

Provost's Report to Senate

April 2017

Strategic Mandate Agreement Update

This Strategic Mandate Agreement between the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development and Lakehead University will outline the role the University currently performs in Ontario's postsecondary education system and how it will build on its current strengths to achieve its vision and help drive system-wide objectives and government priorities.

The period of this upcoming SMA cycle (2017-2020) will be a transitional phase during which the Ministry will work with colleges and universities to develop and refine performance metrics and targets in a collaborative way, to begin the shift towards tying certain metrics/targets to funding. In that spirit, colleges and universities will have the opportunity to revisit and amend both metrics and target levels for those metrics for the 2020-2023 cycle. This will allow for certainty in the sector that metrics and targets are aligned with both institutional and government priorities and with government funding allocation and accountability mechanisms.

We have recently participated in our first set of discussions with the University SMA Facilitator, Bonnie Patterson. The SMA development process will span the coming months, likely taking us into the summer.

Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM)

Since my last report in March, the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis has been conducting follow up meetings with a number of departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, including the Departments of Women's Studies, Sociology, Philosophy, Music, and Languages. The goal of these meetings was to validate 2017-2018 enrolment projections by Program, further developing Lakehead University's approach to multi-year enrolment planning.

Presentations to non-academic units, including one on data related to SEM for External Relations have also been underway.

By June 2017, all Faculties and departments will participate in developing multi-year enrolment forecasts at the program level as Lakehead University implements SEM. This is the first of many future cycles in a comprehensive approach to multi-year enrolment planning that will inform how all units of the University operate. In addition to the discussions we'll be having at the Faculty and department level, implementation of SEM will include ongoing alignment to the Strategic and Academic Plans; review of recruitment, retention and student success initiatives; continued improvements to data/information accessibility, collaboration and transparency; communication, engagement and partnership across the University; and ongoing process improvement with a focus on supporting enrolment goals.

Your participation, input and feedback on implementation of SEM are welcome as Lakehead University continues to implement evidence-based enrolment planning.

Academic Audit

Lakehead University underwent its first institutional level Quality Assurance audit in November 2016. All publicly funded Ontario universities abide by the provincial Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) which includes an institutional audit organized by the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance. Recently, we received the initial draft of the Audit Team report along with a summary of the Principal Findings. An excerpt from the Principal Findings is provided below. Thank you to all the faculty, staff and students who participated in the Audit and who continue to contribute their time, energy and commitment to the quality of education at Lakehead University.

“During the site visit, auditors met with faculty, staff, and students associated with the programs selected for audit, as well as with senior academic administrators. The site visit was extremely well planned and the audit team would like to thank those charged with organizing the meetings for their hospitality and for providing assistance throughout the three-day visit. The auditors sensed right from the start of the site visit that Lakehead University has taken the matter of quality assurance very seriously, with some of the processes associated with the QAF having been given close attention even prior to the establishment of that framework. Auditors left the site visit convinced that

excellence in teaching and learning and ongoing refinement of quality assurance procedures are top priorities for Lakehead University.”

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

The Natural Resources Student Society conducted its 48th Annual Symposium dedicated to Stewardship in Natural Resources Management in January with the following speakers: Faye Johnson from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Mr. Mike Maxfield from Resolute Forest Products and Ms. Cheryl Chetkiewicz from the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The NRM Faculty participated in a four-day Precision Forestry Symposium at Stellenbosch University, South Africa in February. Dr. Mathew Leitch gave a presentation on his research titled: *Inherent Wood Property Mapping at the Individual Tree and Landscape Level for Better Utilization of the Forest Resource*. Dr. Reino Pulkki and Ph.D. student Luana Dessbesell presented a paper titled: *Forest Biomass Supply Chain Optimization to Produce Bioenergy, Biomaterials and Biochemicals: A Systematic Literature Review*.

In March the Lakehead University Centre for the Application of Resources Information Systems (LU-CARIS) geomatics group conducted two separate week-long UAS (drone) utilization workshops to New Gold Inc. (Fort Frances) and Jackfish River Management Ltd. (Hornepayne).

The NRM Faculty also participated in the March two-day Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) Thunder Bay Energy & Forestry Expo. The LU-CARIS geomatics group had a vendor display highlighting UAS (drone) capabilities and opportunities for collaborations. Ph.D. student Stephanie Seymour gave a presentation titled: *Challenges and Opportunities for Biomass Energy in Remote First Nations*. Mr. Kevin Shorthouse (NRM Woodlot Manager) and Ph.D. student, Alex Bilyk presented the current LU-CARIS geomatics group's Precision Forestry project with Resolute Forest Products and the Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy (CRIBE).

On March 28, the NRM Faculty, in conjunction with the Northwestern Ontario Emerald Ash Borer Task Force conducted a full-day professional workshop as well as an evening session for the public at the Bora Laskin Theatre. The 11 presenters for the event titled “Emerald Ash Borer Is Here! Now What?” came from Manitoba, Ontario and Michigan and represented the current level of expertise, research and management.

The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) in collaboration with the NRM Natural Resources Student Society (NRSS) conducted the yearly Ring Ceremony for the NRM Faculty’s HBScF and HBEM graduating students – a tradition with the NRM Faculty since the early 1970’s.

