

**Email to the Campus Community**  
**June 15, 2021**

Dear Colleagues -

I am writing in my role as Chair of the Senate Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APP) to update you about StFX's academic planning exercise and to invite your participation as we move forward to the first consultation phase. As you know, APP is leading this exercise to envision a five-year plan for academics at StFX. The Terms of Reference as well as other information about the Academic Planning Exercise can be accessed on the AVP [website](#). APP is committed to ensuring that StFX's Academic Plan is grounded in the knowledge, experience, and vision of members of the community; this email outlines the first stage of that process.

**Consultation Sessions**

The first stage of consultation will be a series of small group discussions. A small number of these sessions will take place in June (dates to be announced shortly); the majority will take place in September. Though people may attend any session that is convenient, some of the sessions will be organized for people of common interest (e.g., individual Faculties or students). In addition to these general discussion sessions, in the Fall we also hold a series of topical consultation sessions for more in-depth conversation on a few important issues that emerge during the general sessions. You can read APP's consultation plan [here](#).

**Discussion Document**

APP has prepared a discussion document to provide background information and introduce key issues. The document can be accessed [here](#). Members of the community are encouraged to review the document prior to attending a consultation session. The document provides background data and information about the current StFX context. (Note: to access some of the embedded links you will be prompted to login to a secure site where you will find internal StFX data.)

**Survey**

We recognize that time will be limited in the consultation sessions and that people may have more ideas than can be captured in the allotted time. To that end, we have prepared a survey based on the questions introduced in the discussion document. The survey will give members of the community the opportunity to submit more detailed feedback which will supplement the ideas collected during the consultation sessions. Information about accessing the survey will follow.

**Resources**

APP is committed to providing data and resources to help inform and inspire the conversation. The [Academic Plan Discussion Document](#) includes much relevant data and links to more in-depth data. Additional resources have also been collected on the [academic plan](#) section of the AVP website. The website includes information about the current higher education environment, including examples of innovative programs, national trend data, and sample academic plans. If there is something you'd like to see added to the website, contact [gsampson@stfx.ca](mailto:gsampson@stfx.ca).

**Coordination with Quality of Life Plan**

The Senate Quality of Life Committee is currently developing a strategic plan for the student life area at StFX. We recognize that there will be overlap between the academic plan and the quality of life plan on some issues (e.g., first-year experience, mental health). In the interest of creating plans that align with

each other and not wanting to duplicate consultation, we will organize a number of joint consultation sessions to take place in the Fall. These sessions will be promoted as jointly organized by APP and the Quality of Life planning team.

**Volunteers needed**

APP is inviting members of Faculty and teaching staff to join micro-committees to help with the work of developing the academic plan. Currently, we are seeking additional members to join the team facilitating consultation sessions. The facilitators are using a common, neutral, structured approach and are working in teams. These sessions will take place in September/October. Please contact Gina Sampson [gsampson@stfx.ca](mailto:gsampson@stfx.ca) if you would like to help facilitate a couple of sessions.

Thanks to everyone who has been working to ensure that the Academic Plan exercise built on a strong foundation. We look forward to the next phase where we will begin the dialogue and collecting your ideas.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Hynes, PhD  
Academic Vice-President and Provost (Acting)