

President's Report

University of Windsor Senate

May 8, 2020



University of Windsor

Updates

- Thanks to our University of Windsor Community
 - Giving back to our community
 - Completion of the W/2020 semester
 - Remote working
 - Resumption of on-campus activities
 - Fall/2020 academic planning



Updates

- SMA3 has been put on pause
- Working closely with MCU, COU and Universities Canada
- Capital projects moving forward
- Budget management for 20/21
- Thinking beyond COVID-19



Attitudes and Issues for Fall 2020: Selected Survey Results



COVID-19: Global Changes

- Health and safety are top of mind
- Social distancing
- Family challenges
- Workplace closures
- Financial implications
- Economic uncertainty
- Travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements



COVID-19: University Changes

- Winter 2020 transition
- Rapid shift to essential services model
- Building closures
- Residence transition
- Research activity restrictions
- Virtual recruitment
- Travel restrictions for students, conferences, meetings, research
- Intersession/summer session online
- Return to work protocols evolving, provincially and locally



COVID–19 Impact on Student Intentions

Strategic Counsel/HESA: COVID-19 Impact Study

- Impact survey on applicants, current students and parents
- 2,799 respondents
 - 1,995 prospective + current students
 - 804 parents
- Administered April 17-28, 2020

ABACUS Data: Canadian Students and Parents Opinions

- Canadian student and parent opinions
- 1000 respondents
 - 500 students
 - 500 parents
- Administered April 23-30, 2020



Common Themes: Course Delivery

- Majority of current and prospective students are comfortable studying online/remotely:
 - Strategic Counsel survey indicates there is a significant minority with some apprehension
- A high percentage in both surveys believe that at least some classes will be in-person during Fall/20
 - ABACUS survey.... >6 in 10 students believe there should be in-person classes with an option to attend remotely – if they choose



Feelings about Online Classes

- Majority of students feel that the quality is better with a F2F classes (Strategic Counsel)
- ABACUS survey, 53% used online courses to finish the term but said the experience was not good
- Strategic Counsel survey, ~50% of current students indicated they are now more willing to take an online course after the move to online in the W/20



Common Themes: Impediments to F/20

Two main issues other than course delivery were raised in both surveys:

1. Safety/Health Risks:

- Concern about coming to campus for F2F classes
 - In both surveys, ~40% have concerns about contracting COVID-19 or are not sure the campus will be safe
- The most reassuring message to students and parents is one which reinforces that keeping student safe is the top priority:
 - ABACUS survey, ~ 80% of students would want to know the measures that would be taken for safety



Common Themes: Impediments to fall attendance

2. Financial Concerns

- Strategic Counsel survey, ~50% indicate their ability to finance university education has been impacted by COVID-19:
 - Impact was higher among non-high school prospective students
- Abacus survey, 40% of students have said that health risks and financial pressures are equal in terms of preventing attendance



COVID-19 is affecting attendance decisions

- In the ABACUS survey, 8% of students indicated they will no longer attend university this fall.
- In the Strategic Counsel survey, 8% of current students would consider skipping a term/year.
 - This number is higher especially for non-high school prospective students.



Health and Finances are affecting choice....

- ~30% of prospective students said that to offset the financial issues, they would attend a university close to home so they can continue to live at home.
- Those who have changed their mind about leaving home for school cite both financial and health risks as the main reasons.
- In the ABACUS survey, 49% of students indicated they were more inclined than ever to think about schools close to home.



International Prospective Student Survey

- Academics partnered with Maple Assist to administer a survey to prospective international students
- Survey was run from April 3-15 with 2,400 respondents across 17 countries
- Of the respondents:
 - 61% from India
 - 91% have applied to a Canadian post-secondary school within the past 6 months
 - 84% have been offered admission
 - 80% are still in their home countries



International Prospective Student Survey

- If F2F classes are not available, 68% indicate they would begin online
- International have similar concerns to the domestic students:
 - Majority are concerned with their health and wellbeing (74%)
 - 29% feel safer in their home country
 - 47% indicate their financial situation has changed
- Additional concerns:
 - 67% will not reconsider their decision to study abroad
 - 64% are worried about getting a student visa
 - 65% are concerned their student visa may be delayed for their chosen start date
 - 80% are worried about future air travel restrictions



Questions/Discussion



DRAFT RESUMPTION TO WORK - WORKING GROUP FRAMEWORK

