

A photograph of a modern building with a glass facade and a courtyard. The building has a grid-like pattern of windows and is surrounded by greenery and a paved walkway. The sun is shining through the trees, creating a bright spot in the sky. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

Faculty of Science Strategic Planning Town Hall

Virtual Land Acknowledgment



As this event is virtual and we are not all gathered in the same space, I recognize that this land acknowledgement might not be for the territory that you are currently on. We ask that if this is the case, you take the responsibility to acknowledge the traditional territory you are on and the current treaty holders.

As a member of the York University community, I recognize that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations.

The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.



Town Hall Agenda

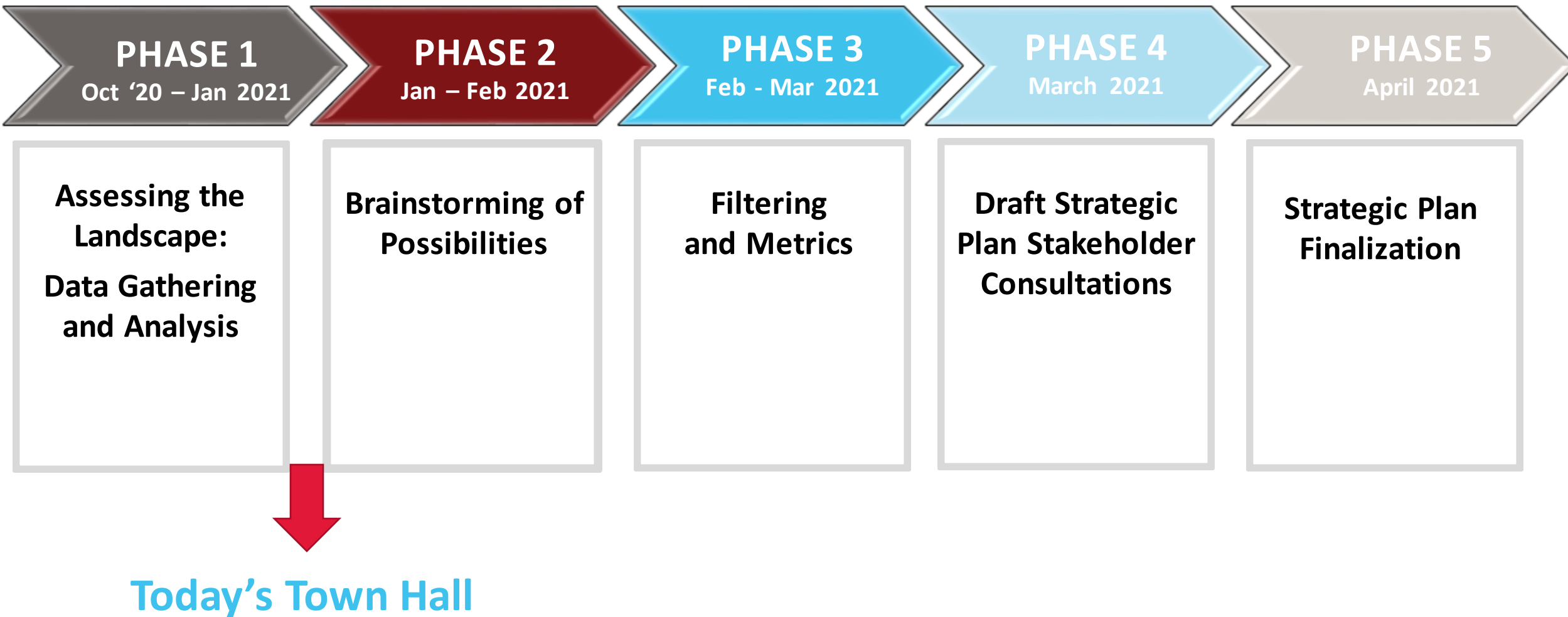
- Strategic Planning Process Overview
- Assessing the Landscape
 - External Diagnostics
 - Internal Diagnostics
- Q&A Session



