



**2023-24 Annual Report to
Alberta Advanced Education**

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Annual Report Template

Context:

This template will be used to collect the required content requested for the PSI Annual Reports which will be submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Instructions:

- Use the links in the Table of Contents tab to provide the required content requested in the Annual Report Guidelines. Ensure required content is completed in the appropriate tab.
- This template encourages short and concise submissions such as using bulleted content, instead of a narrative-style format.
- Include audited financial statements as a separate attachment to your institution's annual report submission.
- Self-generated revenue information can be inserted into the chart in Tab 5 unless it is included as a separate attachment with all necessary elements included. Use any format that is clear and complete. The self-generated revenue reporting requirement has been fulfilled for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
- Capital report information can be inserted into the chart in Tab 6 unless it is included as a separate attachment with all necessary elements included. Use any format that is clear and complete.

Institution Information

Institution name: St. Mary's University

President name: Dr. Sinda Vanderpool

Board Chair name: Mr. Gary Strother

1. Accountability Acknowledgement (a & b)

Independent Academic Institutions

a. Accountability Statement:

The institution's Annual Report for the year ended was prepared under the Board's direction in accordance with ministerial requirements established pursuant to the Post-Secondary Learning Act. All material economic, environmental, or fiscal implications of which we are aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.



Gary Strother
Board Chair, St. Mary's University

b. Management's Responsibility for Reporting:

The institution's management is responsible for the preparation, accuracy, objectivity, and integrity of the information contained in the Annual Report. Systems of internal control are designed and maintained by management to produce reliable information to meet reporting requirements. The system is designed to provide management with reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, are executed in accordance with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies, reliable financial records are maintained, assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded.



Sinda Vanderpool, PhD
President & Vice Chancellor, St. Mary's University

2. Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 1 (k) of this Act states that a “public entity” means any agency, board, commission, Crown corporation or other entity designated as a public entity in the regulations.

As an Independent Academic Institution, St. Mary’s University does not fall under this definition, but supports and endorses the concepts in the Act.

3. Goals and Performance Measures

A. Student supports and services and their responsiveness to the evolving needs of students (e.g. academic, financial, mental, and physical well being etc.)

- i. Addition of campus disc golf course open to students and public
- ii. Upgraded sports court to add pickleball courts
- iii. Partnership with Calgary sport and social club to bring discounts for St. Mary’s students to participate in intramural activities.
- iv. New Terry Fox on campus fun run to support cancer research initiative
- v. Addition of Monday fitness classes open to staff and students (High Intensity Interval Training)
- vi. Updated fitness equipment in fitness centre (rowing, exercise bikes)
- vii. Expanded fitness centre hours to include Saturdays
- viii. Library hours have been expanded to accommodate more study time and gathering space.
- ix. STMU Cares initiative continues and expanded, this year 70 students self or other reported, plus use of the STMU Cares survey identified 90 students with immediate need
- x. Emergency bursary program – increased resources to provide students support with money and other services, referrals when needed
- xi. Bell Let’s talk grant counselling areas renos creating new office space and a calming environment for students
- xii. Student Success Seminars – Academic and mental health and wellness offerings
- xiii. Sexual and Gender based violence grants provided resources to create new policies and updated website resources

- xiv. Trained 30 staff and faculty and 100 students to date in Bystander training as we co-create a culture of respect and support
- xv. Peer tutoring program training expansion to better equip student tutors to support student
- xvi. Increased seating capacity in testing centre and improvement of the environment of the centre to reduce exam anxiety and other challenges
- xvii. Counselling introduced new supports, e.g. eating disorders, anxiety to calm, with focus on anxiety of our BEd students

B. Strategic research priorities (for research institutions), applied research, and scholarly activities

In our 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan, StMU identified Academic Excellence as one of four Strategic Priorities. The key objectives that will allow StMU to achieve a high standard of academic and professional excellence include:

- i. building out our research infrastructure, especially research administration and developing institutional capacity to support both faculty and the Institution, with special emphasis on new graduate programs;
- ii. investing in the Psychology Program as our next Centre of academic excellence to enhance human flourishing through research, teaching, and providing services to the community;
- iii. creating a plan to build out scholarship and research excellence across our campus;
- iv. developing research partnerships with local, regional, and national industries, and
- v. community organizations that align with existing areas of expertise.

From 2023 to 2024 StMU faculty produced 47 published and artistic works, and 9 projects had links to the communities we serve. In addition, 64 students were engaged in research activities.

The breadth of research produced by StMU faculty is reflected in the topics that range from plant genetics: “Chasing the fitness optimum: temporal variation in the genetic and environmental expression of life-history traits for a perennial plant species” to happiness studies: “In my grasp or out of my hands? Belief about where life satisfaction comes from predicts motivation to seek it” and educational research: “Embracing the Interdisciplinary Connection of Movement Between High School Physical Education and Drama Education.”

