

**Submitted by Senator Beauchemin:**

**Q: When will Senate see the Productivity and Innovation Fund proposals that are being completed by researchers at Queen's?**

**A:** As Senators are aware, the Productivity and Innovation Fund (PIF) is a one-time fund created by Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, in recognition of Ontario's publicly assisted universities and colleges that have demonstrated innovative strategies with regards to the effective management of their resources and improvement of the student learning experience through quality educational programs. The fund was created with the goals of enhancing productivity, supporting tactical collaborations between Ontario's postsecondary institutions, improving efficiencies in resource management, and increasing the quality and accessibility of their programs.

The government has not yet released the PIF proposals, which means the University is not in a position to share them. However, for those who are interested, detailed summaries of the projects led by Queen's are included below. As well, I've included the names and titles of the project leads should you have any additional questions.

### **Enhancing Registered Nurse Job Readiness and Patient Safety Outcomes through Clinical Simulation**

Due to an increase in clinical complexity and diverse clinical settings, a new set of competencies is required among newly graduated nurses as they face safety critical situations, complex patient needs and vulnerable patient populations. This project was designed in response to the need for nursing education to adapt to the ongoing changes in the health care system in order to ensure ongoing safety, enhance new registered nurse job readiness and improve patient safety outcomes for patients and families.

This innovative project represents an unprecedented level of collaboration among thirteen of Ontario's Schools of Nursing in redesigning their senior level clinical courses to incorporate enhanced practice-based simulation scenarios to better prepare new graduates for the workplace. The newly designed clinical simulations will focus on high risk clinical scenarios, vulnerable client populations and enhanced patient safety competencies in the context of institutional and community-based care. The project responds to ongoing faculty calls for an infrastructure to support the transition of new nurses into professional practice so they are better prepared to manage increasingly complex patient care. The project will achieve administrative efficiencies through shared purchasing of equipment required to support new clinical simulations and faculty efficiencies through the sharing of scenario among Ontario's nursing programs.

Additional information can be found on the [School of Nursing website](#).

Project Lead: Jennifer Medves, Director of the School of Nursing and Vice-Dean Faculty of Health Sciences

### **PeopleSoft Shared Responsibility Model Study for Ontario Higher Education**

This multi-institutional project (Queen's University, Ryerson University, York University, Western University, McMaster University, University of Waterloo, Seneca College, Niagara College and St.

Lawrence College) focuses on the identification of opportunities for a current and future shared responsibility model among nine universities and colleges that utilize the Oracle PeopleSoft Suite of administrative software applications for Finance, Human Resources/Payroll and Student systems.

This project is exploring innovative approaches and higher degrees of collaboration in administrative and service delivery transformation by conducting a detailed assessment of the participating institutions' current capacities as well as future opportunities for a 'Shared Responsibility Model' regarding support needs and challenges. Through system-wide collaboration, the project will allow for the exploration of meaningful ways to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of services delivered, address future cost containment, as well as provide benefits for students, faculty, researchers and staff of participating institutions.

Project Lead: Bo Wandschneider

### **Focus on Active Learning: Redesigning Courses and Learning Spaces**

Throughout the past several years, Queen's University has invested heavily in innovative active learning initiatives including blended learning course redesign and the repurposing of existing spaces for [active learning classrooms](#) with the aim to improve student engagement, student learning outcomes, capacity outcome, use of faculty time and improved use of classroom space.

This project enhances the work done thus far by funding a course redesign for Introductory Statistics, which will replace 11 separate Statistics courses (serving 1,600 students) through the development of common online modules to be supplemented by small-group tutorials focused on specific case studies from different disciplines.

Queen's plans to further expand the project through the redesign of a first-year course in Development Studies (450 students) as well as courses in Calculus, Biology, Chemistry and Gender Studies, in addition to the purchase and installation of educational technology designed to maximize the use of spaces repurposed for active learning. Each of the classrooms thus provided has a unique configuration of equipment based on the most up-to-date research on active learning space design. The equipment includes a document camera, digital projectors and screens, white boards, and microphones, all designed to work optimally with team-based learning modules.

This project is consistent with our planning documents, including *the Proposed Mandate Statement*, *the Academic Plan*, *the Strategic Research Plan*, *the Strategic Framework*, and *the Teaching and Learning Action Plan*, which emphasize the need to focus on enhancing the quality of the student learning experience through innovative projects guided by evidence-based instructional design.

Project Lead: Jill Scott, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)