

**Presidential Task Force on  
Sustaining the Academic Priorities at StFX  
November 7, 2013  
Coady 342, 4-8pm**

**Present:** Leslie MacLaren (Chair), Jeff Orr, Janice Landry, Helen MacGregor, Leo MacPherson, Corinna Fitzgerald, Charmaine McPherson, Rachel Hurst, Keith De'Bell, William Sweet, Matthew Meyer, Lynne Murphy, Ramsay Duff, Richard Nemesvari, Robert van den Hoogen, Jacques Boucher, Lisa Lunney-Borden, Laura Sandre.  
Staff: Candice Finbow, Gina Sampson

**Meeting Summary** (made with reference to PowerPoint TF Meeting 4, November 7)

**1. Approval of summary notes from Oct. 23 meeting**

**1.1.** Notes were approved as submitted and will be posted on the Task Force website.

**2. Identification of programs**

**2.1.** The Task Force formed two temporary discussion groups (academic & academic/administrative support) to finalize the identification of programs for review before distribution to campus.

**2.2.** Revised lists of programs will be posted on the website for campus information.

**3. Update on website**

**3.1.** A draft version of the Task Force website was shared.

**3.2.** Alumni will be advised to email to request a temporary username and password.

**3.3.** Task force members agreed that the questions included in the feedback form should change as the prioritization process evolves. At the current time, a simple, open feedback question is suitable.

**3.4.** The website will require a username and password for all access beyond the introductory page. The Task Force may decide to change these requirements as the process continues.

**3.5.** A link to the website will be sent to Task Force members before the site goes live.

**3.6.** The AVP will send an email to the campus community to announce when the website is live.

**3.7.** The webpage will be accessible from the AVP webpage and from the MyStFX faculty/staff webpage.

**4. Guiding Principles**

**4.1.** The Task Force reviewed a draft of five Guiding Principles drawn from the 2010 AP&P planning document, the Academic Calendar, the Act of Incorporation.

- 4.2. Task Force members approved of the content of the draft version, but agreed the language should be adapted to capture three additional concepts: the connection between teaching and research; the importance of leadership development; an acknowledgement of the historical foundations of StFX.
- 4.3. Written suggestions were collected and will be compiled for final review at the next meeting.

## 5. Criteria for evaluation of programs

- 5.1. The Task Force reviewed the Dickeson criteria for program prioritization and looked at examples of weighting used by other universities.
- 5.2. Members completed an exercise to suggest relative weightings for the various criteria.
- 5.3. These points emerged from the subsequent discussion:
  - All ten Dickeson criteria could be used for evaluating the academic programs and some criteria could be collapsed for academic & administrative support programs. No final decision was reached.
  - Reference to the guiding principles is necessary when determining weighting.
  - Fairness must be at the forefront when setting and applying the criteria.
  - Task Force members must maintain a focus on the needs of the whole university.
  - Members will consider the criteria and their weighting as preparation for the next meeting where the issue will be discussed further.

## 6. Town Hall Meetings/ Information Sessions

- 6.1. Task Force agreed there is a need to begin communicating directly with the campus community to build understanding of the process and to address questions and fears.
- 6.2. Members agreed that the first session should be an information session to explain the need for prioritization, overview of the process to date, and discuss next steps.
- 6.3. There was agreement that there should be multiple sessions. The advantages and disadvantages of separate sessions for faculty, staff and students were discussed.
- 6.4. Members agreed that when planning such meetings, it is necessary to be really clear about what the community is being asked.
- 6.5. There was discussion about whether there should be a Press Release to announce the Task Force to the public. No decision was made on the timing of this, but it was agreed that it should be deferred.

## 7. Next meeting (Thursday, November 14, 4:30- 8:00pm):

- Final look at guiding principles
- Focus will be on determining criteria and their weighting