

Provost's Report to Senate

March 2017

Strategic Enrolment Management

In March, the Vice-Provost (Institutional Planning and Analysis) and I met with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities to build awareness and understanding of Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) and related enrolment planning for 2017/18 and 2018/19. Consistent with the meetings we have had with other Faculties, including Engineering, Business, Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Education, these meetings resulted in engaging discussion and identified opportunities as we continue to develop SEM at Lakehead University.

The Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis also conducted follow up meetings with the Faculties of Business, Education, Engineering, NRM, and the Department of Psychology, to validate 2017/18 enrolment projections by Program, further developing Lakehead University's approach to multi-year enrolment planning.

Presentations have also been underway with non-academic units, including a presentation on data related to SEM for senior members of Financial Services, Human Resources, Physical Plant, Residence, Risk Management, Security, Technology Services Centre, and the Office of Human Rights and Equity.

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 continues to implement evidence-based enrolment planning.

Research & Innovation Week

Research & Innovation Week provided a great opportunity, in keeping with Lakehead's Strategic Plan, to recognize and showcase the excellence of its' scholarship and the cohesive integration of teaching, learning, and research. Some highlights were:

The Making Connections - This session on water and sustainability included Elder Isabelle Mercier who provided an opening and teachings on water, including women's responsibilities as water carriers.

What Can We Do about Mercury in our Water? – This session included Grassy Narrows First Nation member and activist Judy Da Silva and emphasized the importance of working with

communities. Also featured were panelists Dr. Peter Lee and Dr. Michael Rennie from the Department of Biology, and Dr. Brian Branfireun, Professor and the Canada Research Chair in Environment and Sustainability in the Department of Biology and Centre for Environment and Sustainability at Western University. Dr. Branfireun is also the Director of Western's Biotron Centre for Experimental Climate Change Research.

Do We Need an Indigenous Research Institute at Lakehead University? Panelists Eldon Yellowhorn (Simon Fraser), Michelle Johnson-Jennings and Derek Jennings of the Research for Indigenous Community Health (RICH) at the University of Minnesota at Duluth led a lively discussion. Support for the concept of an Indigenous Research Institute at Lakehead was strong, if not unanimous. A video taping of the session will be available on the Aboriginal Initiative's website.

The **Indigenous Partnership Research Award** was presented to Dr. Mary Louise Kelly, Professor Emeritus, School of Social Work, Mrs. Holly Prince, Project Manager, Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH) and their First Nation partners. Community members from Fort William First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, Nootkemegwanning and Peguis First Nation were attendance. An honourable mention was given to Dr. Peter Lee and his partner, Seine River First Nation.

The Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies (SES) hosted **Dr. James Green**, Director of the Planetary Science Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. His talk entitled *The Search for Life Beyond Earth in Space and Time* resulted in an overflow crowd at the ATAC building. The talk was covered live on Lakehead University's FaceBook™ page and was simultaneously broadcast on NASA's – at last count it had been viewed on NASA's page just over 150,000 times. In addition, earlier in the afternoon Dr. Green gave presentation to a group of ~130 high school students from several Thunder Bay high schools. On behalf of the Faculty, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to NASA and Dr. Green, to our local organizing committee in SES headed by Dr. Hubert de Guise, Department of Physics, and to Dr. Wayne Melville, Faculty of Education, who coordinated the outreach event with our local schools.

The Faculty of Science was also delighted to co-host one of this year's Gairdner Foundation award winners, **Dr. Adrian Owen**. Dr. Owen is the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognition and Neuroimaging at Western University. The Gairdner Foundation event allows the University and its two key partners – the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute – to celebrate high quality, cutting-edge research in the health and medical fields. Dr. Owen presented some of his group's ground-breaking work in a lecture at NOSM entitled "*The search for consciousness: detecting awareness in the vegetative state*" and gave a campus lecture to ~150 high school students from the Thunder Bay area about pathways for a career as a research scientist.

As part of their day on campus, students opted for two 'mini-lectures' delivered by SES faculty – I would like to acknowledge these contributions from the following professors: Dr. Sabah Mohammed, Department of Computer Science, Dr. Amanda Diochon and Dr. Mary Louise Hill, Department of Geology, Dr. Kamil Zaniewski, Department of Geography and the Environment, Dr. Alla Reznik, Department of Physics, Dr. Michael Rennie, Department of Biology, and Dr. Scott Hamilton, Department of Anthropology and for assistance in organizing and

implementing this event from the Office of Research and Innovation and the Office of Admissions and Recruitment.

During the Orillia R&I week, representatives of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies participated in this year's annual event *Environmental Sustainability Time*, featuring undergraduate and graduate research in the Department of Sustainability Sciences. SES faculty members Drs. Law, Kanavillil, Turvey and Kurissery shared their research activities with the university community and public during the Faculty Poster session. SES students were important participants in the Undergraduate Poster session, where Department of Sustainability Sciences honours thesis and fourth year seminar students participated and won prizes.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the excellent presentations made by Lakehead's 2016 NSERC and SSHRC Distinguished Researchers as part of R&I week - Dr. B. Liao, Chemical Engineering, and Dr. A. Serenko, Business Administration, respectively. Both researchers provided unique insight into the connections between their work and its application particularly as we address important environmental and social challenges.

