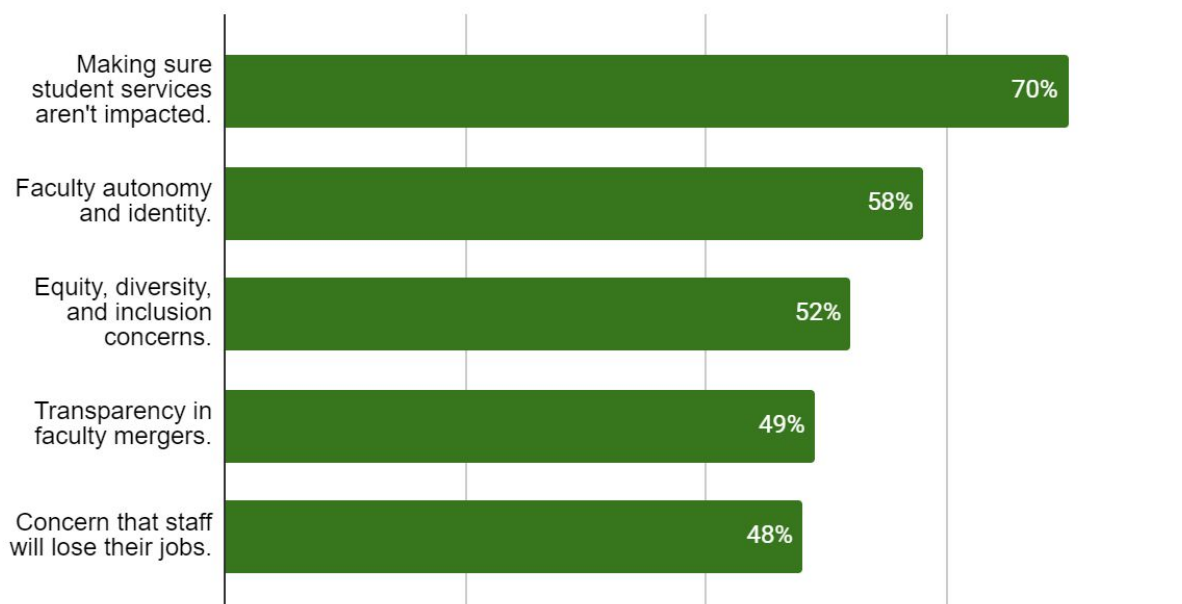


## Survey Overview

Through the Perks platform, the UASU collected 466 student responses between November 13th and 20th, 2020. The minimal survey comprised three multiple choice questions and one text field. Students reported a range of general and specific concerns related to both academic restructuring and the Service Excellence Transformation (SET), as well as some statements of support. 64% of respondents were a little or a lot concerned about restructuring, and that number rose to 76% once we filtered out the students who didn't feel they knew enough to pick a stance. A parallel 'how much do you care about academic restructuring?' question saw virtually identical proportions. Overwhelmingly, students are both engaged and concerned. Just as clearly, many feel under-informed.

