



York University Senate

Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

Memorandum

To: Senate Committees
Faculty Councils

From: Carl S. Ehrlich, Chair, Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee of Senate

Date: November 6, 2019

Subject: **University Academic Plan 2020-2025 Consultations**

The process leading to approval of the next version of the University Academic Plan is now underway. As the most important bodies in collegial governance, Senate committees and Faculty Councils are key contributors in the discussions on UAP 2020-2025, and the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee of Senate (APPRC) seeks your responses to the questions on the pages that follow.

The year 2020 marks not only the conclusion of UAP 2015-2020 but also two other visioning and planning documents: the Provostial White Paper (2010-2020) and 2020 Vision (1992-2020). The overarching themes of these three documents are:

- comprehensiveness and quality
- access and engagement
- growth, reach and infrastructure

We take it as axiomatic that these themes will continue to remain central to academic planning, and that the goal of ensuring York is recognized for its excellence and global leadership in the nexus of research, teaching and learning will continue to infuse our plans and drive our efforts. The questions have been designed to solicit views on contexts, priorities and objectives, and the structure and thrust of the next UAP. APPRC also welcomes advice on any other aspect of the document.

We ask, therefore, that Senate Committees and Faculty Councils include time on their November or December meeting agendas to discuss the questions and that Faculty Council Secretaries advise APPRC Secretary Kathryn White (kwhite1@yorku.ca) of the timing of

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these discussions to allow for the participation of APPRC members. APPRC is cognizant of the constraints on your time and agendas, and understands that it may not be possible for all eight questions to be discussed at length. In view of this, each Senate committee or Faculty Council may wish to highlight a few of the questions in their discussions and responses, and encourage members to submit supplementary feedback via email at info.univsec@yorku.ca or the [online questionnaire](#).

A [UAP Renewal Website](#) has been created to provide you with background material as you prepare a response. The documents listed below, available on the UAP Renewal website, are particularly helpful as a collective expression of the vision for York as a comprehensive, research-intensive university committed to excellence, student success, outreach and partnership.

[25+ Years of Achievement: A Retrospective](#) (Draft)

[UAP 2015-2020](#)

[UAP 2010-2015](#)

[Building a More Engaged University: Strategic Directions for York University \(Provostial White Paper 2010-2020\)](#)

[2020 Vision: The Future Development of York University \(1992-2020\)](#)

[Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023](#)

Please submit your completed responses to the University Secretariat at info.univsec@yorku.ca by no later than January 22, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your vital assistance.

cc: Lisa Philipps, Provost and Vice-President Academic
Cheryl Underhill, Interim University Secretary
Kathryn White, Secretary, APPRC

Questions

1. What do you see as York's greatest values?
2. Describe the greatest opportunities for York that should inform the next University Academic Plan.
3. APPRC is considering a new format for the University Academic Plan that seeks to inspire the University. In this approach, the Plan would be centred around a series of Grand Challenges, a departure from York's 2015-2020 Plan which is focused on categories that reflect our academic mission and activities.

Grand Challenges are more than ordinary questions or themes that inform our core activities. They are the most complex societal issues of our time that are globally significant, and have local dimensions and impacts. These challenges are too big to

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be understood from only one perspective. Finding solutions requires thinking across disciplines and often collaboration across institutions, sectors and borders.

Additional details about the Grand Challenges approach will be outlined in the November 7 Open Forum slide presentation, to be made available on the UAP Renewal website following the Forum.

Do you think the next University Academic Plan should be framed around Grand Challenges? Please feel free to expand upon your response.

4. Are there local or global challenges that York is especially well placed to help solve?
5. How might we best advance the teaching mission of the University over the next 5 years?
6. How might we best advance research, scholarship and creative activity over the next 5 years?
7. How might we best advance student success over the next 5 years?
8. How might we best advance community engagement over the next 5 years?