A photograph of a modern building with a glass facade and a courtyard. The building has a grid-like pattern of windows and balconies. The courtyard features a paved walkway, green grass, and several young trees. A bright sun flare is visible in the upper left. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

Strategic Planning Process

Strategic Planning Process: Key Phases and Timelines



Thank You for Your Involvement

Strategic Plan Drafting Committee

- Rui Wang, Dean
- Gerald Audette, Associate Dean, Faculty
- Mike Scheid, Associate Dean, Students
- Jennifer Steeves, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies
- Helen McLellan, Executive Officer
- Almira Mun, Assistant Dean, Strategic Enrolment Management
- Dimitra Markatas, Executive Assistant to the Dean
- Melissa Hughes, Communications Manager

Strategic Plan Advisory Board (Internal)

Faculty Members:

- Mary-Helen Armour, STS (Chair)
- Joel Zylberberg, PHAS (Vice-Chair)
- Ernie Hamm, STS
- Stephen Watson, Math & Stats
- Steven Wang, Math & Stats
- Chris Caputo, Chemistry
- Thomas Baumgartner, Chemistry
- William van Wijngaarden, PHAS
- Julie Clark, Biology
- Nik Kovinich, Biology

Contract Faculty:

- Alireza Rafiee, Chemistry
- Rajeshwari Iyer, PHAS

Staff Members:

- Maria Mazzurco, Senior Laboratory Technician, Biology
- Avalon Moore, Accounts Assistant, Biology
- Violeta Gotcheva, Director, IT Services

Undergraduate Students:

- Gemner Sandoval, Biomedical Sciences
- Robert Cheung, Biology

Graduate Students:

- Amy Laturski, MSc Chemistry
- Hassan Mustafa Arif, PhD Biology

Postdoctoral Fellow:

- Jason Pina, PHAS

Assessing the Landscape

A photograph of a modern building with a glass and dark panel facade, surrounded by a landscaped courtyard with trees, grass, and concrete planters. The image is framed by a thick red border. The text "Assessing the Landscape" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

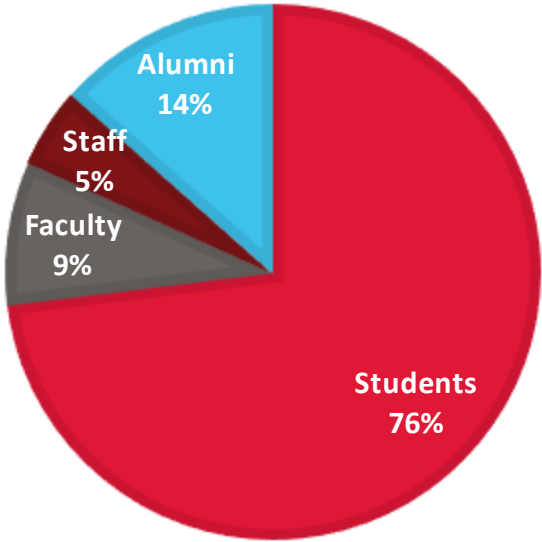
York University 2020-2025 Academic Plan



Stakeholder Survey: Demographics

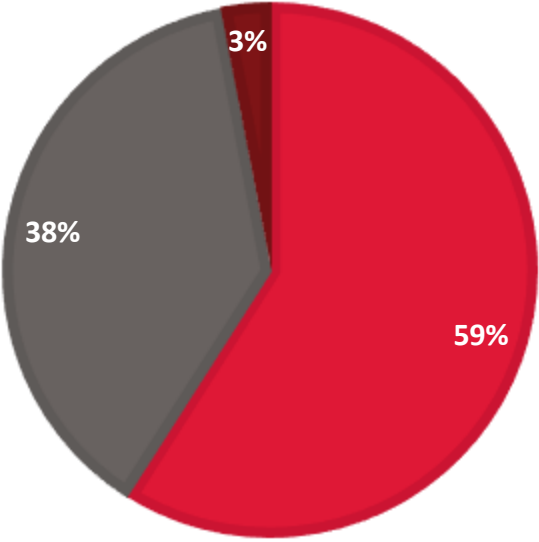
***TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 409**