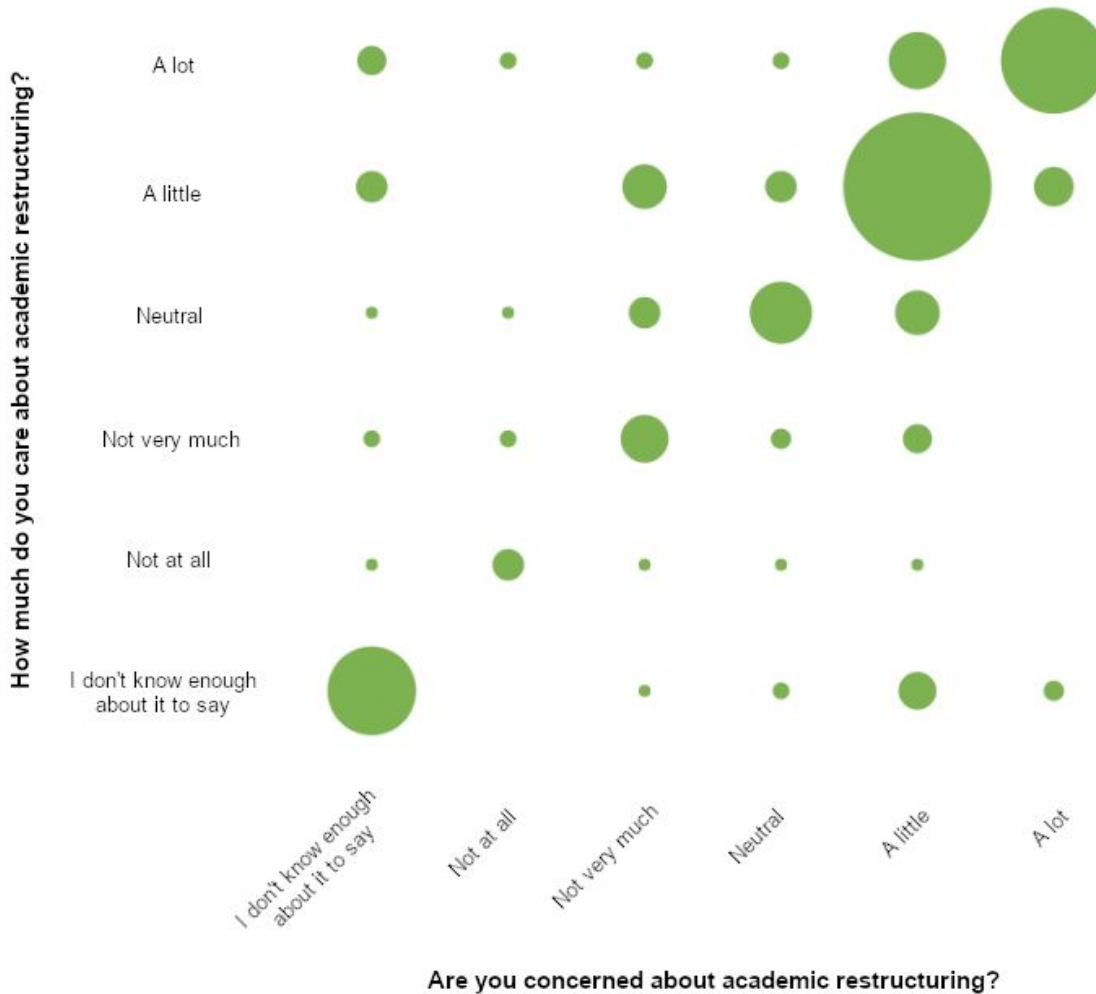
**Q1: "Under government pressure to cut costs, the University of Alberta is exploring different ways to combine faculties. We've been fighting for student priorities in the restructuring working groups. Are you concerned about any of these?"**



Q2/Q3: “Are you concerned about academic restructuring?” and “How much do you care about academic restructuring?”

### Academic restructuring: How much do students care?

UASU Perks survey, n=466



A few groups of note:

- In the top left, a decent number of students care about restructuring but don't know enough to say whether they should be concerned.
- In the bottom right, a decent number of students are concerned and don't know enough about restructuring to say whether they should care.
- In the top middle, we see that students who care about restructuring overwhelmingly have concerns; however, there is also a decent cohort of students who care a little and have minimal concerns.

| Question   | Response                             | % of respondents | Without 'don't knows' |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Are you concerned about academic restructuring?    | Not at all.                          | 3%               | 3%                    |
|  | Not very much.                       | 9%               | 10%                   |
|  | Neutral.                             | 9%               | 11%                   |
|  | A little.                            | 44%              | 53%                   |
|  | A lot.                               | 20%              | 23%                   |
|  | I don't know enough about it to say. | 15%              | N/A                   |
| How much do you care about academic restructuring? | Not at all.                          | 2%               | 3%                    |
|  | Not very much.                       | 6%               | 7%                    |
|  | Neutral.                             | 11%              | 13%                   |
|  | A little.                            | 41%              | 49%                   |
|  | A lot.                               | 24%              | 29%                   |
|  | I don't know enough about it to say. | 15%              | N/A                   |

#### Q4: “Do you have any questions or concerns about academic restructuring that you’d like us to consider or bring to the University’s attention?”

Students provided over 3,700 words of responses. We selected around two dozen of the most representative or noteworthy questions and comments. We plan to address many of these questions at a town hall meeting, and share them with senior University administration.

