

HESA Recovery Project






Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities across the country are facing increased financial strain. The magnitude of these changes is going to require difficult conversations in every institution across the sector. While the speed and scale at which financial challenges are hurtling towards institutions are faster than usual, they are not unprecedented. History can be a guide, and so can the experiences of dozens of post-secondary institutions around the world that have faced similar challenges.

We at Higher Education Strategy Associates know that now is the time to begin planning for the long-term future of higher education. As a result, we are introducing The Recovery Project to deliver insights as to how leaders can strengthen their institutions, and to facilitate conversations where leaders can learn from innovative practices from their peers as well as those who have been in similar circumstances.

Members will receive a monthly syndicated report summarizing key insights, data, and strategies related to that month's theme. The report will be accompanied by a monthly, online, members-only meeting, bringing together institutional leaders for collaborative discussions, knowledge sharing, and action planning. Our approach to developing these reports and discussions is rooted in evidence-based methods. We will conduct interviews and case studies with institutional leaders who have experienced significant budget cuts since the 1990s from institutions around the world. By capturing their insights and

accumulating the lessons they have learned along the way, we aim to bring actionable strategies and informed perspectives to our members. We will also continuously monitor cuts across the sector and analyze trends and emerging areas of concern, ensuring that our reports remain timely, relevant, and forward-looking.

Themes for the first three months include:

-  *Strategies for Making Smart Budget Decisions*
-  *Maintaining Morale During Times of Institutional Change*
-  *Agile Academics: Approaches to Redesigning Academic Offerings*

Later research and discussion topics will be discussed and developed in collaboration with members, allowing us to adopt this project to the needs of our members. Some potential topics include new revenue sources, strategic planning in a crisis, financial stewardship, and recovery efforts around the globe.

Each of the reports will be written by members of the HESA team, informed by up-to-date research and conversations with previous institutional leaders who have navigated the kinds of difficult decisions facing current leaders across Canada. Monthly meetings will be online and led by members of the HESA team, including Tiffany MacLennan, Iain Wilson, and Alex Usher. Meetings will be under Chatham House Rule to ensure privacy and encourage an open dialogue. Members will also be provided with high-level learnings after each meeting to build collective knowledge and inform later sessions.

Recovery project reports and meetings will begin in February 2025 and will recur monthly until October, for a total of 9 monthly reports and meetings. While we've already begun some of the research for this project, we can begin to develop the first paper once 5 institutions have signed on. The introductory price for an institutional membership is \$10,000 for the whole 9 months and includes the monthly syndicated report and attendance of up to 8 leaders at the virtual monthly meeting.

Get in touch

Tiffany MacLennan, Senior Associate & Project Lead
tmaclennan@higheredstrategy.com