C. Collaborations with other learning providers (e.g. publicly funded post-secondary institutions, First Nations Colleges, or Private Career Colleges)

- i. Hosted PADRA (Post secondary Accessibility and Disability Resources Association) event on campus (provincial organization) and welcomed over 250 attendees seeking resources for students with disabilities
- ii. ELAA association – St. Mary’s has a representative on the Education Liaison Association of Alberta executive to bring recruitment information to schools around Alberta
- iii. New MOU agreement signed with Bow Valley College to accept block transfer of courses from BVC’s University Transfer program into St. Mary’s Bachelor of Arts with a Concentration in General Studies
- iv. New MOU agreement signed with Bow Valley College to accept block transfer of courses from BVC’s Early Childhood Development program into St. Mary’s Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in General Studies with a pathway into St. Mary’s Bachelor of Education program, Elementary stream
- v. In early discussions with Lethbridge Polytechnic to facilitate a block transfer agreement of Lethbridge Polytechnic students into St. Mary’s programs
- vi. In early discussions with Olds College to deliver their Business Management Diploma program on St. Mary’s campus

4. Financial Information

For the year ended March 31, 2024, the University ran a deficit on operations of \$423,610 (2.73% of total revenue). *Full details can be found in the attached Audited Financial Statements.*

The deficit on operations in 2023-2024 was a result of:

- Lower than budgeted revenues of approximately \$555K as a result of:
 - i. Tuition revenue lower than budget by \$1,000K due to lower than budgeted enrolment in all semester;
 - ii. Ancillary Services lower than budget by \$56K due to the decline in enrolment;
 - iii. Offset by Donations and Fundraising higher than budget by \$350K; and,
 - iv. Also offset by Government Grants higher than budget by \$156K, due to Targeted Enrolment Expansion (TEE) grants.

- Lower than budgeted total expenditures of approximately \$132K as a result of small positive variances across most expenditure categories due to solid expenditure management.

- StMU has embarked on a new 5-year Strategic Plan, which endeavours to increase enrolment and donations. In addition, the University continues to lobby for equitable government funding in order to balance operations.

5. Self-generated Revenue

The self-generated revenue reporting requirement has been fulfilled for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

6. Capital Report

Types of Project and Funding Sources					
Type:	Project Description	Total Project Cost	Funding Source: % Gov of Alberta % Gov of Canada % PSI funds % donation % foundation % industry	Funding Received to Date and Source	Revised Funding Sources
Proposed New Expansion Maintenance					
Priority Projects (Top 3 Capital Priorities)					
Maintenance	Plumbing replacement and repair	\$400K	100% Donation	All Funding received, sourced through a private donation	
New	University Website	\$100K	100% PSI	All Funding received, sourced through Capital allocations by the PSI.	
Maintenance	IT Infrastructure Upgrade	\$100K	100% PSI	All Funding received, sourced through Capital allocations by the PSI.	
Other					
Proposed	Campus Master Plan	\$75K	100% Donation	All funds received from a donor.	
Proposed	Residence	\$30 Million	17% PSI 83% Donations	\$8 million (\$5 million donation and \$3 million from PSI)	
Proposed	Roofing Replacement and Maintenance	\$2000K	100% PSI	All Funding received, sourced through Capital allocations by the PSI.	

7. Free Speech Reporting

Reporting Measure 1: Free Speech Policy Information

- *Please provide the website address where your institution's free speech policy is posted.*
- *Has your institution amended its free speech policy during the 2023-24 fiscal year?*
 - *If yes, please explain the change and the reason for making the change.*
- *Outline any intersecting administrative policies or costs (e.g. venue booking fees, security costs) at your institution that could impact event booking.*

RESPONSE: St. Mary's policy of Freedom of Expression is currently available on our website at <https://stmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Freedom-of-Expression-doc.pdf>, with no changes being paid during this reporting period. An intersecting policy of Academic Freedom is also available on our website <https://stmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2A-2003-Statement-on-Academic-Freedom.pdf>. At this time we do not have any other administrative policies that would impact event booking.

Reporting Measure 2: Cancelled Events

- *During the 2023-24 fiscal year, were any events at your institution cancelled for reasons related to free speech?*
 - *If yes, provide a description of the event, including context.*
 - *Discuss the concerns which led to the event's cancellation.*
 - *Describe how the cancellation decision fit within the institution's free speech policy and include information on other institutional policies that were considered when making the decision.*
 - *If any complaints arose from the event's cancellation, please provide further details regarding the complaints under Reporting Measure 3.*

RESPONSE: During this reporting period there were no events cancelled for reasons related to free speech.

Reporting Measure 3: Free Speech-Related Complaints

- *During the 2023-24 fiscal year, did your institution receive any complaints related to free speech issues?*
- *Note: These are complaints that were submitted in accordance with the institution's free speech policy and through the procedures identified by the institution. These are not complaints related to labour disputes or other issues which are captured by agreements and contracts separate from the institution's free speech policy.*

For each complaint:

- *Please provide a description of the complaint, including context.*
- *Discuss how the institution managed the complaint. Was the complaint addressed using the procedures set out in the institution's policy? How were issues resolved?*

RESPONSE: During this reporting period there were no complaints for reasons related to free speech.

- *Provide the following summary data for free speech-related complaints submitted in accordance with the institution's free speech policy and through the procedures identified by the institution:*

RESPONSE:

Total number of complaints = 0

Total number of complaints that did not progress through the institution's resolution process as determined by institutional policy = 0

Total number of complaints where it was determined that the free speech policy was not followed = 0

Reporting Measure 4: Additional Information

- *Please provide any additional information on any other areas of concern related to campus free speech that may not be captured under the other reporting measures.*

RESPONSE: N/A

8. Board of Governors Training on For-profit Ventures

President Vanderpool confirmed with Advanced Education that this training requirement does not apply to St. Mary's University.