## CSJ Campus Forum
**Led by:** David Turpin and Steven Dew  
**Date:** December 3, 2015  2:30-3:30 pm

### Summary

| Themes | - There is a significant need for French language services to support CSJ students and providing those services is associated with increased costs (necessary duplication of services)  
- Central units should consider the unique qualities of CSJ in their planning (ex. Registrar and UAI) – CSJ presents opportunities for the university, but action is needed to realize them |
| Thought Provokers | - This is an opportunity to be a national/international leader in francophone education, but the potential students may come from different regions of Canada and the world. Implications for recruitment strategy.  
- U of A communications and services are provided in English only. The university needs to strive for a greater degree of bilingualism. |
| Tension to Drive Positive Change | - CSJ students may not want a new residence on campus (expect lack of demand)  
- Residences need to be affordable and flexible, and activities need to be led by and for the students  
- Infrastructure renewal is a pressing need for CSJ |
| Strategies | - Plan for recruitment in francophone countries and francophone regions of Canada  
- Link research priorities to creating economic opportunities for the community |

### Notes

**Q.** What is your vision for bilingualism for the UA (across the University) and across the country?

**DHT:** The University has an opportunity to lead nationally on the issue of bilingualism. The UofA can become the university of choice for students from bilingual institutions across the country. Continued French immersion education is key to the experience at CSJ and a differentiating feature of this university. National recruitment may benefit.

**DHT Response:** A true Canadian University either is bilingual or has a plan to achieve it (this should not simply be a recruiting strategy).
CSJ is showcased as the unique Francophone experience but there are barriers for francophone students coming to this University. For example, student services are provided on in English. Students don't meet ELP standards. The university needs to increase bilingualism in its day-to-day functions.
- UA should communicate in French with CSJ. When I receive the Quad, it is only in English. Beartracks is only in English. I take all my courses in French but I want to see more materials coming from UA in French.

International Students: The International student experience is very expensive here. UOttawa is more competitive for International students.
- Solutions: Reduce tuition for International students or put in place student aid. Insufficient.

Expansion of the residences at the UA by 25% may not make sense for CSJ.
- Residences are expensive compared to off-campus options and lease agreements are relatively inflexible.
  - DHT Response: Important for student engagement, but a very costly ask to government -will not be built w/o student consultation
- Would like to see residences moved under the Residential Tenancy Act
- Would like to see reduced administrative interference with student groups who lead activities and culture building in the residences

Francophone recruitment strategy – national and international – both of these regions represent significant opportunity and should be included

We need to realize that research is an opportunity for engaging our communities and making ourselves relevant. The province is increasingly focussed on social issues; this is an opportunity to respond to a need.

UA needs to understand the CSJ is a mini-French University within a big university, so many of its services need to be duplicated (ex. recruiting and registration).
- CSJ has higher costs than other faculties that are required for it to function effectively
- CSJ needs to be actively included in plans by the registrar and UAI
- Also need to address deferred maintenance

How are we preparing our students? There is a need to focus on competency based learning, graduate attributes and assessment of attributes. Future employers and funding agencies will look for graduate attributes at both the graduate and undergraduate level. The competencies should be featured in the ISP.

The lack of diversity in programming at CSJ limits recruitment of bilingual students nationally.

Activities in residence should be driven by the residents. The university need to support them in this work.

School districts across Canada/Western Canada have an unmet need for French teachers.
Better integration of services with North Campus would give CSJ more operational reach. (80% of CSJ students take courses on North Campus). We need to expand our reach to compete with places like the University of Ottawa, where there is complete integration and a true bilingual program.

There is an opportunity for CSJ to lead at the National level. There is a need. And a potential for impact on society.

The University of Alberta needs to develop a wider vision. Value: part of the strategic plan is to create value. Competitiveness: we must get our revenues from different places. How readily we can access those revenue streams? Only by responding to community needs will we be truly meeting our mandate. Educating the whole person. This must be an important part of our mandate.

Summary (SKD)

It was very important to come to CSJ to hear these messages directly. These are different than the messages we have hear elsewhere in the university.

The most important message: the unique value that this campus offers to the University, community and the country as a whole.

The need for the whole of UofA to recognize the unique needs of delivering programs on a separate campus in a different language.

- Providing more services in a French language context.
- The need to have different services particularly for recruitment.
- International recruitment done in a different place. In a different way.
- Big brother needs to remember smaller siblings in allocation of resources.

Student Experience:

- Residence experience is supportive and optional.
- Key aspects include student-led experiences and activities.
- Need to keep the costs reasonable. Good mix of students (multiple years). More holistic and nurturing environment.

Role of research: linking research to economic activity and supporting societal activities. One objective of research at the UofA is to serve its communities, create knowledge, and support new innovations, including socially and economically.

There is also a need to increase engagement of rest of campus in French language and help extend the Francophone experience beyond CSJ.

Infrastructure renewal. We need to make sure that we have not only the intellectual and physical infrastructure. Capture this in the strategic plan.