

Faculty Council: January 9, 2025, Faculties of the Future Consultation

APPC's 2024/25 Faculties of the Future 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 this consultation, Faculty Council members expressed considerable concerns related to bicameral/collegial governance, budget deficits, faculties of the future, school of medicine and the feasibility of these new initiatives. Following a comprehensive and inclusive consultation, the Academic Planning and Policy Committee (APPC) compiled these questions, for consideration.

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 respectfully requests that the President, Provost, Vice-President (Finance), and Senior Policy Advisor to the President prepare a formal presentation that addresses these questions during the LA&PS Faculty Council consultation on January 9, 2025.

1. Faculties of the Future

- There appears to be a lack of clarity in the document on Faculties of the Future regarding the major motivation behind restructuring the faculties at this time. If the major motivation is economic in nature, can we conduct a cost-benefit analysis of this restructuring? If the major motivation is pedagogical in nature, what specific pedagogical outcomes are expected to be achieved through this initiative?
- How will the university balance the development of new faculties with the need to maintain and strengthen existing programs at Keele and Glendon Campuses?
- How will the programs be aggregated and presented to future students, especially for graduate students?
- What are the expected major resource shifts from the current LA&PS Faculty to its future iteration as a Faculty of the Future?
- How will the university support innovation in existing programs while developing new faculties?

3. 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?

4. 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?