



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY / POST-SECONDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, December 17, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chamber

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Councillor J. Morse,
Mayor R. Alty,
A. Bevan,
N. Lawson,
R. Epp (via conference),
K. Wrightson,
T. Andrews,
Y. Adam,
J. Clermont,
S. Ellis, and
J. Pitt.

The following members of Administration were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
K. Penney, and
A. Harrower.

Call to Order

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of the Agenda

3. S. Ellis moved,
Y. Adam seconded,

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

4. The Committee decided the Minutes of the previous Meeting should be amended.

Action Item: Administration will amend the Minutes of the November 16, 2018 meeting.

Review re: Final Version of Feasibility Study

5. Committee expressed concern over the inclusion of specific financial data in the Final Version of the Feasibility Study and agreed the section should be removed.

Committee noted that the Feasibility Study did not fully capture the views put forward by Committee and was not altered significantly as a result of their feedback. Committee suggested the Study showcased the benefits of a Northern University but did not emphasize the benefits of a Northern University in Yellowknife.

Committee was updated on recent meetings with the Mayor and Council of Fort Smith, and the Mayor of Inuvik, regarding issues that Aurora College faces. A positive outcome was expressed, with the communities hoping to work together going forward. Hope was expressed by other communities that investment in Yellowknife would not take away from investments in them.

Committee suggested the following next steps: analyze the report to determine useful elements; create a condensed version for Council and the public; break down the information; and create a stronger link between claims and supporting data. A focus on why Yellowknife, instead of how a Yellowknife university should be run, was also suggested.

It was noted that unless legislative and financial changes are made, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will be involved in the development of a northern university but all major decisions will be made after the 2019 election.

Committee expressed concern regarding the cautious, risk focused stance of the Feasibility and Benefits Study. Members suggested the need for lobbying and communication but also stated that the Study is not an effective lobbying tool in its current form.

Administration highlighted that the purpose of the study was to determine the possibility of a university and claimed it does this by stating a university is feasible. Administration suggested a rebuttal should follow highlighting why a University in Yellowknife is an attractive option. Committee noted that the data has been made available through this study; it must now be transformed into a useful tool.

Discussion re: Continuation of Committee

6. The Chair suggested that more meetings were necessary to tweak the report and to capture the ideas put forward by Committee in the visioning session and throughout meetings.

K. Penney highlighted the need to change the Committee's Terms of Reference if the Committee was to continue. The Chair suggested this should be discussed when the Committee's next steps have been determined.



Next Steps

7. Mayor Alty suggested taking the Feasibility and Benefits Study to the Chamber of Commerce before taking it to Council to ensure that no necessary components were missing. Committee expressed a need for another document that represented a vision for Yellowknife. The Chair suggested that a meeting with Administration would be beneficial to discuss the appropriate action the Committee should take at this time and the next steps that should follow.

Action Item: Administration to set up a meeting with the Chair to discuss the next steps.

Adjournment

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Prepared: December 18, 2018/AH