■ Students ■ Faculty ■ Staff ■ Alumni



RESPONDENTS' GENDER

■ Female ■ Male ■ All other options



VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION

We gave respondents the option to voluntarily disclose whether they belong to any of the following groups:

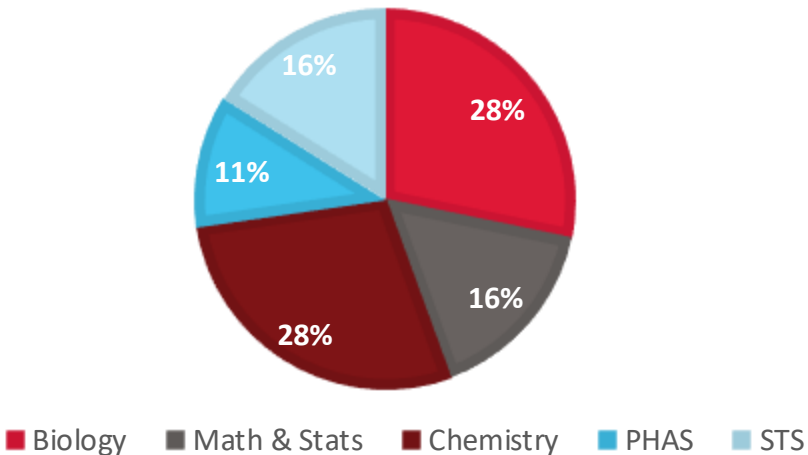
- **Aboriginal People: 1%**
- **Visible Minority: 49%**
- **Disabled: 9%**

**Some percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding*

Respondent Demographics

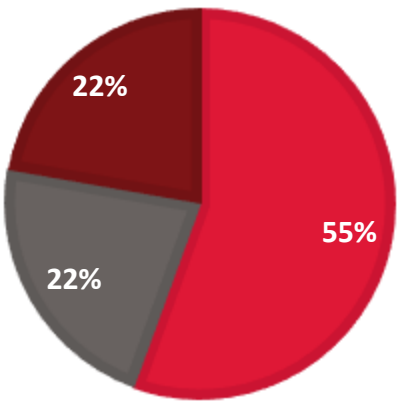
*Some percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding

***DEPARTMENTAL AFFILIATION
OF FACULTY RESPONDENTS**

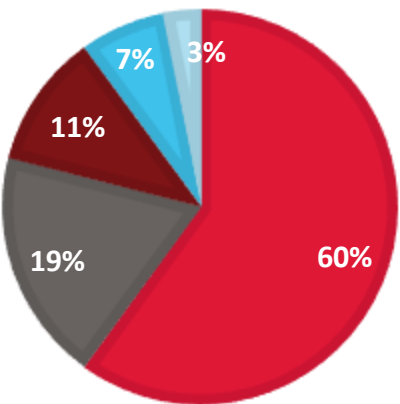


***TENURE / CONTRACT**

Tenured Tenure track Contract

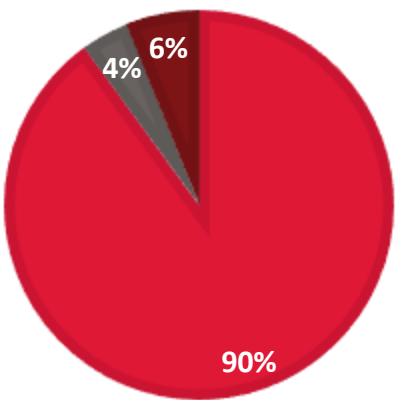


**STUDENTS' DEPARTMENTAL
AFFILIATION**



LEVEL OF STUDY

Undergraduate Masters PhD



External Diagnostics



Major PESTE Impacts

Political

- Release of SMA3 and impact on funding
- Change in funding post COVID-19
- Change in US policy with new administration
- Global political instability and implications for enrolment