Faculty of Education

The Department of Aboriginal Education in the Faculty of Education has negotiated an agreement with Sandy Lake First Nation to offer their Honours Bachelor of Education (Primary/Junior) program following a community-based model. Although normally a five-year program, this unique model will be delivered over six years with much of the first four years of the program will be offered in Sandy Lake. Additional supports to help the students succeed will also be established. Sandy Lake has a history of valuing education, and we are proud to work with them on this.

Library and Teaching Commons

Teaching Commons

We have received some very valuable feedback from faculty and graduate students regarding the Teaching Commons website, <https://teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca/>. Please send any additional comments and suggestions to teachingcommons@lakeheadu.ca.

The interface for D2L will be changing to the new interface Daylight on April 24. Daylight is mobile device friendly and provides a more consistent and user-friendly interface. Faculty planning on using MyCourseLink next academic year are invited to get a preview of the new D2L/Brightspace interface. Go to <http://teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca/> for a schedule of workshops. This change will impact all MyCourseLink course sites.

Library

Librarians will be contacting faculty over the summer regarding the ongoing weeding of the main stacks in the Chancellor Paterson Library. You can also keep up with lists of materials identified for weeding on the Library Blog (<https://library.lakeheadu.ca/blog/>).

Library research and course guides are now automatically integrated into MyCourseLink sites. In the course site, choose, Other Tools and “Library” to link directly to specific course research guide or a departmental library research guide. If you would like to have a library course guide for your course please contact your liaison librarian (<https://library.lakeheadu.ca/about/liaison-librarians>).

Lakehead University has expressed an interest in joining ORCID-CA. The Open Researcher and Contributor ID (or “ORCID”) standard was established to solve name ambiguity and researcher identification problems by giving individuals a unique numeric identifier that persists over time. Unlike other author identifiers, ORCID is not limited by discipline or by geographic region or to any proprietary publisher or information provider. Major publishers, funders and

research institutions have been adopting this international standard to support improved data exchange between scholarly search platforms and information systems. ORCID-CA is the ORCID Consortium in Canada. It provides Canadian institutions and organizations the opportunity to obtain premium membership to ORCID.

Archives

Scholars Portal and Lakehead University Library are pleased to announce their collaboration on the development of Permafrost, a new preservation service to help protect the unique digital collections held by Ontario's university libraries and archives.

Permafrost is a proposed cloud-hosted digital preservation service for members of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL). It will provide the preservation processing system [Archivematica](#) in conjunction with OCUL's cloud storage network, the [Ontario Library Research Cloud](#).

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services

Undergraduate Recruitment

The June 1 deadline for Ontario high school students to accept an offer is quickly approaching. Various recruitment and conversion efforts are underway to help applicants see the value in what we offer at Lakehead. Support of these efforts by the Faculties is appreciated.

March Break

Nearly 500 students visited Lakehead University's two campuses during their March Break. Visitors from as far away as Newfoundland came to experience the Lakehead difference. Students, parents and others had the chance to sit in on classes, attend a Program Showcase, take part in campus and city tours and meet one-on-one with their future professors. Once again, Lakehead hosted an all-inclusive special tour experience for a group of students from the GTA - 45 students traveled to Thunder Bay and 20 to Orillia to learn more about Lakehead as they prepare to make their final university and program decisions. A big thank you to all the faculty and staff that participated in meeting with students throughout the week!

Spring Visits & Applicant Receptions

The Recruitment team has returned to high schools across Ontario to meet with applicants. Approximately 300 high schools will be visited between March and May.

Applicants along with their family and friends have been invited to attend upcoming Applicant Receptions taking place in various locations throughout Ontario. In addition to our off-campus receptions, we will also be hosting two on-campus receptions on April 19 (Thunder Bay) and April 26 (Orillia).

Student Success Centre

The annual Spring Career Fair, held at the Thunder Bay campus on February 9 was the largest fair yet, hosting 40 employers including several local companies.

A very successful Student Appreciation Day, was held on February 14 with a variety of activities taking place in three locations across the Thunder Bay campus (Paterson Library, the Agora, and the Education Library). Activities included Puppy Love (Therapy Dogs), Valentine's Day Photobooth, a pop-up Movie Theatre, free snacks and hot chocolate, and arts and crafts. Many prizes were generously donated by various departments and students won ballots with a "Spin to Win" game. Students sported Lakehead Loves Me stickers and enjoyed connecting with the Orillia campus through social media posts which were displayed live on the campus TV screens. On February 28, the first Student Appreciation event was held at Faculty of Law.

The inaugural Lakehead Leader Recognition Awards Ceremony was held on Friday April 7 in the Agora (Thunder Bay Campus) and in the Orsi Family Learning Commons (Orillia Campus). The Centre received over 100 nominations for student recipients on both campuses.

Co-Curricular Record Reminder! Please encourage students to update their Co-Curricular Records before the end of the semester. More information is available at <http://mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca/ccr>

Orillia Student Affairs

The Annual Athletics Banquet was held on Saturday, April 1. 2016/2017 was another record year for the campus with the largest number of student athletes participating in the program. Athletes of The Year were Shai Kemp and Kareem Poonah. Each team handed out three awards including Leadership, Most Improved Player, and Most Valuable Player. Congratulations to all of the athletes.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)