

## ACADEMIC COLLEAGUES AND COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES (COU)

### REPORT

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE . TONY BAUER

Venue: UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA. APRIL 7 -8TH 2011.

The following is a summary report from meetings with Academic Colleagues Meetings and the Council for Ontario Universities (COU).

A more detailed COU update is available on line at the Senate website.

#### 1.BUDGET RELATED IMPACTS

The provincial government budget announcement by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) included the following:

- **A positive commitment to multiyear funding** for a 60,000 student enrolment growth for post secondary education. This will result in 41,000 university spaces for the next 5 years and projections for the first 3 of the 5 years.
- Details regarding **specific allocations to individual Universities** and the division of funds for undergrad and graduate programs was not provided.
- **Capital funding** allocations for 2011/12 have not been provided to date with a possible strategy expected in May. **The Ontario government has re committed to a ten year infrastructure plan for capital projects.**
- **The facilities renewal program (FRP)** will probably remain equivalent to 2010/11 reduced to \$26M from \$40M with universities allocated 17.3M IN 2010/11.
- **The overall facilities index system** indicates that buildings are in poor condition with a replacement value for facilities infrastructure at \$19.3 billion and \$1.97 billion for deferred maintenance. To maintain campuses in the current condition requires \$380.8 million per year.
- **To maintain our campuses in their current condition** requires an annual expenditure of \$380.8 million. Although data reported for deferred maintenance is reliable **government funding has not kept up with demand.**
- **A Tuition Framework for student fee increases** has been extended into 2011- 12 and set at 5% annual average and 8% for year 1 professional graduate programs and 4% for the remaining years.
- **Based on an over supply of teachers** there will be a \$7.5 million reduction in teacher education funding, \$5 million in 2011-12 and \$2.5 million in 2012-13. The level of reductions will be left up to the individual institutions.
- **Executive Office Front Line Services** in all government agencies, institutions and crown corporations will be **subject to a 10% reduction.** This will include university administration.

## **2. RESEARCH FUNDING.**

CFI, NSERC and CIHR granting policies will focus on increasing the granting amounts with a reduction in the number of successful grant applications. With the subsequent overall funding increases for enrolment and increased staffing the result will be more applications and a lower overall success rate on grant applications.

**The resulting discussion around the affects of research granting changes was based on; ranking institutions, graduate student financial support, plus the need for more accurate measures of measuring the benefits of a focus on research verses teaching.**

## **3.CREDIT TRANSFER**

**In January 2011 MTCU announced a credit transfer policy statement** and funding of \$73.7 million to develop a credit transfer system in Ontario including a web portal and a Credit Transfer Innovation process for student access.

## **4.ON LINE INSTITUTE**

Mr. Maxim Jean Loius, chief executive officer of Contact North has been appointed as a special advisor to facilitate the **development of an Ontario On Line Institute**. A report will be submitted in May 2011. **The institute is not perceived as a degree granting body but rather a COU led collaborative structure of participating institutions**. The development of a central bank of on line courses is being developed in conjunction with transfer credit policies.

## **5.TEACHING AND LEARNING**

A teaching and Learning Task Force is currently circulating a **survey to all institutions to gather information on new and innovative approaches to teaching and learning activities**. There will be a resultant guideline produced to assist institutions with improved approaches to student engagement and learning practices plus provide guidance relative to the development of the On Line Institute

## **6.INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

A program for a **proposed 50% increase in foreign student enrolments** and the promotion of internationalization of institutions is in process with no new announcements.

## **7.QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The quality assurance council is in the process of completing the **Institutional Quality Assurance Process IQAP** for all university undergraduate and graduate programs

## **8.PENSION PLANS**

The August 2010 Stage 2 Solvency Relief Plan was amended in Jan 2011 to allow **all university pension funds to be included in the relief plan** if they so wish. This included a time extension for some institutions. Further details are provided in the full COU report on line.

## **9.MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION**

**Concerns over student mental health and addictions on Ontario campuses** is being studied after a Mental Addictions summit conference in Oct. 2010. Legal issues, education and training of staff, support services and external collaboration and funding are the themes for a report from college and university administrators.

## **10.NURSING PROGRAMS**

The issues surrounding collaborative nursing programs and college degree granting is ongoing. Arguments suggest that the current collaboration between universities and colleges is successful and should not be changed.

## **11.MEDICINE PROGRAMS.**

**In order to counter the physician shortage in Ontario** there will be a funding increase of \$20 million for additional undergraduate and post graduate positions plus infrastructure and training programs for specialists.

### **Academic Colleagues of Ontario.**

This is a representation academic group from all Ontario universities with representation through various capacities and working groups in COU. Academic Colleagues generally meet prior to COU Council meetings with the president of COU providing a summary of the recent developments with the ministry.

**Academic colleagues function through discussion, contributions and position papers on a variety of issues including:**

Course Evaluations, Teaching Stream Contractual Positions, Credit Transfer, Teaching and Learning, On Line Institute, Pensions etc.

**Position papers** are available on request through: Tony. Bauer@lakeheadu.ca

**Current position paper :**

**Leslie Sanders, York University. Teaching -Stream Positions: Some Implications.**