

Academic Advisory Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021

Present (via Teams): Andrew Hakin (Chair) and Lynne Delorey (Recording Secretary)
Andrew Beckett, Karen Brebner, Tara Buksaitis, Gord Cunningham, Tim Hynes, Richard Isnor, Sandy Iverson, Janice Landry, Murray Kyte, MJ MacLellan, Jeff Orr, Gina Sampson, Larissa Strong, Kevin Wamsley, and Elizabeth Yeo

Regrets: Dan Belliveau and Kerry Prosper

A. Hakin opened the meeting at 9:00 am and welcomed Advisory Committee members. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to all for navigating the safe return of our students for the second semester.

He introduced the new Senior Leadership structure and discussed the rationale for both the Academic Advisory and the Non-Academic Advisory (name under review) groups. Both groups will provide direction and advice to the President and the Executive on all matters associated with the academic/non-academic activities of the University. Leadership Council (comprised of members from both groups) will serve as the stewards of the strategic direction of the university as well as examine leadership development opportunities that will provide necessary development support to team leads. This structure will allow us to bring staff together to share ideas that will move the university forward.

A. Hakin initiated discussion on the *StFX Strategic Plan 2017-22* by sharing a presentation which guided the conversation. He encouraged group members to think about how the current plan has guided their work. Many questions stimulated discussion such as: What is the framework/structure of the plan? What is the Mission and Vision? Are these clear? Are the five supporting pillars considered to be the values of the plan? Do we, as an institution, value academic excellence, equity, and inclusion, etc.? Do the pillars of the plan remain strong? Does it represent our collective ambition and dreams? Has this plan been successful in moving the institution forward? Have new imperatives for the institution emerged since plan was introduced?

Discussion ensued with respect to the *StFX Strategic Plan 2017-22* as group members shared their experiences with the plan. Some highlights of the discussion include:

- This plan has positively influenced the university in many ways by providing an institutional focus and has guided the development of many additional plans within the university, i.e. *StFX Strategic Plan for Research and Creative Works 2019-2025*.
- The creation of the Student Success Centre, the Office of Internationalization, the enhancement of Academic Advising, etc. as direct results of the plan's success
- This was the university's first strategic plan and for many of the committee members, their first time in a strategic planning exercise. As we move forward, we need to ensure that we hold ourselves accountable through measurables and benchmarks.
- A campus wide assessment of our enduring values will help to provide clarity to all levels of staff.
- Perhaps individuals within the organization cannot name the specific goals under each pillar but through the academic agenda, the objectives and targets drive our work.

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- To move forward, we need to demonstrate to our broader community the value of the plan. If we can demonstrate the value, we can demonstrate how it is a motivational factor.

Wrap-up

A. Hakin thanked all for their input and indicated that moving forward, the importance the engagement of institution within the plan is critical. We need to clearly articulate the collective pride of our Xaverian community. We need to continue these conversations and consider our planning moving forward. Our COVID-19 learnings/triage will be a valuable resource as we move forward.

The meeting adjourned 10:30 a.m.

Minutes approved at the Academic Advisory Committee Meeting of February 23, 2021