

The College Task Force

Preamble:

In the fall term, the Board of Governors Task Force and an ad hoc Faculty Working Group each produced a report that examined options for the university to deal with its \$1.1 million dollar operating shortfall for this fiscal year as well as the College's ongoing structural deficit. The ad hoc Faculty Working Group recommended the formation of the College Task Force with a mandate to work in a collaborative and collegial manner, in a pragmatic, problem-solving mode to ensure that our annual budgets are balanced and the institution is financially sustainable on an ongoing basis. This recommendation received support from staff, students, alumni and the Board. On November 17, 2014 the Board of Governors empowered the Board Chair to populate a College Task Force. The task of this advisory group is to produce recommendations that address the budget shortfall, and the University's long-term financial sustainability for decision by the Board of Governors. The College Task Force is aiming to produce an interim report and recommendations by February 1, 2015 and a final report and recommendations by March 21, 2015.

The members of the College Task Force are:

Board Chair: Dale Godsoe

President: George Cooper

Task Force Chair: Kim Kierans

Four faculty representatives: Stephen Kimber, Gordon McOuat, Neil Robertson and Shirley Tillotson

Two staff representatives: Kelly Porter and Jennifer Barnhill

Two student representatives: Michaela Sam and Emily Rendell-Watson

The Chair of the Board Task Force, alumnus: Tom Eisenhauer

Board member, alumnus: Colin MacLean

The College Task Force had its first meeting on Friday, December 12, 2014. As we do our work we will be reporting regularly the outcomes of our meetings to the King's community. The group has created an email account collegetaskforce@gmail.com to receive your comments about what we are doing.

Outcomes from the first meeting

We discussed three questions:

1. What we are here to do?
2. Why is our work important? What's at stake?
3. How we will proceed (the framework and our roles and responsibilities)?

What we are here to do?

We are here to work together as a community to:

- (i) understand our financial condition and possibilities;
- (ii) understand that there are ways, and not just one way, in which we can overcome the challenges of that condition;
- (iii) identify the priorities and central goals of the college as expressed through our various strategic plans;
- (iv) understand what our choices are, and the implications of those choices; and
- (v) choose and recommend a path to a sustainable future at King's.

Why is the work of this group important? What's at stake?

What is at stake is the integrity of collegial life and future of our academic programs. We need to be clear about what is special and distinctive and that should not be compromised.

We are operating under the assumption at least for 2015-16 that King's will remain an independent university capable as a community of determining our own destiny. That said, the Task Force keeps an open mind and will be gathering the necessary research with regard to other options our relation with Dalhousie.

How are we going to do the work?

While the College Task Force represents various groups – students, faculty, staff, alumni, administration and Board – they are all members of the University of King's College and without King's none would be at this table. Therefore it is important for each to align her/his particular interests with what is in the best interest of King's College.

The members of the College Task Force agreed that they will conduct their work in a **Collaborative, Consultative and Consensual** manner.

(i) Members will work together **collaboratively**. Each constituency matters, but staff, students, faculty, alumni, administration etc. only have their meaning in relation to King's and our shared life here. In working collaboratively this Task Force will find a way to respect each constituency, and its contribution, within King's.

(ii) Members will be **consultative** reaching out to one another as well as our groups. Members agreed that each must be transparent within the Task Force and among our communities.

(iii) If the College Task Force members respect the first two principles, there is a reasonable expectation of producing reports and recommendations that have been arrived at through **consensual** understanding. This is not to say all members will – or should – agree all the time. At times it may be necessary to resolve an issue with a vote just to be able to continue to work together, but members will strive to listen to and understand one another's position, because when one scrapes away all the rhetoric, members of this College Task Force are here for the same purpose – **to ensure the success of our academic mission and our shared collegial life in that mission**. This Task Force is aiming to produce recommendations for the future of the King's community.

The College Task Force therefore will be sharing with you regular updates on what we have accomplished in our meetings and will let you know what is on the agenda for upcoming meetings. We hope that you will feel free to email the Task Force at collegetaskforce@gmail.com

The College Task Force will also be setting up a webpage within the next week that has links to all documents that you may find helpful.

Our next meeting is December 17:

(i) Meet with the Bursar, Jim Fitzpatrick who will give us the most recent financial numbers, outline the magnitude of the financial problem and present certain scenarios.

(ii) We will also get an update on the work of the Budget Advisory Committee and discuss how its work intersects with the mandate of the College Task force.

(iii) We will hear from Don Sedgwick and initiatives to generate revenue

December 16, 2014

Kim Kierans, Task Force Chair on behalf of the members