- Combining larger faculties where student services (eg. advisers) are currently at a premium and hard to get in to see... I can only imagine how much worse it will be with mega-faculties.
- Concerned about the Faculty of Law being merged with another faculty. Although it is considered an undergrad program, it is really a professional program and runs very differently than other faculties. Even things like the loss of our library are huge because research is an essential aspect of the legal profession and lots of legal information is still not available online.
- Curious as to how minors will work if one is in a science major.
- How will our programs and degrees be affected if the Faculty of Arts and Science are combined into one faculty, or if the consolidation model is used?
- How will this affect program pathways and courses for specific programs impacted by the restructuring? Will we lose a number of courses or academic resources?
- I actually really support academic restructuring to reduce administrative and bureaucratic inefficiencies. My primary concern is that the University clearly

explains the changes being made to the student population, in ways that are understandable by all students. Students shouldn't have to read detailed technical documents to understand these changes, they should be offered up in clear and plain language so that students can reasonably understand what effects they may have on their education and experience at the UoA.

- I already have severe problems with my program and how it's split between facilities. It's already not appropriately supported; the required classes are not offered. Most importantly there's inconsistencies with the academic calendar. If I can't even rely on the academic calendar especially when that is what I have to really on to ensure my program requirements are met. I have little to no faith in the registrar as it is now. Restructuring just adds more confusion to everything else I have to navigate.
- I don't want anyone to lose their job. I also don't want the quality of instruction to decrease because professors are working too hard.
- I go to the Campus Saint-Jean and they have been having HUGE financial problems. They've had to cut around 44% of their classes. There has been talk about the Campus Saint-Jean being combined to the North Campus and this idea frightens me as a francophone. As Campus Saint-Jean is the only francophone campus in western Canada, it is vital for the francophone community. I absolutely love to be able to stay in my home town and be able to study in French (and not have to go to Quebec, Ontario or the Maritimes). I know that U of A is seeing a lot of cuts as well, but it's just sad that it's always the minority that gets the boot.
- I know some classes are already only offered every few years, making it hard for students to graduate on time.
- I mean what does it even mean like I tried to read the suggestions but just as a general overview I don't understand what it means or what the point is.
- I want the Students' Union to really amplify the voices from the Faculty of Native Studies and put Indigenous concerns first especially, the Ivory Tower always cuts the "diversity" stuff first and we have to change the pattern.
- I would question whether the academic restructurings proposed would truly reduce costs to the extent the report suggested.
- I'm particularly concerned about the faculty merging. Augustana Campus is its own faculty and is already dealing with centralization issues that impact us in negative ways; losing further autonomy would be incredibly harmful if we were to merge even more.
- I'm worried about having advisors for departments and honours/specialization programs. I already struggled to find help and the Faculty of Science advisors now weren't able to guide me. I'd be concerned there would be even less knowledge of those specific things if the Faculty is larger.
- I'm worried I won't have a lab or clinical that will be able to prepare me for a nursing career. I already have so much invested into this degree.
- If departments are merged, will the previous departments remain relatively autonomous within the new group? Also, I've noticed that different departments

have different cultures (some more pleasant than others), and I don't want the culture of my department to change negatively.

- Specifically in regards to the Education faculty. I would argue that it is crucial for this faculty to remain autonomous as it focuses towards one profession and field. I already would like to see more teacher/teaching focused knowledge based courses rather than simply take random courses for an Education degree, and I feel this would only be lost if it was merged with Arts or another faculty.
- Student services for academic planning and mental health are already on a severe shortage (it took me over two months this summer to get a 15 minute meeting with an advisor to understand how my transfer credits worked) and with combining faculties I worry that those will be in even shorter supply.
- Tell the government that post-secondary students are the present and future of Alberta. Cutting finances of universities can and will lead to a 'brain drain' that will devastate the economy now and in the future making Alberta a place that will see less investment.
- There are quite a few students in very small and specific programs, and we are all really worried that either our programs will disappear, or be restructured to a point where it's pointless, or decisions will be made by higher-ups who don't understand how our programs work and function on any level.
- Why are two big faculties like Arts and Science being combined while small faculties like Native Studies are remaining separate?
- Will junior level credit courses be affected by this merge as students may end up being shuffled into different faculties? If so, how will first-years who are just getting used to uni life cope with this? Also, will the number of classes be reduced and class sizes increased?
- So many faculty support staff have lost their job, quality of services is already starting to decrease. I am very worried that students will not have access to the academic, mental health, and advising supports they need.
- I'm just hoping my degree title doesn't change.