

On 2018-12-19, 12:28 PM, "Adam J Sarty" <Adam.Sarty@smu.ca> wrote:

Hello again SMU colleagues,

I am writing again to encourage you all to “follow the link” below to participate in the consultation process for renewing our SMU Strategic Research Plan ... I understand that for many of us, this method of online consultation seems unusual and “not for me” (we request you share short stories/experiences, based on the scenarios we provide) – trust me, as a physicist by training, this method was foreign to me as well. However, I’ve seen the power of this tool to go beyond a standard survey to help us understand where you (**all** of you, I hope) see the direction of your research, and your views with respect to the supports and collaborations needed for your success. The tools which follow just after the stories you input on these webpages are key to how we will be able to pull this out of the data you provide.

So, as foreign as it might seem (!), I encourage you to participate by spending 15 minutes to try it out (instructions and link below). The data from this process to direct our Strategic Research Plan will only be useful if enough participation is garnered ... so you will be hearing from me multiple times in the coming weeks (sorry). The first scenario which is open now will stay open for you to engage with until the beginning of January – then we will “start again” and announce our second (of five) scenarios to ask you to quickly check back in, and respond to that new scenario ... but this current one will be active until after the holiday break.

Thank you for reading, and considering taking part – I hope you all do!
I will be back in touch after the holiday break.

Best wishes of the season to all,

adam

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On 2018-12-07, 2:53 PM, "Adam J Sarty" <Adam.Sarty@smu.ca> wrote:

Dear SMU Colleagues (Faculty and Staff):

Your link to participate in our strategic conversation on research at SMU is now ready (details below!):

<https://smu.ca/strategicconversation>

Earlier this fall, Dr. Malcolm Butler (Vice-President Academic and Research) and myself announced the beginning of our consultation process to renew the SMU Academic and Strategic Research Plans. As part of the consultation for these renewals, I will be leading a process to engage you in a conversation about our Strategic Research Plan. The renewal of our Strategic Research Plan provides opportunity to consider the research enterprise at Saint Mary's collectively, its relationship to our university's overall Strategic Plan, to the expertise of our faculty, and to future potential research directions.

We have decided to use a novel approach in our desire to engage as many of you as possible in this discussion about SMU research. Every couple of weeks, I will be asking you to reflect on a particular research scenario/theme in terms of both potential future direction, as well as how the scenario relates to your own Saint Mary's experiences. With all of us sharing multiple perspectives about the future, and our many experiences, our collective voice will give us insights into both the current state and future needs for research directions and support - and will shape our renewed Strategic Research Plan.

So, over the coming 10-12 weeks, I will be emailing you five separate invitations to reflect on different scenarios/themes (with the invitations spaced by about 2 weeks to give time for all to participate in each). The scenarios we will be presenting are: Interdisciplinary Scenario (this is the one for this message)

Community-Engaged Research Scenario
Research Themes Scenario
Technology Impacts Scenario
Research Funding Scenario

Some of the scenarios will be intentionally provocative in order to spark conversation, and we hope they will elicit experiences in your work that are relevant to this exercise.

Using the link given both at the top and bottom of this email (either directly “click”, or cut-and-paste into your browser), please read the instructions and share an experience related to the current scenario that will be described. **Please ensure you read the instructions carefully when you arrive at the “landing page”.** You will then be asked to ‘tag’ your story with information that will allow your story to be interpreted based on the meaning you give to it (rather than someone else’s interpretation).

Please note that we understand people’s time is limited, and therefore are asking you to keep your responses only as long and detailed as you feel is necessary and time permits - **it’s more important for everyone to share brief replies, than none at all.** The first time responding should take you about 15 minutes, with subsequent responses likely closer to 10 minutes. So I am hoping to get a total of about 1 to 1.5 hr of your time spread over the next 10-12 weeks.

Please take the time to share as many experiences as possible, one at a time. The more of your experience that you share, the richer our conversations will be concerning the Strategic Research Plan going forward.

Please contact me, Adam Sarty (adam.sarty@smu.ca) if you have any questions or concerns.

<https://smu.ca/strategicconversation>

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