

## University Academic Plan Consultations Senate Discussion of October 22, 2015

### Comment

- LA&PS planning committee concerned about the relationship between questions 1 and 2 – potentially leading
- Suggest removing the word “advantageous” from this question (“What sets York apart...and how is this advantageous”)

### Comment

- York’s traditions remains its strengths
- the University is, by far, one of the leading – and largest -- liberal arts institutions in the world
- rankings for the Social Sciences and Humanities reaming high, reinforcing the special nature of the University
- pure sciences are also part of a founding legacy
- the liberal arts are a platform for outreach and incubator / medium for interdisciplinarity
- the UAP should reflect this and promote York as a unique space for these studies
- it is in society’s interest, too, that the value of the liberal arts is properly understood

### Comment

- now is the time to rally behind critical liberal arts as a defining hallmark of York
- we should be clear about the transformations that have occurred over time and identify the factors that paved the way – the merger of Arts and Atkinson was one important milestone and signifier of hostile intentions; growing reliance on precarious labour is another; the SHARP budget model will further undermine allocations to core areas
- “differentiation” is freighted with meaning; it *should* mean collegial activism, critical skills; it *should not* mean a corporate, market driven model of education that downplays critical perspectives and privileges occupational training
- Senate rubber-stamped the IIRP and in doing so ceded authority to the administration and curtailed academic freedoms; approval of a new UAP must be an opportunity to re-claim Senate’s authority and to address problems

### Comments (2)

- APPRC should make available to Senators the full fruits of its consultations with Senate, Faculty Councils and others
- it may be appropriate for APPRC to seek the consent of those with whom it consults if their submissions can be published

### Comment

- a priority should be re-commit to accessibility for mature students and new Canadians, including those seeking accreditation
- research intensification has to be reconciled with concerns about workloads

## Comment

- York's student body is economically disadvantaged relative to other universities
- the UAP should commit to sustainability – a goal could be 100 per cent renewable energy – and to a free and open public sphere

## Comment (Provost)

- we should not set up a false dichotomy between a liberal arts education and career pathways; York has a rich history, illustrated well by our liberal arts, of fostering professional and technical acumen while promoting critical skills; a restructuring of Atkinson prior to the merger used the term “imbrication” to describe this essential dialogue between the two
- York students *are* different, and their class backgrounds motivate them to seek career pathways – we should not be defensive about fostering mobility

## Comment (President)

- York began with a core of liberal arts / pure sciences, and they will continue to be at the heart of the university
- we should be part of efforts to reassert the value of the liberal arts and to address misconceptions about them – the UAP is an appropriate vehicle for signaling our purpose in this regard
- York is not mainstream, and has sought to identify itself in unique ways, including an outward-looking, future-oriented passion for innovation
- traditions are important but should not constrain us
- society needs well-rounded students and a more comprehensive university is a positive development in this regard
- students have a stake in the evolution of the University and the establishment of priorities – we must take this opportunity to canvass them about what they value about York and hope for its future