



WLUF

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Dear Member of the Board of Governors,

WLUF has been contacted by many of our Members over the past couple of years who have expressed serious concern over the imposition by the Administration of the Integrated Planning and Resource Management (IPRM) process on academic programs at Wilfrid Laurier University. We have also taken note of the growing volume of literature reflecting upon program prioritization processes at other universities in Canada and the United States which roundly criticize virtually all aspects of this process. On the other side of the issue, we note the seeming complete paucity of literature supporting the academic integrity of this general approach. We have also been particularly concerned with the recent example of the University of Saskatchewan's, "TransformUS," Program Prioritization process, which generated so much negative media attention for that institution.

One way that such concerns of Laurier faculty have coalesced in the past year has been through the passage of almost identical motions of censure against the IPRM at the Divisional Councils of Senate for the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Liberal Arts. The Faculty of Liberal Arts, for example, unanimously determined:

Be it resolved: THAT the concept, method, data collection and analysis of the Integrated Planning and Resource Management process is so fundamentally flawed that this body has no confidence that it will provide reliable information upon which sound academic decisions can be made. As such, this body calls for the immediate cessation of the activities of the IPRM and the return of academic decision-making to the Senate, its rightful place as established by the WLU Act.

We have also expressed to the University on numerous occasions the incongruity of prioritizing programs along one axis when the Strategic Mandate Agreement would seemingly require prioritizing them along another.

Concerned by these developments, **WLUF has surveyed our members** to gain further insight into their feelings, attitudes and experiences regarding the IPRM. Over 200 members filled in the survey, which falls well within a meaningful response rate for survey research. Respondents included members from all Faculties across the University.

Most significantly, when asked to qualitatively describe their opinion of the IPRM, **over 85% of faculty expressed a negative opinion of the process.** These often strongly negative opinions clustered around a variety of concerns including problems with the methodology, the flawed

