

## The Senate of York University Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee

### Memorandum

To: Faculty Council Chairs

From: David Leyton-Brown, Acting Chair, Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee of Senate  
George Comninel, Chair of Senate

Date: January 16, 2017

Subject: **Tracking Success through Indicators**

This communication requests responses from Faculty Councils by February 10, 2017.

We are writing on behalf of Senate's Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee to invite your Faculty Council to participate in an important consultation concerning performance indicators, especially those related to scholarly, research and creative activities.<sup>1</sup>

As the year begins, Ontario universities are gearing up for negotiations with the provincial government culminating with the signing of new Strategic Mandate Agreements. The *University Academic Plan 2015-2020*, approved by Senate in early 2016, anticipates the development of more performance-based funding based on a range of indicators. APPRC understands that some metrics emerging from the next SMA exercise will apply to the system as a whole while others will be university-specific.

Over the years, members of the York community have frequently expressed dissatisfaction with the limited array of metrics most frequently utilized because they do not fully or accurately capture York's strengths, or fairly represent the kind, quality and impact of our contributions. This moment brings an opportunity to expand and refine metrics in ways that will better serve York along with other universities.

Through its approval of the University Academic Plan, Senate has made commitments to

- significantly increase the number and proportion of reportable research outcomes [and activities] by our scholars and enhance the means through which we can measure and articulate the full range of our scholarly outcomes from our work and their impact; and to

---

<sup>1</sup>Commonly employed indicators include research income (overall and per faculty member), publication and citations.

- collegially develop and confirm measures to be used for monitoring and reporting on our progress for all priorities taking advantage of repositories of best practice

APPRC is now in the process of engaging Senators in a discussion of research indicators. In doing we have signaled our intention to consult with colleagues throughout the University. With SMA negotiations in the offing, it is timely and beneficial to broaden the discussion now, and to seek the views of your Council on the following key questions:

How can York improve its tracking of progress and how can it use indicators to greatest advantage?

What specific indicators do you employ or should be employed to create the most inclusive possible set of indicators across the spectrum of scholarly, research and creative activities? Please provide concrete examples.

In making this request we want to emphasize that responses are intended to launch a sustained collegial dialogue as we work toward realizing UAP objectives and to complement rather than supplant other processes (such as consultations on the Plan for Intensification of Research) and to . In that light, we ask that you respond by **February 10, 2017**. APPRC would welcome input from the appropriate committee(s) and / or Council itself. Feel free to comment on other measures of academic achievement you think relevant.

Please submit your responses to Robert Everett of the University Secretariat ([beverett@yorku.ca](mailto:beverett@yorku.ca)). You may also transmit questions for APPRC to him.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

cc: Faculty Council Secretaries

University Academic Plan 2015-2020

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/UAP-2015-2016-Final.pdf>

APPRC Report to Senate, November 2016 pp. 57-59

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/Agenda-Package-20161124-FINAL.pdf>