

# STRATEGIC MANDATE AGREEMENT

Senate - September 27, 2012

Patrick Monahan, Vice-President Academic & Provost

# BACKGROUND

- Letter from Minister Glen Murray, MTCU, in June initiating:
  - development of Strategic Mandate Agreements with Ontario post-secondary institutions
  - consultations on sector transformation based on discussion paper, *Strengthening Ontario's Centres of Creativity, Innovation and Knowledge*
- Ontario Government's vision and principles for higher education:
  - Putting students first
  - Meeting the needs of the creative economy
  - Focusing on productivity, innovation and sustainability
- Strategic Mandate Agreements to include:
  - Proposed differentiated mandate statement
  - Institution's vision linked to mandate statement
  - Three priority objectives

# BACKGROUND (cont'd)

- To begin the process of developing Strategic Mandate Agreements, Minister Murray directed each institution to submit an initial 8-page Strategic Mandate Agreement by September 30, 2012
- Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) to establish a peer review panel to evaluate mandate submissions for ability to achieve significant improvements in productivity, quality and affordability through innovation and differentiation
- HEQCO panel to identify a shortlist of colleges and universities as lead institutions – “models of advanced education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”

# PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF YORK'S STRATEGIC MANDATE AGREEMENT (SMA)

- Establishment of SMA Working Group chaired by the Provost and including representation from Deans, AVPs, government relations and IRP staff to develop draft
- Draft SMA based on our two strategic planning documents:
  - University Academic Plan (approved by Senate, February 2011)
  - Provost's White Paper (endorsed by Senate, April 2010)
- Also benefited from consultation with and input from:
  - Senate Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee
  - Deans and senior administrators
  - Senior academic leaders on campus
  - President's/Vice-Presidents' Committee

# YORK'S SMA SUBMISSION

- The goal is to highlight York's distinctive strengths and accomplishments, and to demonstrate how our priorities, objectives and activities align with/address those of government
- Mandate Statement reflects:
  - York's leadership as a fully engaged, socially responsive University that serves diverse populations, and
  - our unique and defining excellence in both liberal arts and professional programs that provides students with critical arts foundation and that supports interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and inter-professional scholarship.

# YORK'S SMA VISION

- York is a comprehensive, research-intensive university that is committed to pursuing excellence, student success, outreach, and partnership by engaging students, faculty, staff, alumni, and external partners in a joint venture that transforms teaching into learning, research into discovery, and service into citizenship.
- York intends to build on its firm foundation of achievement and to play an outsized role in achieving the province's innovation agenda by:
  - preparing students for a future dependent on entrepreneurial creativity
  - increasing the impact of its scholarship, research and creativity activities
  - leveraging to its advantage and to the advantage of the province as a whole its large and diverse student population, its location in York Region - the GTA's fastest growing area and an emerging hub of entrepreneurialism – and the subway extension
  - expanding strategic partnerships

# YORK'S SMA SUBMISSION: PRIORITIES

- SMA identifies York's three priority objectives and highlights key planning directions for each:

Priority 1: Focus on quality with sensitivity to the needs of society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Priority 2: Create and sustain a 'culture' of student success that spans the student lifecycle

Priority 3: Strengthen our impact through community engagement

# YORK'S SMA SUBMISSION: KEY PLANNING DIRECTIONS

Among our key planning directions, we have highlighted the following:

- Increase comprehensiveness with a emphasis on programs that build on our strong, critical liberal arts foundation and our established excellence in professional programs e.g., engineering, health, professional graduate programs to prepare students for entrepreneurial creativity
- Implement a new strategic research plan that builds on our leadership in knowledge mobilization and social innovation (HESA rankings)
- Advance teaching and learning innovation with a focus on blended elearning and experiential education

# YORK'S SMA SUBMISSION: KEY PLANNING DIRECTIONS (cont'd)

- Build on our leadership in access and student mobility with expansion of partnership with Seneca College leading to a new satellite campus co-located on an existing York or Seneca campus: University of York-Seneca
- Foster LLL through a significant expansion of continuing education/professional development
- Enhance bilingual opportunities at Glendon College
- Enhance internationalization of educational experience