain that we are intentionally doing so), and we should also brand ourselves as the university for families whose children are the first to attend post-secondary education.
- The learning environment is progressive and dynamic.
- York is a trail-blazer with regard to our emphasis on issues of Equity, Diversity and Social Justice in the pursuit of high-quality education for all.
- Its diverse student population. Students both bring and demand different perspectives than the 'usual suspects' on offer in a Euro-centric university. We have and continue to make meaningful global connections.
- York is innovative with a strong community focus and commitment to equity, diversity and social justice.
- Not much sets York apart anymore. My sense is that the broad-ranging, interdisciplinary curriculum is increasingly under threat. I don't see any advantages.
- The community aspect and social environment. Helps you make connections with individuals that will assist in future careers and helps find opportunities after graduation.

2. What should be York's academic priorities for the next five years? Please rank your priorities if possible.

- student experience 2. community-relevant, engaged scholarship (the new Markham campus provides real opportunities on this point) 3. research intensification
- Research, academic excellence, being progressive,
- A strategic and deliberate focus on marginalized and oppressed populations that would benefit from in the education process (research, admission of Teacher Candidates, hiring of Faculty, partnerships with School Boards and communities)
- Hiring more tenure stream professors. Better balancing teaching and research loads. Reaching out to marginalized communities and providing funding for students of lower socio-economic status. (These ARE academic priorities!!!)
- Student experience 2. Commitment to excellence 3. Fiscal responsibility with streamlined bureaucracy
- a return to collegiality 2. less of a client-based accounting system 3. renewal of faculty members' pride
- Academic Achievement in relation to other top universities in North America

3. What are the most pressing challenges facing York now and in the next five years that should be addressed in the next UAP?

- finding a balance between a) dealing with financial constraints and b) moving forward with a faculty complement that feels valued and supported
- Financial constraints from Ministry Funding; partnerships with businesses who have the same philosophy as the University
- An aging professoriate.
- Budget Student Retention
- Continuous micro-management of everything from expense reports to course selection processes are wearing down the faculty. If we stop caring, York's clients will stop coming. We, the faculty, are the face of the university.
- Staying competitive in relation to other universities in Canada 2. Ensuring going to York is considered a good thing, there is still much stigma with a student picking York over another university, unless its the business school, going to York can be viewed as a bad thing.

4. What are the most compelling opportunities for York now and in the next five years?

- The new Markham campus is an important litmus test for whether and how York can establish itself as a regional player in postsecondary education. We have to do post-secondary education in a way that connects local needs to global resources.
- How do we capitalize on the skills and expertise of our faculty to enrich the student experience?
- -research and partnerships with FNMI communities to respond to the lack of attention to these groups in the past
- Continued engagement with diverse communities in the GTA. Take the Federal Liberal government's promise to be more open and inclusive, to put independent science back on the research agenda, to reinstate the long-form census. Get galvanized around these promises and see that they get kept. And press press press for more government funding.
- Partnerships in learning through experiential education
- The need to build genuine transparency into all levels of curriculum and academic processes.
- Grow the engineering school & ensure they spell engineering correctly. Does not help the reputation of the school as these mistakes are advertised all over social media.

5. Do you have any other advice about the University Academic Plan 2015-2020 in terms of its organization and structure, specificity of objectives, indicators of progress and the like?

- I don't know the plan well enough to comment directly.
- N/A
- Be honest. Don't have a corporate mindset. Listen with your hearts and minds and not your 'bottom-lines'.
- Increase efficiencies in administrative processes that suck huge dollars away from student experience
- Increase student, staff and faculty commitment to creating a university that they are proud of.
- NA.