Social

- Student mental health impacts
- SMA3 calls for more employable skills and access to workforce
- Shift to online programming and engagement of international students
- More opportunities for experiential education (coop and internships)

Economic

- Changes to job market and the effect of economic downturns
- With economic downturn, students upgrade skills
- Changes to provincial funding and University budget

Technology and Environmental

- Opportunity to increase online presence and modernize demonstration spaces
- Use technology to deliver innovative programming
- Opportunities to increase research focus on climate change, pandemic, food shortage



Core Competitive Landscape – Key Insights

Research by Drafting Committee

The Faculty of Science can differentiate itself through:

- Innovative curriculum design
 - Medical physics
 - Micro credentials
 - Inter-Faculty programs that mirror new fields
- Cutting-edge pedagogy
 - Centre for teaching excellence
 - Enhanced virtual support
- Unique research areas and topics
 - Targeted funding
- Experiential learning opportunities for students
 - Increased industry, government and entrepreneurial partnerships

Periphery Landscape – Key Insights

Research by Drafting Committee

- Growing Biotech industry in the GTA (among other industries)
- Co-op opportunities (to attract, retain and train students)
- Job opportunities for graduates
- Niche research partnerships for FSc faculty members
- Knowledge mobilization from FSc out to biotech sector
- C4-style capstone courses for students
- Start-up/spin-off companies from FSc faculty/research





Periphery Landscape – Key Insights

Research by Drafting Committee

In-demand fields (in the GTA and surrounding regions)

- Biotechnology
- Chemical Sciences (testing, R&D)
- Environmental Sciences (testing)
- Actuarial, Statistics (math-oriented)
- Health-related Fields (testing, R&D)
- Aerospace
- Agriculture/Agrifood

Internal Diagnostics



Strategic Plan Review 2015-2020

Key Takeaways

STRENGTHS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Strengthened tenure and promotion criteria
- Renewed professorial stream complement
- Increased research funding by more than 50% and raised number of chair appointments
- Made improvements to keep research infrastructure sustainable and competitive
- Enhanced student opportunities for research and experiential learning
- Raised funds for undergraduate and graduate scholarships/awards
- Strengthened sense of community through new faculty-wide events/programs
- Created new professional development opportunities for faculty
- Added engagement initiatives for alumni, supporters, and friends of the faculty
- Created innovative outreach programs for youth, high school teachers, and the public

