

# Academic Advisory Meeting

## Meeting Report

July 13, 2021

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Present: Andrew Hakin (Chair) and Lynne Delorey (Recording Secretary)  
Joe Apaloo (Teams), Kyler Bell, Karen Brebner, Lacey Marie Brogden,  
Tara Buksaitis, Gord Cunningham, Tim Hynes, Richard Isnor, Sandy Iverson,  
Janice Landry, MJ MacLellan, Bobbi Morrison, Gina Sampson, Elizabeth Yeo

Regrets: Andrew Beckett, Murray Kyte, Kerry Prosper, Larissa Strong

1. Dr. Hakin opened the meeting at 9:00 am and welcomed Advisory Committee members. Roundtable introductions were made.
2. The agenda for today's meeting was approved as circulated.
3. The minutes of April 20, 2021, meeting were approved as circulated.
4. Fall Semester opening/communication plan
  - It is a critical time for communication with our students. As the response to COVID changes within the province, it will be necessary to pivot our communication plan.
  - Please direct any questions you receive to Kyler Bell ([kbell@stfx.ca](mailto:kbell@stfx.ca)) so that updates can be made to our frequently asked questions webpage.
  - Our relationship with both Town and County is strong. The StFX Executive team was invited to a recent joint meeting of Town and County, where both Councils indicated their appreciation to the University for the past year.

#### Communication update – Kyler Bell

- Lines of communication are open between the university and the community with bi-weekly emails to students and parents.
- Plans are in place for virtual information sessions. These sessions will include update on status within the province and set expectations for what students and parents can expect upon return to campus followed by a Q&A session with the leadership team.
- A session for Town and County and one for faculty and staff are also planned.

#### Student Services update - Elizabeth Yeo

- All incoming students will be required to complete three online learning modules -- *Safer Socializing@X*, *Consent Education is Visible@X*, and *You Belong@X*. These modules are useful tools to help students contribute and make both StFX and Antigonish a safe and respectful community.
- Work continues with the Town of Antigonish RCMP to educate the students that the code of conduct applies both on and off campus. We hope to influence students to be more respectful.
- Education work also continues with local landlords.

#### 5. Update on Academic Plan – Tim Hynes

- G. Sampson has led the work on the Academic Plan. Her efforts are in conjunction with the Academic Priorities and Planning Committee of Senate.

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- The AVP website hosts a link to a [Discussion Document](#) which highlights the background and process.
  - Pilot consultation sessions were held in June. Further public sessions will be hosted in the fall of 2021 to solicit input and help define priorities. These consultation sessions will be general as well as topic specific.
  - It is essential that planning for both the Academic Plan and Student Experience and Opportunity plan are aligned. Good communication is critical to our success.
6. Update from Board of Governors meeting – Andy Hakin
- John Delorey, Director, IT, presented to the Board of Governors regarding a review of the university's IT framework requesting significant investment and elevation.
  - The campus reopening framework presented to the province of NS was discussed. StFX continues to observe changes regarding procedures for vaccinations, mask wearing, etc. for framework update.
  - The lack of social engagement and forced isolation of the incoming class of 2021 is foremost in our minds as we are planning for the fall.
  - The university's financial update on the 2020-21 fiscal year indicated at \$2.2 million dollar surplus. \$3.6 M was received from the province of NS for COVID-related expenses. We presented a budget request for 2021-22 of \$4 M deficits. We have committed to the Board to move forward with a revised budget at the fall 2021 meeting.
  - The Board is reviewing recommendations from an external review regarding board composition, structure and process.
  - A motion of appreciation to all faculty and staff for their significant work over the past year was made.
  - Dennis Flood is the new Chair of the Board of Governors.
  - Outgoing Board Chair, Mike Boyd and his family donated \$1 M, matched by the Deveau fund for a total of \$1.5 M.
7. A round table discussion and question/answer period ensued.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.