

4. Principal's Report

The Rector

The Principal referred to the considerable debate over the last two weeks about the role of the Rector and the Rector's open letter to a federal party leader. The Principal reiterated what he had said previously, that freedom of speech and respectful and productive discussion are what universities are all about. He reported that in the last two weeks he had some reports and allegations of harassment and intimidation on either side of this particular debate. That form of discourse is unacceptable at Queen's. There must be dialogue on issues but these discussions have to be in a respectful, principled and not ad hominem tone.

Dr. P. Taylor, Chair of the Academic Planning Task Force (AP) introduced the discussion on behalf of the Task Force emphasizing that the Task Force will put forward a set of principles for the Academic Plan and then the work of implementation will take place in the units.

Undergraduates serving as teaching assistants requires faculty to supervise teaching and learning and that takes more time than simply lecturing. (C. Christie)

A system is needed that encourages and allows collaboration between teaching and research rather than individual faculty members to change with the stage of their careers. (P. Oosthuizen)

We will need to examine and adjust the balance between education and specialization. Over the last decade or two, there has been a push towards specialization. Consider a dual major in Computing and Philosophy – read, write and think – the broader the person, the more helpful they could be to society. (J. Cordy)

Increased specialization lessens the chances of survival for those involved in a teaching team of faculty and students that act as a scaffold to enrich learning. Undergraduate students are fresher with respect to the learning experience. The learner and teacher reside in one person. (S. Remenda)

Teaching and research do not always go hand in hand. Value both sides and be flexible about individual professional skills by not placing uniform demands across the board. (L. Crowell)

Students are passionate about what we are learning relevant to the world, not just writing an exam or a paper. More emphasis and encouragement for undergraduate journal publication. (R. Garcia)

Large first year classes (e.g. 500 students in Biology) do not allow for teaching and research. In fourth year, 150 students can become involved in both. We need a better approach to early learning experiences. (P. Bøag)

First year should offer students the opportunity to learn how to be a university student

2. Doing Fewer Things Better

In Where Next? Principal Woolf writes:

We are in difficult and uncertain times. To move forward, we need to be willing to let go of some things. It is not a matter of “doing more with less” we have been doing that for a long time, but of doing fewer things, better, with what we have: doing “less with less.” [Where Next? p. 5]

What, in your view, could or should Queen’s do less of?

It is surprising that Queen’s offers lectures of three hours per week rather than the norm of two hours of lecture plus a tutorial supported by Teaching Assistants. It seems that, as the budget shrinks and there are less good, well-qualified teaching assistants, the quality of the learning experience will be affected. (a) n e kc 0.00 -0Tw 7.422 0 3(ect)-9(u)8(reh)12(ou)12(r)2(s)9(c

4. Senate Working Group to Review the Harassment/Discrimination Complaint Policy and Procedures (Appendix H, page 73)
 - a) Revised Harassment/Discrimination Complaint Policy and Procedure Notice of Motion

[Secretary's note: the above motion was withdrawn from the April 28, 2011 Senate agenda.]

5. Student Life Centre Council (Appendix I, page 109)
 - a) Proposed constitution for the Student Life Centre

Moved by Senator Pierce seconded by Senator Crowell

That Senate approve amendments to the Constitution of the John Deutsch University Centre as outlined in the Constitution of the Student Life Centre, effective May 1, 2011.

Carried 11-30

Senator Pierce explained that the Student Life Centre Council
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three days after arrival