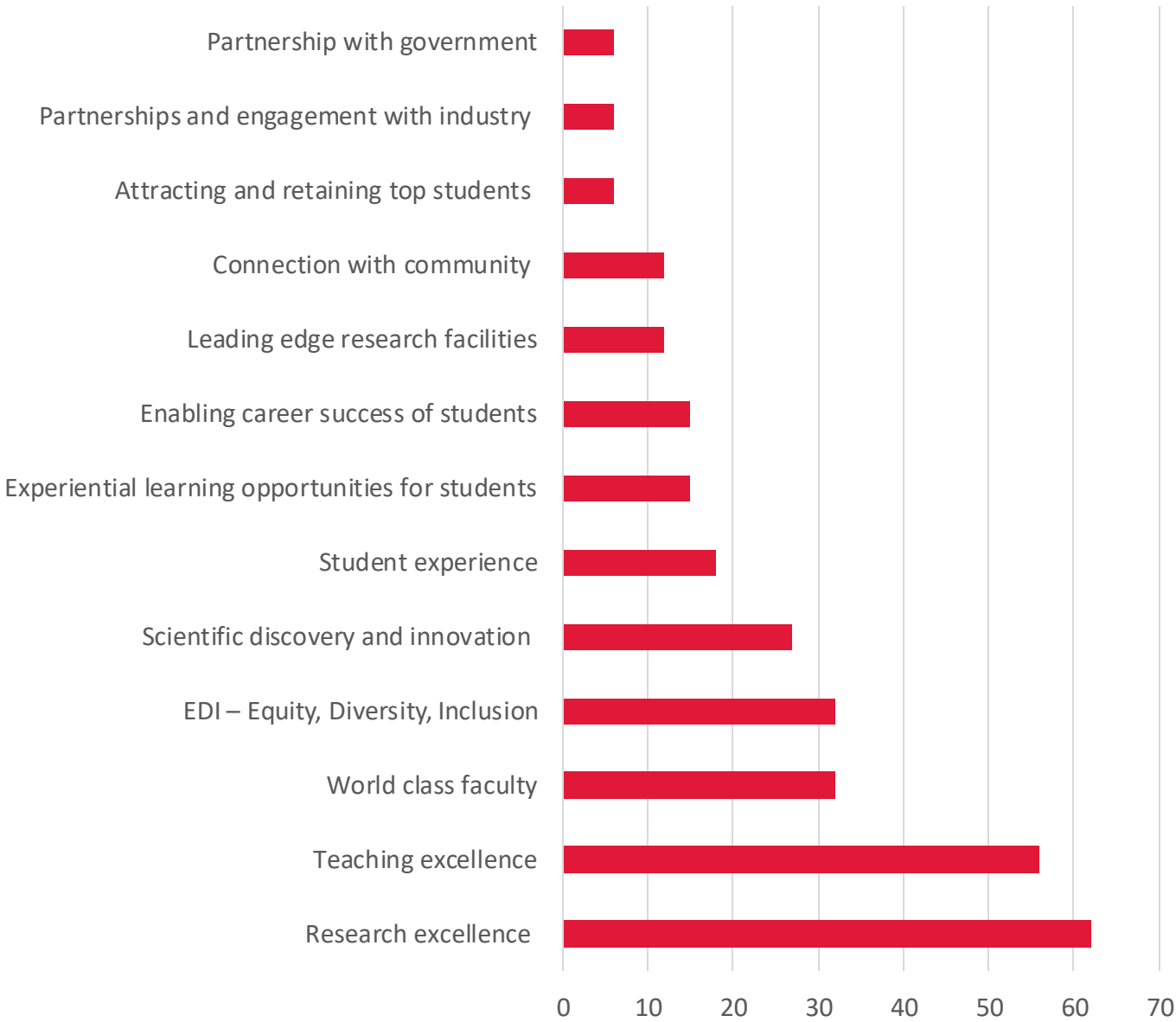
What are our Faculty's greatest strengths?



Our Faculty's strengths are:

