

Provost's Task Force on Evaluation, Accountability and Measurement
Request for Comments and Suggestions, February 22, 2008

The Provost's Task Force on Evaluation, Accountability and Measurement has been set up to develop a process for assessing departments and units in the context of McMaster's long-term strategic plan, Refining Directions. This process is supposed to provide information that can help set priorities and align resources with the goals of Refining Directions.

On its behalf, I ask any member of the McMaster community to send her or his views either to tfeam@mcmaster.ca, or to the address below. We seek comments and suggestions regarding how to assess academic units, nonacademic units and the institution as a whole in the context of the goals expressed in Refining Directions. In particular, are existing methods of assessment adequate? Can existing information be used more effectively? Are new types of information necessary?

We will be consulting with the community throughout our process.

Responses to this initial request for general consultation will be welcome at any time, but would be most useful if received as early as possible and preferably by March 15. We will also approach academic units and nonacademic units directly.

The terms of reference and membership of the task force are available at the link:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/vpacademic/currentpriorities/Eval_%20Account_Meas.html

The goals of Refining Directions are to provide an innovative and stimulating learning environment where students can prepare themselves to excel in life, to achieve the next level in research results and reputation by building on existing and emerging areas of excellence and to build an inclusive community with a shared purpose.

Associated targets are to be consistently among the top three Ontario universities in terms of the quality of students we attract and graduate from our undergraduate and graduate programs as measured by appropriate indicators, to be consistently among the top three Canadian universities as measured by appropriate indicators of research excellence, to increase the importance of graduate education so that McMaster's graduate population reaches 20% of the University's total full-time enrolment and is highly ranked in indicators of graduate educational excellence and to ensure that all members of the McMaster community feel recognized and valued for their contributions to this shared purpose. Part of the task force's mandate is to consider indicators associated with these targets.

Further information regarding Refining Directions can be found at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/pres/refining/report.cfm>

If you are part of a group in which some members do not have a university email address, we would appreciate your informing those members of this message. On request, paper copies of this email are available for posting.

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