

University Academic Plan Consultations Faculty of Environmental Studies (1 individual)

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

York's student body is generally from a more economically oppressed population than most other universities. This can be turned to an advantage as it enables us to be the most public of public universities, and a university that shows how university can transform lives and transform society.

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

Academic and non-academic are seamlessly linked in university planning. The building and the setting do their own teaching. If York were to focus on sustainability, with a goal of 100% renewable energy in five years, this would inevitably be an extremely instructive educational and research exercise involving every faculty beyond the obvious environmental studies, engineering, and business schools. If York were to focus on free software and free information with a goal of having 100% open access to research and 100% free software in five years, this would be extremely productive of research well beyond the computer science and engineering units. If York were to focus on justice for all of those who work here in all unions, furthering its already good reputation for benefits and good contracts, it would be instructive far beyond the social sciences that could study this in labor relations terms.

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

The most compelling opportunities for York have to do with its existing strengths as a public university, as a place of interdisciplinary and critical excellence in the humanities and social sciences, and applying that same approach to the sciences and to engineering.

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

The UAP should protect academic self-governance and envision a key role for academic self-governance in the future of the university, through Senate and similar bodies.