- 1. Research Excellence
- 2. Teaching Excellence
- 3. World Class Faculty

Stakeholder Survey Input



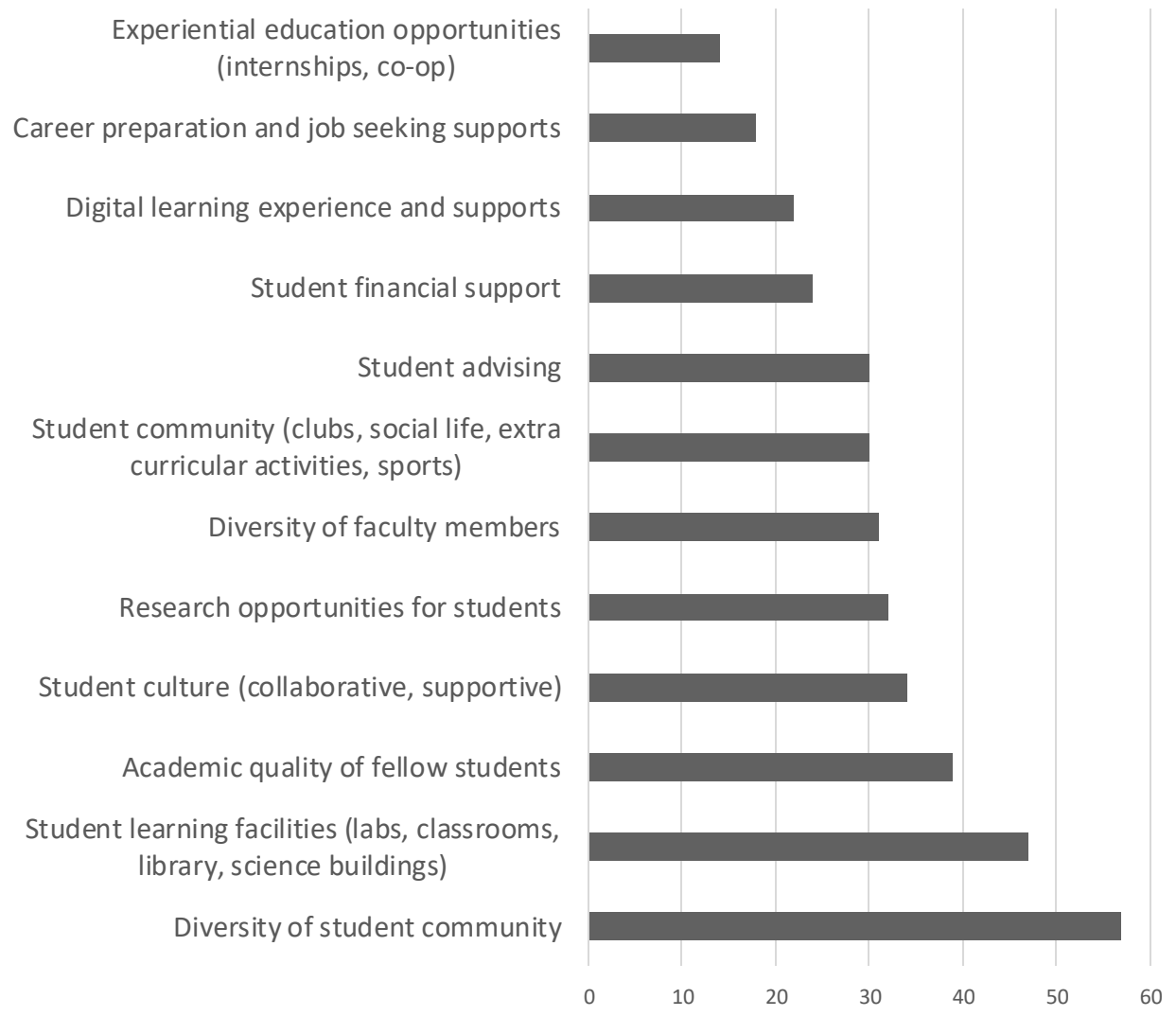


Our student experience strengths are:

- 1. Diversity of student community**
- 2. Student learning facilities**
- 3. Academic quality of fellow students**

Top Strengths of Student Experience in FSc

Stakeholder Survey Input



Summary of FSc Strengths

Research by Drafting Committee

PEDAGOGICAL STRENGTHS

- Breadth of teaching experience across Faculty
- Intra- and inter-Faculty collaborative programs (e.g., neuroscience)
- Revitalized state-of-the-art teaching laboratories
- Strong student-instructor relations

RESEARCH STRENGTHS

- 50% increase in research funding in past 5 years
- Leading-edge core research infrastructure with dedicated specialized research support staff
- Numerous diverse world-class research concentrations across units

CULTURAL STRENGTHS

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion composition of faculty and staff complement
- Leading edge research faculty
- Highly talented, dedicated and collaborative staff members who build a positive workplace for students and colleagues

Strategic Plan Review 2015-2020

Key Takeaways

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT:

- **Create a clearer definition of success:** Some goals within the 2015-2020 strategic plan did not specifically articulate what a successful outcome would be, making it challenging to focus efforts and measure whether goals were achieved
- **Proactively measure student satisfaction** in order to design courses, programs, and offerings that will positively influence enrolment and retention
- Departments should inform Dean's Office about **Cyclical Program Review implementation and outcomes**
- **Increase proactive promotion of our teaching excellence** both internally and externally
- **Increase our tracking and metrics** in key areas, including:
 - award nominations and recipients
 - engagement and outreach (media measurement and alumni/donor outreach/engagement)

What are our Faculty's greatest challenges?



