

**Update on the Report of Presidential Task Force:
Sustaining the Academic Priorities of StFX 2013-2018**

University-wide Recommendations

Theme	Subheading	Task Force Recommendations	April 1, 2015				November 24, 2015				
			Progress to Date				Progress to Date				
			under review	significant progress	complete	deferred	under review	significant progress	complete	deferred	
1. Building a Sustainable Future	Human Resource Sustainability	Address concerns around staffing levels by focusing on program-level comments to find opportunities for efficiencies, addressing duplication, cross-training.									
		Build systems for succession planning within departments.	1				1				
		Develop professional development opportunities.	1				1				
	Financial Sustainability	Encourage and support programs to demonstrate good stewardship through evidence of review, planning and innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued emphasis on providing evidence to guide decision making and planning. Building on and updating Task Force data to inform the review of Athletics and academic programs under active review. 								
				1				1			
	Academic Program Sustainability	Phase out (or transform) degree options that have little to no enrolment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APP is currently examining priority setting processes to enable Senate to facilitate planned enrolment, including identifying areas for growth and addressing low enrolment programs. APP has designated a subcommittee to work with the Registrar on a strategic enrolment management plan. 		1					1	
		Create policy to emphasize potential for sustainable enrolments in Senate and Committee on Studies review and approval processes.		1						1	
		Advanced Major in Faculty of Arts be formally reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean of Arts referred to Chairs and Coordinators. 	1				1			
		Review MA and MSc to develop a strategic direction for graduate programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee on Graduate Studies has made significant progress on revising policy, and the process will continue through 2015/16. COGS and the Associate VP Research and Graduate Studies (AVPRGS) will lead the development of a strategic plan for graduate studies during 2015-16. 	1				1			
	Research Sustainability	Update research strategy to identify expectations for research productivity, infrastructure and administrative support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new AVPRGS assumed the office in January 2015. The AVPRGS and the Research Advisory Committee will update the current research strategic plan during 2015-16. The updated strategic plan will identify priority research areas and establish targets and objectives. In addition, the AVPRGS will develop an operational plan to strengthen internal support for research (e.g. space, infrastructure, administrative support). 								
				1						1	
	Sustainability of Physical Infrastructure and Technology	Planning for renewal of physical infrastructure be a component of a collaborative integrated planning and budgeting process, with particular attention to academic space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APP has re-activated the campus planning committee. The Campus Planning Committee, Strategic Enrolment Management Committee and Faculty Development Committee are actively advising on proposed renovations for Nicholson Hall. 								
Prioritize new IT resources, including training.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates to technology are currently underway in targeted areas (e.g., Registrar, Finance, and Recruitment). 							1		
			1						1		
2. Planning Strategically	Communicating Strategic Planning	Undertake a strategic planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President has initiated the creation of a strategic plan for StFX. A committee has been created with membership reflecting the university community. The committee commenced its work in March and will update the campus in May/June. While the strategic planning process unfolds, President's Council has targeted three areas of strategic importance, internationalization, enrolment, data collection and sharing, and created ad hoc task groups to begin focused work in these areas. 		1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategic planning committee has prepared draft mission, vision, values statements which were circulated to the campus community for feedback and then revised and re-circulated. The committee is developing a process for moving into the second phase of strategic planning: identifying initiatives and goals that will support the mission, vision and values statements. The committee is working toward presenting a final strategic plan to the Board in June 2016. 			1
		Develop and communicate goals related to Internationalization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of three areas of strategic importance targeted by President's Council and an ad hoc task group has been formed. An Interim Director of Internationalization has been named. 			1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Interim Director of Internationalization has been replaced with a new, part-time Director of Internationalization. An advisory committee will be named and strategic objectives identified. 			1
		Develop and communicate goals related to health sciences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect this to be considered by Senate and APP as faculty led discussions continue. Health Studies Colloquium approved. 	1				1			

