

Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Faculty Meeting October 18, 2012 3:00pm Senate Chamber – Ross Building	
Agenda Item	Notes
<p>Strategic Research Plan Overview (R. Haché)</p> <p>(presented SRP overview slides)</p>	<p>Vice-President Research & Innovation Robert Haché presented a series of slides outlining the institutional context, what the plan will cover as it presents the story of York research, and why we need to develop a new research plan for York. Underscored the need for university-wide feedback as integral to the development of the Strategic Research Plan. Concluded presentation by asking LA&PS faculty members for their specific feedback on what they'd like to see in the SRP from their perspective.</p> <p><u>Comments & Clarifications from LAPS faculty members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction provided by N. Adelson, Associate Dean Research, LA&PS -Stressed the need for inclusivity of the plan, recognizing and capturing the wide variety of research being conducted in the LA&PS, key is research in social justice, community engagement and scholarships. -Welcomed the consultation and recognizes the importance of the Plan, but cautioned that Plan should explore the boundaries of research rather than the core values -Suggest social justice research should be a focus of Plan -Suggest that new Plan should build on the strengths we already have, working to improve our reputation -Both time and administrative support for smaller research projects would be valuable and considerably impact many research initiatives- particularly in Humanities -Expressed requirement for increased transparency in decision making – the evaluation and distribution of awards -Reiterated that time and resources are key to research intensification -Suggested research measures like peer review, citations, research impact and awards and recognition of awards are important to highlight within Plan – should be determining who are the key researchers and innovators -Stressed that research needs should be addressed through processes that are applied systematically and strategically -Reaffirmed need to communicate our research strengths -Stressed that Plan should not only speak to themes and direction of research, but to building an environment that is supportive of research and the spacial environment connected to research -Sought clarification on the SRP consultation timeline -Recognized the capacity and public profile of ORUs, however stressed the need for the SRP to recognize individual research contributions -Sought clarification about the relationship between overarching themes and resource implications for each theme -Stressed that access should be addressed within the Plan -Expressed concern and need for clarification on the themes within the Plan – some apprehension around what the themes will be expressed, in particular if they will be used to brand our research -Emphasized the importance of resources and addressing the imbalance of resources in order to succeed in intensifying our research -Reiterated the value in supporting smaller research initiatives, while ensuring the overlooking the support for major research initiatives continues -Supported the view that the new Plan should build on the old one, contends that research at York should be more focused on collegiality and collaboration rather than competition

- Reiterated the need for the Plan to recognize the diversity of research being done in LA&PS, Humanities in particular
- Reiterated the importance of resources in contributing to research intensification
- Emphasize the role of graduate students contributing to the vibrancy of LA&PS
- Expressed concern that strategic goals/themes will be too general, but should be careful not to marginalize researchers with narrow themes
- Hopeful the Plan will promote and support research clusters within and across disciplines – digital data base encouraged to increase awareness of others doing similar research
- Expressed the importance of the value of academic freedom, enabling research innovation in tangible ways. Reiterated the need to include social justice as part of the plan.
- concern that the themes- such as “Improving the Human Condition” would be too diluted and not specific enough to lead to tangible results
- Stressed funding for smaller research projects - would be valuable and considerably impact many research initiatives
- Attention paid to service time - and if not offset then can impact on research productivity
- Suggestion to include CUPE members and support to do research.
- Hopeful that the Plan will be inclusive, explicitly recognizing Humanities and capturing the wide variety of research being conducted
- Academic Freedom is a core value and should be included
- THEME: “Critical Analysis of Popular Culture”
- Reiterated concern and need for clarification on the themes within the Plan – some apprehension around what themes will be expressed, may be too exclusionary, or too broad to be meaningful

Summary of discussion given by :

- Some anxiety around the expression/ purpose of the themes
- Reiterated the importance of humanities research, individual research, need for support of individual research, increased transparency in decision making, and the need for further administrative support.
- Social justice recognized as a core value or theme

-Please forward further comments or suggestions to Lesa Cozzi as part of the Faculty contribution to the Plan by October 22.