Dean, Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

I am pleased to report that Dr. Todd Randall has been appointed Dean, Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies effective March 1, 2017. I look forward to working with Dr. Randall. I would also like to personally thank Dr. Pete Hollings for undertaking the role of Interim Dean. Pete's dedication to the students, faculty and staff within the Faculty and his participation in initiatives representing the Faculty was exemplary.

Decanal Review

The Decanal Review within the Faculty of Engineering has been initiated. It is anticipated that the process will be completed in June 2017.

Faculty of Law

On February 28, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's Student Appreciation was held. Members from the Student Appreciation Committee spent the day giving out food, hot chocolate, arts & crafts projects, stickers and ballots for prizes to Law students.

Aboriginal Initiatives

The search for a new Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) is underway. The Search Committee will be working with my office to complete the search in a timely manner. The University community will be invited to participate at key stages throughout the search.

The Interim Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) has been appointed to an Aboriginal advisory group to the Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development re changing the provincial funding for Aboriginal initiatives. First meeting was held in January 2017 in Toronto.

The Cultural Protocol (Smudging) is currently under review.

Native Access Program Review

Funding received through the INAC Post-Secondary Partnership Program has allowed us to conduct focus groups with Community representatives and Native Access Program (NAP) students to consider revisions to the program. We anticipate additional opportunities for consultation into the next fiscal year.

Orillia Teepee

The Turtle Island Student Circle has submitted a proposal to install a teepee at the Orillia Campus. The proposal has been approved by the Executive Team Working Group. Work will begin on the acquisition and implementation process.

Teaching Commons

A new website for the Teaching Commons is being developed. The draft is available at <https://teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca/>. Please send comments and suggestions to teachingcommons@lakeheadu.ca. Planning for the renovation of the Teaching Commons on the 5th floor of the Chancellor Paterson Library is underway. If you have any suggestions please contact Karen Keiller, kkeiller@lakeheadu.ca.

Lakehead University now subscribes to YouSeeU through MyCourseLink (D2L or Brightspace). This gives instructors access to two new tools:

- Video Assignments - Enhance assessment by capturing spontaneous, authentic response and help students make real improvements with comprehensive feedback including time-stamped comments and peer review.
- Virtual Classrooms - Engage students by facilitating online classes, hosting online office hours and enabling group discussions.

Powered by YouSeeU, these tools use video collaboration and assessment. The Teaching Commons is offering workshops on these new tools. Please check teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca to register.

Starting in May we will be switching over to the new Brightspace interface called Daylight. The Daylight interface is mobile device friendly and provides a more consistent and user-friendly interface. This change will impact all MyCourseLink (Brightspace or D2L) course sites. There are no functionality or operational changes as part of this upgrade – everything will still be in the same spot and work the same way. It is very much a ‘cosmetic’ change to the fonts, colours, icons and spacing. We will be scheduling Daylight sessions in the coming weeks.

Certificate in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education

Students enrolled in this certificate program have now presented their Course Outlines. The certificate program is predominately online, but the course outlines are presented in person to peers, instructors and guests. Twenty-three graduate students are expected to complete the certificate this year, up from the 16 students who completed last year.

University Libraries

The Copyright Guide (<http://libguides.lakeheadu.ca/copyright>) has been updated to include a link to the Course Resources Request Form. The form can be used to request either course

resources linked and uploaded to a MyCourseLink course or course packages available in the bookstore.

Education Library

The Education Library will be closed for painting from Monday, March 27 to Saturday, April 1, 2017. Some services will still be available, please contact edlib@lakeheadu.ca or 807-

343.8719. Thank-you to the Lakehead Annual Fund for the generous gift that is making this improvement possible.

Chancellor Paterson Library

Weeding of the main stacks in the Chancellor Paterson Library is continuing. Liaison Librarians are identifying books for deselection in their subject areas and are working closely with faculty to review items prior to removal. On March 24, the Library is hosting a lunch meeting of all Departmental Library representatives. Lists of items identified for de-selection and further communications about the project will be posted on the [Library Blog](#) and also communicated directly to library departmental representatives. Librarians will be reviewing some tools for collection development and discussing book (de)selection (weeding). The meeting will also give the Library an opportunity to learn about faculty suggestions and concerns.

Student Affairs

Student Success Centre



A new logo was designed for a promotional launch of the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Throughout March and April, students will be encouraged to update their CCR which highlights the significant contributions they have made to the Lakehead community in areas of leadership, governance, volunteering, teams and on-campus work positions. Information regarding the CCR can be found at: <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/ccr>.



The Lakehead Leader Program will be launched in March with a recognition ceremony occurring in April at both campuses. This program is designed to recognize students who have contributed both on-campus and within their communities in four categories: Leadership & Innovation, Academic Excellence, Diversity & Inclusion, and Community Engagement. There are two award levels within this program – the Lakehead Leader or the Lakehead Luminary. Students must be nominated for either award and a selection committee made up of students, staff, faculty and LUSU will determine the recipients. Information regarding the program can be found at <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/leader>.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)