June 11, 2015

President’s Message to the Community: York University Releases Draft Institutional Integrated Resource Plan

At York University we are committed to advancing the mission, vision and core academic priorities of enhancing quality, student success, and community engagement. These priorities and aspirations have been set out in institutional documents including the White Paper, University Academic Plan 2010-2015, Strategic Research Plan 2013-2017 and Strategic Mandate Agreement 2014-2017.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed an increasingly competitive landscape and an emphasis on the part of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on accountability and differentiation. Combined with enrolment declines and a challenging budget situation, we have collectively taken important steps to ensure that we are well-positioned to advance our aspirations of recognition as a leading world-class university. The Academic and Administrative Program Review (AAPR), in particular, provided an opportunity to take stock of our progress across the entire University and to identify challenges as well as initiatives to address them that will enhance the many local efforts that have already been undertaken to advance our plans.

The AAPR evolved throughout the process to reflect input from Senate and the broader community, resulting in two Task Force Reports. These Reports were subsequently integrated into our normal planning and budgeting exercises and, in combination with other relevant data collection exercises (including enrolment trends, cyclical program reviews, administrative reviews and student surveys), have culminated in an Institutional Integrated Resource Plan (IIRP).

The purpose of the IIRP, shared with you here in draft form, is to identify a manageable set of initiatives, the full benefit of which requires a pan-university approach, that have the potential to further our aspirations and strengthen the financial sustainability of the University. The IIRP will therefore complement unit-level operational plans, providing important context for the June 2015 Budget, the June 2015-2020 Call for Integrated Resource Plans at the local level, and the development of the next University Academic Plan 2015-2020 to commence in the Fall.

I support fully the process and course of action included in the document. Our ability to reach our goals very much depends on the active participation of the entire community and I look to you to provide input and to get engaged in the important initiatives that have been identified.

I have asked the co-leads of the IIRP process, Rhonda Lenton, Vice-President Academic and Provost, and Gary Brewer, Vice-President Finance and Administration, to lead the community consultation and oversee the development of the action plans for the initiatives set out in the IIRP. As has been stated previously, all relevant University governance policies and procedures will be followed.
For more information on discussions that will be held across the University involving faculty, staff and students to advance these initiatives, visit the IIRP website: https://yulink.yorku.ca/group/iirp. I encourage you to participate in community information and discussion sessions scheduled for Thursday, June 25 from 12:00–1:30 pm in the Moot Court (Osgoode) and on Friday, June 26 from 12:00–1:30 pm in the BMO Conference Centre on the Glendon campus.

I look forward to continuing to work together to build a stronger, more sustainable York.

Mamdouh Shoukri
President & Vice-Chancellor