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	Supporting Evidence-based Decision making	Priority investment in processes, mechanisms and systems to collect, store and share data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data management and sharing is one of three areas of strategic importance targeted by President's Council and an ad hoc task group has been formed. To enable efficient collection and sharing of data, technology infrastructure is being enhanced in targeted areas: Finance, Registrar (including timetabling & scheduling), Recruitment & Admissions (including first year experience). • The academic data provided for the Task Force review is available on the AVP website and will continue to be updated. 	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ad hoc task group on data management submitted a synopsis of its findings to PC. • A faculty/staff committee on data and records management in the university completed a review and made recommendations. Recommendations included a content management system for active documents and a long-term data archiving platform. The committee's report has been received by PC. Technology infrastructure enhancements have been implemented in targeted areas: Registrar (in use for exam scheduling); Recruitment & Admissions (relationship management) , and Finance (accounting and reporting, May 2016 completion date). 	1					
		ASAP programs be supported to measure, track, and report quality and demand and other important data.												
3. Developing the Whole Student	Strengthening Student Services	Develop unified strategic direction for student services area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Director of Health and Counseling since January 2015. • Active recruiting for Director of Student Life underway. •A number of new health and wellness initiatives have begun: implementing the recommendations of the Preventing Violence Against Women committee; Bringing in the Bystander training; Mental Health First Aid. 	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed mission statement for StFX places the development of student intellectual, physical, social and spiritual dimensions at the center of the university's mission. •Director of Student Life has been hired. Review of community code is underway led by Student Life office. •Review of recreation facilities had begun. •Help button implemented on website as a direct link to resources for students faculty and staff in need. 	1					
	Focusing on Health and Wellness	Review and reorganization programs that focus on development of the whole student.											1	
4. Collaborating to Maximize our Potential	Enhancing Internal Demand Connections	Explore mechanisms to encourage enrolment by non-majors in academic programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APP examining this issue. 	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departments are actively developing new courses to attract a broader range of students. •Discussions are underway about increasing opportunities for students in BA/BSc programs to take courses from professional programs and vice versa. 	1					
	Amalgamating and Linking for Efficiency	Review program-level comments for opportunities to improve efficiency through linking or amalgamating services.											<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated in some areas, e.g., co-location of student advisors. 	1
	Creating Incentives for Innovation	Supports, incentives and processes be put in place to facilitate innovation.											<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Academic Ideas Fund created to support learning experiences that will encourage recruitment. First awards announced in early April. 	1
5. Differentiating StFX	Advancing Interdisciplinary Programs	Prioritize interdisciplinary programs and promote strategically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for two interdisciplinary programs (DEVS and WMGS) requested through external funding. Overall recommendation will be considered by APP as strategic enrolment planning moves forward. 	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for interdisciplinary programming is ongoing, including pursuing Honours options for WMGS and seeking MPHEC approval for the Honours in for DEVS. •Programming for the Mulroney Institute in Government is to have a significant interdisciplinary focus 	1					
		Encourage and support cross-appointments as more stable staffing option.												1
		Develop mechanisms to provide more accurate data re interdisciplinary programs.												1
	Promoting Experiential Learning	Identify and promote key learning opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred pending outcome of the strategic planning process. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action deferred pending outcome of the strategic planning process. 						
	Connecting the University and the Community	Focus strategic direction for community outreach in areas that leverage academic resources and respond to identified community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred pending outcome of the strategic planning process. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New model for Extension's affiliation to the academic mission is being actively pursued. President is actively involved in the One NS Coalition •University's role in relation to social justice and service to the community is embedded within the mission, vision and values statements of the new strategic plan. For example, the vision statement makes a "Commitment to enhance the communities we serve." 	1					
	Enriching Undergraduate Research	Expand undergraduate research opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing strategies for undergraduate research under revised research strategy for StFX. Set targets to increase the number of students receiving external scholarship support over the next five years. Set targets to increase the number of students supported by faculty research grants over the next five years. • AVPRGS currently working with McKenna centre to expand support for Irving Research Mentorship program. 	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A coordinated approach to adjudicating student research awards was implemented in 2015 through the Research Advisory Committee. •Expanded research support for undergraduate students was implemented in 2015 through the UCR. • A proposal for supporting student involvement in research through dedicated residence space during summer months has been developed. •Meetings have been held with ED of McKenna Centre for Leadership to identify student research support as top priority for future fundraising with external donors. • Targets for student involvement in research are being considered in an initial discussion document on research renewal for Research Advisory Committee. •Student research opportunities are closely aligned with the language of the proposed strategic plan around a commitment to student-centered academic engagement. 	1					
	Developing Student Leadership	Broad consultative process to direct leadership initiatives which have a close affiliation to the academic mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred pending outcome of the strategic planning process. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership certificate options being actively discussed. • The proposed mission statement places a priority on the university's role in developing student leadership: "Inspire (students) to be lifelong learners, active citizens, and leaders who have a positive impact in the world." 	1					
TOTALS				16	7	0	5		14	11	0	3		