Event: Council of Faculty Associations  
Date: 03DEC15  
Led by: David Turpin  
Presentation: None  
Number attending: 15  
Scribe: Amy Dambrowitz

### Summary

**Themes**  
- Mental health and wellness – services need to be accessible on all campuses  
- Interdisciplinary study and experiential learning  
- Study abroad  
- Unique experiences on smaller campuses

**Thought Provokers**  
- International student tuition should be fixed on the day they enter the program (as per the UK)

**Tension to Drive Positive Change**  
- Undergraduates need education on their career options

**Strategies**  
- FSJ and Augustana students need better access to North Campus opportunities (like internships)

### Notes

Representatives from the Faculty were asked to list:  
- **One thing that they would like to see in the strategic plan**  
- **One thing they love about the University of Alberta**

**Speaker 1:**  
- Include: Mental health and wellness for all students  
- Include: Interdisciplinary programs  
- Loves: Study abroad opportunities

**Speaker 2:**  
- Include: interdisciplinary or interfaculty internships  
- Include: experiential learning  
- Love: Access to bursaries and scholarships

**Speaker 3:**  
- Include: interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinary courses  
- Loves: campus atmosphere (ex. Christmas lights in quad)

**Speaker 4:**  
- Include: experiential learning: putting competencies into practice  
- Loves: seeing the potential in every student and the room UofA provides to learn

**Speaker 5:**  
- Include: Explain to undergrads about what they can do with their degrees
- Loves: relationship with faculty members

Speaker 6:
- Include: Experiential Learning and competencies development
- Include: Career education
- Loves: Study abroad

Speaker 7:
- Include: Address the divide between those students who participate and access opportunities and those who do not
- Loves: [her] faculty

Speaker 8:
- Include: Making more connections within the degree program to real-world issues
- Loves: professors enthusiasm for their disciplines

Speaker 9:
- Include: Student services (including mental health) need to be accessible in off-hours for students who are in disciplines include night shifts
- Loves: UofA is a 10/10- no regrets

Speaker 10:
- Include: More student services at Augustana (international students cannot travel to main campus to access services)
- Include: Give Augustana students better access to North Campus opportunities
- Loves: the tight-knit Augustana community
- Loves: undergraduate research opportunities at Augustana because there are no graduate students available to assist in research

Speaker 11:
- Include: Dispel the myth of unemployability for Arts programs graduates
- Loves: the strength of the UofA undergraduate communities (ex. Response to recent suicide)

Speaker 12:
- Include: New building for the Alberta School of Business
- Include: More case-based learning
- Loves: the many opportunities to be involved

Speaker 13:
- Include: International fees need to be predictable (ex. In the UK, fees are fixed based on the student’s entering year – each class knows its tuition from day one)
- Loves: Co-op programs (but wish that they were equally accessible to international students)

DHT Comments in Response:
Note: this is a non-representative group

By show of hands: > 50% have lived in residence, <50% are from Edmonton

Mental Health: student advocacy on this issue has been excellent. The university will continue to promote this agenda to the provincial government (pressing priority)
Interdisciplinarity and Experiential Learning: the faculty want this, too

Study Abroad: Everyone comes back transformed for the better

FSJ and Augustana: Full service campuses that provide an opportunity for the UofA to differentiate itself (study in French, liberal arts)

**Conversation on Interdisciplinarity: How can the UofA remove barriers to interdisciplinary study?**

- The Deans need to speak to each other
- FSJ ARTS students cannot access Faculty of Arts internships (considered to be from a different faculty); make an exception
- Some students are isolated (program-specific?) – need to find ways to share what opportunities are available – possibly student-to student communications
- Students need work experiences to better understand the breadth of their career opportunities
- Look at all the aspects of big-scale problems (like climate change)
- Some programs limit electives, reducing these types of opportunities
- Augustana students have limited access to North campus opportunities
- Health disciplines will need to collaborate professionally: they should learn that way, too