Our greatest challenges are:

- 1. Attracting and retaining top students**
- 2. Leading edge research facilities**
- 3. Student Experience**

Stakeholder Survey Input



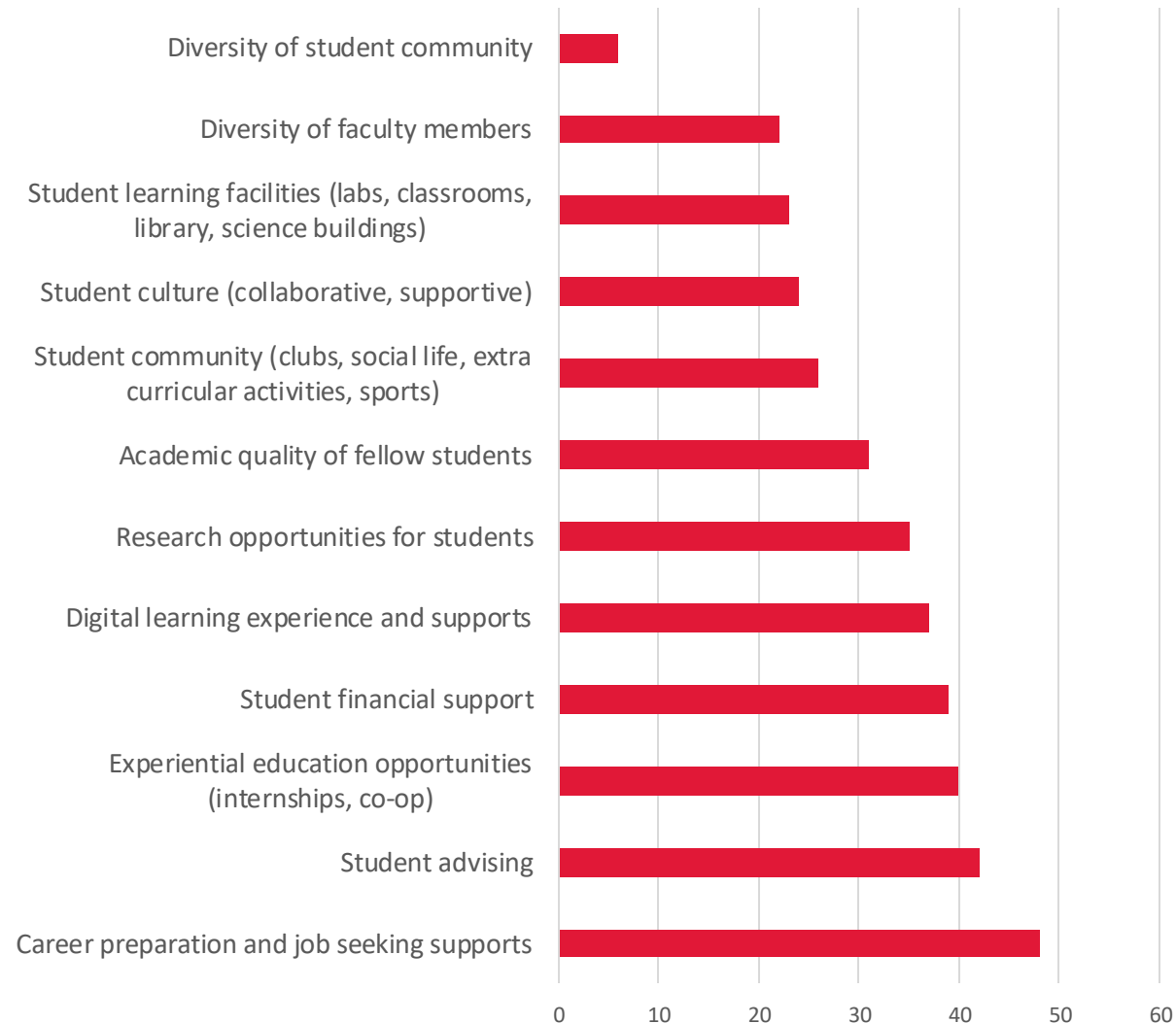


Our top student experience challenges are:

1. Career preparation and job seeking supports
2. Student advising
3. Experiential education opportunities

Top Challenges of Student Experience in FSc

Stakeholder Survey Input



Summary of Challenges

Research by Drafting Committee

REPUTATION & REGULATIONS

- York's reputational issues including labour issues, crime/safety
- The complexity of our programs and York's regulations works against us in attracting students
- Lackluster rankings in Maclean's – Env'l Science: 14/20; Mathematics: 14/20

STUDENT SERVICES

- Response time, reliability and information access
- Academic and career advising, career readiness, networks with alumni and industry

TEACHING, RESEARCH & PROGRAMS

- Lack of differentiated or distinctive programs desired by students/parents/employers
- Need to improve quality of teaching, experiential offerings, use of technology
- Lack of collaborations with industry, government, social sector
- Career readiness and support
- Lack of consistently reliable and user-friendly data sources

FUNDING, STAFFING & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Faculty Recruitment – EDI that mirrors students and represents cutting edge fields
- Staffing to support enrolment and research growth and constantly changing university and faculty priorities (alumni engagement, experiential education, research collaboration with external bodies – e.g., government and private sector)
- World-class research requires funding, space, and hiring
- Infrastructure and space constraints

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Vision & Mission



Vision

“Fostering discovery. Engaging community. Inspiring humanity.”

To what extent do you agree that the Faculty of Science’s Vision aligns with our current ability to fulfill this vision?

Stakeholder Survey Input

