

Report from the Senate Academic Planning Task Force May 28, 2013

At the final meeting of the 2012/2013 SAPTF, the Task Force considered the matter of identifying the topic for the next task force. At the Senate meeting of April 30, 2013, several issues were identified with regard to the role of the current SAPTF and it was felt that it would be helpful to request that SORC evaluate the inaugural task force processes and Terms of Reference before striking another task force. Key issues to be addressed are for the SORC to recommend the best way to conduct continuous academic planning and to suggest a viable mechanism and agreed upon outcomes for any future task force. For example, it would be helpful if Senate had a process for evaluating the current approved Academic Plan and to have a process in place to address the report prepared by the current SAPTF. As well, the SAPTF felt the fragmentary nature of having discrete items addressed annually without an overall strategic direction for the Academic Plan is a difficult assignment to give to any task force.

Whereas the Senate Academic Planning Task Force (SAPTF), functioning under the mandate as prescribed by Senate in 2012, conducted its first year of operations in the 2012-13 Academic year;

And whereas concerns have been identified with the mandate of the SAPTF as a result of this experience including, but not limited to:

- lack of continuity of membership
- scope of questions/issues which may be referred to the taskforce
- adequacy of timelines for completion of annual workplans
- the path for receipt and approval of the work of the Task Force by Senate and the effect thereof on the approved Academic Plan
- the role of SCAD and the Provost's Office regarding implementation of recommendations within the approved Academic Plan
- sufficiency of resources available to support the work of the SAPTF

Therefore, the SAPTF recommends the following to Senate:

- 1) That the Senate Academic Planning Taskforce be placed on hiatus for the 2013-14 academic year:
- 2) That SORC be tasked with conducting a review of the mandate of the SAPTF, including consultation with Senate, SCAD and the Office of the Provost; and
- 3) That SORC provide its recommendations for the future of the SAPTF no later than the 2014 March Senate meeting.

In response to the discussion at the April 30, 2013 Senate meeting regarding the length of the report and the number of recommendations, it was suggested that more time be allotted to allow Senators to review the document in order to prepare for discussion at the September 17th meeting of Senate. The Secretariat Office will send reminders over the summer to the 2013/2014 Senators stating that the document is available and will be discussed in informal session at Senate and that they need to be prepared to engage.

Therefore, the SAPTF recommends the following to Senate:

That Senate move into informal session at its September 17, 2013 meeting to discuss the recommendations contained in the report received at the April 30, 2013 meeting of Senate.

Sincerely

Chris Moyes Chair, SAPTF