

# THE ALBERTA 2030 PSE SYSTEM REVIEW

Implications for University of Alberta  
Students and Next Steps



**Rowan Ley** | Vice President External

# Why should you care?

- Potential of huge changes at U of A:
  - Institutional funding
  - Programs offered
  - Governance and autonomy
  - Work placements



**UASU needs to be involved to protect our students' interests.**

# Background: The Alberta Post-Secondary System



- Alberta's Post-Secondary Institutions are created by the **Post-Secondary Learning Act (2004)**
- The PSLA creates six categories of institutions
  - **Six-Sector Model**
- Currently no clear funding formula
- Government is trying to move towards **performance-based funding (PBF)**

# Background: The Six-Sector Model

- Comprehensive Academic and Research Universities
- Undergraduate Universities
- Polytechnical Institutions
- Comprehensive Community Colleges
- Independent Academic Institutions
- Specialized Arts and Culture Institutions

**The Six-Sector Model is designed to reduce duplication but is sometimes alleged to make cooperation too difficult.**

# Background: The Funding Model

- Quick Numbers:
  - **\$5.1 Billion or \$1151 per person:** Alberta PSE budget
  - **\$1.09 Billion:** 2019-20 U of A share
  - **11%:** Cut to U of A funding in 2020-21
- The government tells universities what they get every year.
  - Unpredictable, hard to plan
- The government wants to move to a **Performance-Based Funding** system and 4-year **Investment Management Agreements**
  - Delayed due to COVID-19

# Why a Review?

**The current system has not been updated since 2004. Why is that bad?**

- Duplication (Admin, governance, programs)
- Cost drivers (Always grow above inflation)
- Transferring is hard
- Cooperation between institutions is hard

**The review is meant to make recommendations to address these issues and others.**

# The Contractor

The Alberta 2030 Review will be done by a private consultant:  
**McKinsey**

- **McKinsey quick facts:**
  - Top consultants in the world
  - Has a Calgary office
  - Many ethics scandals
  - Not specialized in post-secondary
- **Cost of the review:**
  - **\$3.7 million, up to 4x what Canadian experts would have charged**

**McKinsey  
& Company**

# Review Process

The Request for Proposal (RFP) outlines the services and timeline.

- **May: Engagement Framework**
- **Summer: 15 Discussion Papers**
- **September 30th: Options Paper**
- **October 30th: Road Map**
- **Late January: 6-8 Town Halls, Key Stakeholders Summit**
- **Late February: Implementation Plan**
- **Late March: Evaluation Plan**

# Possible Outcomes

The range of possible outcomes is highly speculative.

- **Governance reform range:**
  - Consolidation with other universities/change of mission to minor tweaks on current model
  - Six-sector model likely to change
- **Academic reform range:**
  - Sweeping program and institution closures to small transfer system streamlining
- **Funding reform range:**
  - Minor changes to PBF to major cuts and own-source \$

# Risks / Opportunities

**Some risks for our members:**

- **Lower program/course choice**
- **Less influence in governance**
- **Large funding cuts affecting quality**
- **Loss of research focus**
- **Drop in prestige of U of A, value of degree**

# Risks / Opportunities

**Some opportunities for UASU members:**

- **Improved work placements**
- **Better coordinated sexual violence/mental health response across province**
- **More access to programs at other institutions**
- **Reinforcement of research focus**
- **Stronger role in governance**

# How are we responding?

- **CAUS**

- Key stakeholders' summit
- Cooperating with other stakeholders
- CAUS written submission with proposals
- Consultation with McKinsey

- **UASU**

- Encouraging participation in town halls
- Individual consultation with McKinsey
- UASU written submission with proposals
- Advocacy with other stakeholders

# What is Council's Role?

- **Participate in public consultation**
  - Regional Town Halls
  - Any other opportunities
- **Guidance to the Executive**
  - How should we respond to Alberta 2030?
  - What are the priorities of U of A students?
  - What is important about U of A's place in Alberta?

# QUESTIONS? OPINIONS?

How should the UASU and CAUS  
respond to the Alberta 2030 Review?



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