Students

- 10% strongly agree
- 45% agree

Faculty

- 23% strongly agree
- 35% agree

Staff

- 18% strongly agree
- 39% agree

Alumni

- 18% strongly agree
- 39% agree

Mission

“The Faculty of Science is a hub of research and teaching excellence fostering scientific discovery and preparing global thinkers to advance knowledge and human progress. Our students learn from and work with outstanding faculty members, and benefit from leading-edge research facilities. Our scientists collaborate with colleagues around the world in academia, industry and government, and also engage with the community at large through extensive outreach activities and media.”

To what extent do you agree that our mission statement aligns with our future direction?

Stakeholder Survey Input

Students

- 10% strongly agree
- 42% agree

Faculty

- 21% strongly agree
- 62% agree

Staff

- 19% strongly agree
- 43% agree

Alumni

- 18% strongly agree
- 43% agree



What could differentiate us from science faculties at other universities?

Stakeholder Survey Input

Faculty say:

- Innovative curriculum design for emerging needs
- Unique research areas and topics
- Cutting edge pedagogy

Staff say:

- Innovative curriculum design for emerging needs
- Career support for students
- World-class faculty

Students say:

- Career support for students
- Unique research areas and topics
- Experiential learning opportunities for students

Alumni say:

- Innovative curriculum design for emerging needs
- Career support for students
- Unique research areas and topics

A photograph of a modern building with a glass and dark panel facade, featuring a courtyard with young trees, concrete planters, and a paved walkway. The scene is captured during the 'golden hour' of late afternoon, with long shadows and a warm glow. A bright sun flare is visible behind a tree on the left. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

Q&A Session



Feedback & More Info

**STRATEGIC PLANNING WEBSITE
AND SUGGESTION BOX:**

yorku.ca/science/about/strategic-plan/

Thank You

