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
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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