

REPORT ON SENATE'S APPRC ACTIVITIES

Late 2015 – Early 2016

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Preamble

The Senate's [Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee](#) (APPRC) responsibilities include: "consultations and recommendations to Senate on academic plans and policies as well as other major academic initiatives, especially those that have academic resource implications or involve structures such as Faculties and constituent units, centres and institutes, and chairs and professorships".

The APPRC plays a central role in [academic planning](#) at the University. Each Faculty has an elected representative on the committee, and there are a number of ex-officio members including the President, Provost, VPRI, Senate Chair, Academic Colleague to the COU, etc. The APPRC usually meets twice a month, but it has been meeting almost weekly in late 2015 and early 2016. I first attended the APPRC meetings on 12 November 2015.

Topics Covered

The APPRC has covered the following topics since mid-November. Much of the information I provide here is already available on various different University webpages. I apologize now for missing anything:

- [ORU Approvals](#): including the Global Health Research Institute (supported by a \$20m donation from [Victor Dahdaleh](#)).
- [University Academic Plan \(UAP\)](#): consultation, discussion and drafting of a [new UAP](#), which is meant to provide the foundations of academic planning at the University for the period 2015-2020.
 - APPRC helped to draft the UAP survey that was sent out to faculty, staff and students in late November 2015;
 - APPRC then discussed the survey results (c.600 responses) and other written responses to the call for input on the new UAP (including from [LAPS APPC](#));
 - APPRC [Technical Sub-committee](#) (comprising the Provost, VPRI, APPRC Chair, Senate Chair, and APPRC Secretary) then drafted a [discussion paper](#) which

- APPRC discussed and which then formed the basis of a University-wide open forum (10 December 2015).
- APPRC Chair then submitted a draft UAP and a Notice of Motion to the Senate on 28 January 2016 – this means the final UAP will be sent to the next Senate for ‘approval’;
 - Senate discussed the draft UAP on 28 January 2016, comments included:
 - Concerns about statements about faculty complement renewal;
 - Concerns about tensions: (1) between interdisciplinarity teaching and lack of system to support teaching outside ‘home’ Faculty; and (2) with calls for research intensification;
 - Concerns about terms like duplication, complexity, streamlining, etc.;
 - Lack of discussion of external funding context (e.g. declining government funding);
 - Call to hold a secret ballot to ‘approve’ the UAP;
 - Concern that the UAP has been a top-down, managerial process, lacking in collegial participation;
 - Concerns that UAP ignores casualization of teaching.
 - Provost responded, comments included:
 - Challenge with programs that need resolving – e.g. top 10 programs receive 55% of applications;
 - Concern that people think the UAP has not followed the proper process;
 - Reassurance that Deans will develop framework for inter-Faculty teaching;
 - Decisions are responsibility of Faculties and their members through Faculty-based plans.
- Markham Campus: discussion of potential issues arising from the [Markham Campus](#), including governance arrangements. APPRC members have raised concerns about the (lack of) involvement of Senate and other stakeholders in the Markham planning process and suggested the formation of a governance committee. The Provost has provided the following information, much of which has been [reported to Senate](#):
 - The University is still waiting for the government to approve the Markham campus and its infrastructure delivery model;
 - Markham campus will operate as a satellite campus with a Vice-Provost reporting to the Provost (cf. Glendon) and leading on non-academic matters;
 - Markham will have standalone financial plan that is gradually integrated with Faculties;
 - Markham faculty are expected to be incorporated into existing unit- and Faculty-level collegial governance processes at Keele (e.g. approvals, reviews), but teach and work at Markham;
 - Academic program planning for Markham is supposed to come from units and Faculties interested in delivery programs on the new campus;
 - Planning for the new campus has to start in 2016 because of the need to develop new programmes, receive Senate approval, hire new faculty and staff, construct new buildings, etc. A brief timeline is as follows
 - 2015-2016 plan new program; 2016-2017 develop new programs; 2017-18 approval of new programs; 2018-20 building campus; 2020-2021 first students arrive.

- Following a review of concerns expressed by Senators and members of the community, it was agreed that Markham academic planning will be a standing item on APPRC agendas, and that APPRC will facilitate timely information sharing and discussion (such as written and oral reports by the Provost; Senate Executive will also have a role in governance matters).
- IIRP: outline of activities under the ongoing [Institutional Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IIRP) process:
 - The IIRP currently involves 6 new and 2 expanded working groups in a number of areas with about 40 people involved (i.e. all those people who applied to sit on a working group);
 - The IIRP working groups are expected to report back by mid-2016.
- Budgets: received information from the Provost and VPFA on SHARP budget numbers; transition process to SHARP model; enrolment numbers; complement planning; etc. and their budgetary implications, which was subsequently [reported to Senate](#) (26 November 2015).
- PIER: the VPRI delivered an update on the [Plan for Intensification of Research](#) (PIER) at the University and the [Annual Research Report to Senate](#). It seems that most initiatives under PIER are expected to come from Faculty-level decisions, since there is limited funding to support activities from the Office of the VPRI.