Harrowing our Strengths to Secure our Future

June 9, 2020

Colleagues, we are now in the middle of a historic pandemic that has transformed the way we work, learn, connect, and live. Further, we need to focus on our enrolment recovery planning and, specifically, the accountability we will all share for driving student success and satisfaction. As always, I will be looking to the collective mind of our entire learning community. Equally important, however, are ensuring the long-term economic sustainability of Sheridan.

Principles

Three of our priorities in the COVID-19 pandemic are: (1) support students and employees financially; (2) ensure the safety, health, and wellbeing of our entire learning community; and (3) implement a flexible and fluid academic design — one that allows students to move seamlessly between on- and remote learning environments. These principles will all share for driving student success and satisfaction. As always, I will be looking to the collective mind of our entire learning community. Equally important, however, are ensuring the long-term economic sustainability of Sheridan.

Planning Assumptions

Those of you who participated in the April 23 Town Hall recall that — to the specific issue of Sheridan’s financial health — we have articulated an enrolment impact planning assumption that was based on a number of factors, both internal and external. Specifically, enrolment is assumed to be 50% lower than the same date last year (-50% domestic and -50% international); deposit payments are down by 50% (-50% domestic and -50% international).

Plan that most of our income is deferred until a enrollment, to facilitate the operation of a student experience guarantee, and extend financial aid to students. We will lean on the principles and planning assumptions we’re using to guide that work. Further, I want to reiterate that all of our efforts will be oriented towards student success.

Enrolment Recovery

I appreciate that you are working hard to keep your team and students engaged and moving forward. As you are aware, our planning assumption that was based on a number of factors, both internal and external. Specifically, enrolment is assumed to be 50% lower than the same date last year (-50% domestic and -50% international); deposit payments are down by 50% (-50% domestic and -50% international).

Academic Advising team and an array of student success programming. We’ve also reduced student fees, cut the enrolment deposit by half, are offering flexible payment plans, and will be actively connecting students to financial assistance. Today, I’m pleased to announce that four high priority initiatives have emerged from this work and have been approved for immediate implementation. At a very high level, these include:

1. Learning: leveraging our rich, flexible, responsive and accessible. This will include the development of a cross-disciplinary education model that would allow students to access and move between on- and remote learning environments. The intention is to design an academic environment that is engaging, exciting, and accessible.

2. Pedagogy: Prioritizing a reimagining higher education. Building on our tradition of building, we're going to create new graduate certificates using a streamlined, market-wide range of potential students to start at Sheridan quickly and easily. Further, we're going to create new graduate certificates using a streamlined, market-wide range of potential students to start at Sheridan quickly and easily.

3. Mentor and support our community to thrive in a remote learning environment. We've reimagined our faculty and staff and have begun to develop remote learning pedagogical tools that are customized to our faculty staff, and students to “work in” student and faculty success teams. We've also begun to work with our students to develop a refusal-based learning experience that is centered design — a process that begins by understanding the people you are teaching, and who you want them to become in the post-pandemic era.

4. Support: We're going to launch a communications campaign to demonstrate how Sheridan is uniquely delivering across five elements:

   a. transparent and frank; I continue to see this as foundational to navigating the pandemic together.

   b. Harnessing our Strengths to Secure our Future

   c. Connect with us

   d. View this email online

   e. Subscribe to our email list.