



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## MINUTES

**UNIVERSITY/POST-SECONDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.**  
**Via Video/Teleconference**

## MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Councilor J. Morse,  
Mayor R. Alty,  
J. Clermont,  
S. Ellis,  
S. Erasmus,  
D. Connelly,  
L. Liske,  
G. Marion,  
R. Warburton, and  
K. Wrightson.

The following members of Administration were in attendance:

K. Penney,  
J. Mutford, and  
A. Colasuonno.

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### **Call to Order**

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

3. Committee approved the Agenda as presented.

### **Discussion and Feedback Re: City's Response to the Feasibility Study**

4. The Chair summarized the purpose of the City's Response to the Feasibility Study ("Response") document and opened the floor for Committee members to provide feedback. Committee discussed the City's role as a stakeholder and noted that the Response will guide the City's actions moving forward. Committee indicated that it is important that the Response supports the federated



model as recommended, citing that it reinforces the necessity of working with partners while still recognizing that there have been consultations around the Model issue.

Committee also noted that the Response should acknowledge that the City does not play a lead role in either determining the model for post-secondary education or the programming to be offered. Committee proposed that Section 2.2 Student Recruitment and section 2.3 Student Housing should be revised to reflect what the City could contribute towards Student Recruitment and Student Housing.

Committee noted that the Feasibility Study was conducted in 2018 and with recent consultation efforts by the territorial government the Response may be outdated. In response, Administration noted that the document would be updated to include:

- a) The City provided input to the GNWT on 2.1 Model on September 14, 2020; and
- b) The City provided input to the GNWT on 2.4 Programming on September 28, 2020.

Committee noted that the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) should be included in the determination of suitable locations for an expanded campus. Committee also noted that there are a lot of empty buildings downtown that could be utilized and this would revitalize the downtown area.

Members recommended that 2.3 Student Housing - Action should be updated to reflect that the City will work with partners to establish student supports.

Members noted that the Response indicates that Programming must align with labour market needs and that attraction of national and international level students to the Polytechnic University is critical to its success. This feat may require more than aligning programming with the labour market needs. Committee Members cited factors such as a great college experience, lifestyle and what the city has to offer should be considered as well.

The Chair noted the Response document should include and emphasize that the Feasibility Study indicated that without student recruitment a Polytechnic University would not be feasible.

Committee noted that a number of City By-laws (including the Zoning By-law) are currently under review and it is an opportune time to ensure that proposed polytechnic university use is considered during these reviews.

Committee suggested that the Mayor and Council should lobby as much as appropriately possible for the realization of a Polytechnic University. This would be a transformative moment for the residents of Yellowknife.

***Action Item: Administration will make revisions to the Response based on feedback from Committee Members.***

#### **Discussion re: Future of UPAC**

5. The Chair opened the floor to Committee to provide their feedback on the UPAC continuing as a committee of council and meeting only on an as needed basis. Committee members supported the suggested approach.



**Adjournment**

4. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Prepared: September 16, 2020 KP/ac