

## **Budget Consultation: January 16, 2025, Special Faculty Council Meeting**

### APPC's 2024/25 Budget Discussion

Over the past year, numerous new initiatives have been introduced, and budget deficits have consistently been at the forefront of all the meetings. In anticipation of the 2024/25 University and Faculty budget updates, Faculty Council members expressed considerable concerns related to bicameral/collegial governance, budget, faculties of the future, school of medicine and the future sustainability of LA&PS' academic missions. Following a comprehensive and inclusive consultation, the Academic Planning and Policy Committee (APPC) compiled these questions, for consideration and action.

Guided by its mandate, which includes making “recommendations to the Dean on budgetary matters that affect academic programs” and advising “the Dean on the interplay of academic and budget issues in the development of the Integrated Resource Plan,” APPC hereby requests that the President, Provost, and Vice-President (Finance) to formally prepare a presentation that responds to the following questions when they present the university budget to the LA&PS faculty council on January 16, 2025.

#### 1. School of Medicine

##### A. Financial Concerns

- What is a realistic estimate of the cost of building the new Faculty of Medicine, considering the optimistic \$300M estimate?
- Given the university's existing debt and the cost overruns at the Markham Campus, is it financially prudent to proceed with the new Faculty of Medicine at this time? How will the university ensure that the new Faculty of Medicine does not exacerbate the current and projected budget deficits?
- What proportion of the medical school's operating expenses will be covered by government and tuition income, and how will York make up any shortfall?
- How will the new Faculty of Medicine impact the funding for other faculties, considering past experiences with the Faculty of Engineering?

##### B. Pedagogical and Strategic Concerns

- What measures will be taken to ensure that the new Faculty of Medicine does not negatively impact student retention in other faculties?
- How will the administration ensure that standards at the university are not being sacrificed to fund a medical school?
- What is the proposed timeline for the new School of Medicine, and why is it a three-year program compared to others that are four years?

- How will the university ensure that the new medical school does not propose its independence from York once it becomes feasible?
- What strategies will the university pursue to ensure that the smaller campuses do not become isolated but are integrated with the Keele Campus?
- How will York differentiate itself from other universities that are focusing on STEM and business training facilities?
- How will the university ensure that the new Faculty of Medicine does not negatively impact the university's academic reputation, particularly in the humanities and social sciences?
- What is being done to ensure that standards at the university are not being sacrificed to fund a medical school?
- What is the proposed timeline for the new School of Medicine, and why is it a three-year program compared to others that are four years?
- How will the university ensure that the new medical school does not propose its independence from York once it becomes feasible?
- Why is York building a medical school at the same time as it is facing massive cutbacks and deficits across the board?
- How will the university ensure that the new Faculty of Medicine does not negatively impact the university's academic reputation, particularly in the humanities and social sciences?
- What is being done to ensure that standards at the university are not being sacrificed to fund a medical school?

## 2. Governance and Decision-making

- Can York University establish a collegial decision-making body inclusive of faculty for resource allocation and restructuring initiatives?
- How will the university ensure transparency and meaningful consultation with faculty regarding budget issues and strategic planning?
- What are the implications of LA&PS members voting against the proposals?

## 3. Labour Relations and Faculty Concerns

- How does the administration plan to stabilize labor relations to avoid costly conflicts?
- What support will be provided to faculty and staff working with students who do not meet language proficiency requirements?
- How will the university address the concerns of faculty members about the impact of budget cuts on their livelihoods and the quality of education?

- How will the administration ensure that standards at the university are not being sacrificed to fund a medical school?