

AAPRC UAP questions

Questions

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

Survey summary:

- Commitment to social justice
- Diversity of our community
- Diversity of our programs
- Close relationship with our communities
- Strength in liberal arts
- Strong professional programmes (especially law and business)
- Innovations in teaching
- New innovative engineering school
- Location in uptown Toronto/York region
- Size of institution
- Interdisciplinarity
- Markham campus
- Glendon's bilingual centre for excellence
- Strong collegial processes
- Strong collaborative sensibility
- Young and ambitious

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

Survey summary

- Socially engaged research (knowledge mobilization)
- Improve student retention
- Improve student experience
- Better alignment with program growth/decline
- Expand experiential education
- Expand e-learning infrastructure and program offerings
- Strengthen grad programs
- Strengthening the faculty complement

- Better balance between teaching and research
- More and better quality student space
- Better access for students to instructors
- Increase capacity for in-demand programs
- Better security
- Better academic support services and resources for students
- More coherent strategy for student academic support (address fragmentation of student support)
- Improvement of labour relations
- Strengthen teaching stream appointments to address over-reliance on contract faculty model
- Lack of investment in library infrastructure
- Advance research agenda

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

Survey summary

- The frequency of labour disruptions
- Address inadequacy of student space
- Declining enrollments
- Building an innovative Markham campus
- Brand-reputation
- Staffing in many areas is too thin after years of budget cuts
- Inefficiencies in administration
- Over-reliance on contract faculty
- Staff need to be more student centric
- Security
- Increasing competitiveness in higher education in GTA
- Financial sustainability
- Fostering a flexible, adaptable workplace environment to prepare staff and faculty for a changing environment.

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

Survey summary

- Markham
- Engineering
- Experiential education
- Capitalizing on relationship to communities in GTA
- Subway!
- Build upon reputation of specific programs (eg. Schulich)
- Engagement of community through collegial processes
- Reputation for innovative pedagogies
- Leadership in digital humanities/digital scholarship

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?

Survey summary

- Continue building faculty complement
- Research intensification
- Commitment to both teaching and research
- Commitment to student experience
- Evidence-based planning
- Diversification of academic programs (build on STEM and prof while maintaining support for liberal arts)
- Inspire - come from a place of possibility and what York can be