**Summary**

<table>
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<th>Big Picture</th>
<th>Specifics</th>
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<td>- Wanted to understand how this plan differentiates the University of Alberta, and how this plan is different from previous plans</td>
<td>- Obj. 6 – need to include language that will encourage graduate supervisors to support opportunities for experiential learning, particularly when there is a concern on the part of faculty about the effect of those activities on graduate students’ times to completion</td>
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<td>- Concerns about how we will attain faculty renewal, particularly in the context of the loss funding for faculty in FOMD</td>
<td>- Obj. 18 – need to address food security for graduate students. Both access to and funds to afford nutritious food.</td>
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<td>- What is the implementation timeline?</td>
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<td>- The need to ensure that graduate students have access to sufficient funding throughout their programs</td>
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<td>- The need for affordable housing for graduate students</td>
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<td>- The relationship between funding, affordability, opportunity, and diversity and quality of our graduate students</td>
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*The meeting began with a presentation of the highlights of the strategic plan delivered by Provost Dew. Following the presentation, members of the council were asked to provide their feedback, which is summarized below.*

What about this document sets us apart? How do we differentiate ourselves?

SKD: The goal of this document is to empower people and groups to act. Our particular collection of goals and strategies is unique and our implementation of these goals will be the proof of our individuality.

Will there be quantitative measures to demonstrate success?

SKD: We want to be accountable. There will be targets and metrics (for those outcomes which can be quantified) and they will be defined in the next step of this process. Specific objectives will need to have a budget, baseline, measures and targets. This is a 10-year plan (that will be refreshed after five years), so our actions will need to be paced.
The plan needs to include consideration for the retention and ongoing support for graduate students. The university has increased costs and decreased support for graduate students, end-loading the cost of programs.

SKD: The enrolment is a broad concept that includes the concepts of recruitment and retention. It is important that our students complete their programs.

What is the timetable for plan implementation? What implementation will be in place for the student-oriented parts of Sustain?

SKD: Implementation is our next important phase and I expect that it will be affected by external funding, ease of implementation and the complexity of any given challenge. We do expect that some aspects of Sustain will roll out quickly through the implementation of the Healthy Campus Strategy.

We are missing a statement regarding the excellence of our alumni. I think that alumni want to see an acknowledgement that our degrees represent the foundation of the rest of our lives.

How does this plan differ from the D2D plans?

Three distinguishing features are our commitment to a supportive and collegial campus culture, our position on sustainability and our commitment to identify signature programs.

I do not think that graduate housing should be lumped in with undergraduate residences. There is an urgent need for affordable graduate housing and an update to Michener Park.

Obj 6. Time to completion is a key metric for the university which could be affected by students taking time out for experiential learning opportunities. How will you reduce the consequences for the student?

SKD: We want to balance opportunity with the need to ensure students finish their degrees in a reasonable period of time. International experiences are very important for graduate students. 
Response: the language needs to include a statement that will drive graduate supervisors to be more supportive of these opportunities.

Is it practical to plan to renew the faculty when we are already losing faculty members on this campus (FOMD)?

SKD: We have fewer faculty members on campus due to decreasing funding from the Government of Alberta. This has been particularly true in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry due to a change in the funding structure for professors. If we want to increase the numbers of faculty, we may need more diverse forms of funding, and/or a change in funding from the Government of Alberta.

If a student pays 70 to 80% of their stipend on rent, how can we expect them to do anything else?

SKD: We need to ensure our students are setup for success.
Obj. 18 needs to include food security for graduate students. Graduate Students need money and access to nutritious food.

Graduate life is changing for the worse. Graduate students who were supported through teaching opportunities are seeing reduced teaching opportunities. In Arts, removing the language requirement from the BA programs will reduce these opportunities further. Fewer opportunities mean fewer graduate students, reducing the diversity of our research communities. Also, we cannot attract the best because we cannot fund them.

We reduce the diversity of a graduate student population at the point of application. GPA calculations for students from non-Canadian institutions are not well calibrated (come out too low), meaning that we are not making offers to good candidates.

Of the graduate students not living at home, 40% are using the Food Bank. We need to raise stipends to keep up with the cost of living.