

Provost's Report to Senate

November 2018

Academic Plan

Over the past few weeks, the Deputy Provost, the Vice-Provost of Institutional Planning & Analysis and I have continued to meet with, academic and non-academic units to gain input into the 2019-2024 Academic Plan.

Based on the continued synthesis of the input we have received over the past six months, and the ongoing work of the Academic Planning Committee, some draft Priorities and Strategies are emerging.

Over the coming weeks, the Academic Planning Committee will continue to refine the Priorities and develop the strategies as we work on a first draft of the next Academic Plan.

The Committee is aiming to share a first draft of the Academic Plan with Senate for review and input in December, with feedback due when we return after the holiday break.

Decanal Searches

The decanal searches in the Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Education and the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law are well underway.

The Appointment Committees are working with my Office to complete the searches in a timely manner. The University community will continue to be involved at key stages throughout the process.

Dean of Engineering

Dr. Hassan Naser has been appointed as the new Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, effective January 1, 2019. At this time I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Tony Gillies for the dedication and leadership he has given to the Faculty over the past year. Dr. Gillies will be retiring after being at Lakehead since 1983 and I know you will join me in wishing him well. I look forward to working with Dr. Naser to continue to support the students, faculty and staff of the Faculty of Engineering.

Aboriginal Initiatives

The Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) and the Indigenous Curriculum Specialist facilitated a number of Building Bridges Consolidation sessions throughout October and November in Thunder Bay. Participants reflected on their learning following the Building Better Understandings intercultural training session and had the opportunity to engage in discussion and determine action in their respective areas. A session was also delivered in Orillia with Elder Monague.

Treaties Recognition Week was held during the first week of November. Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. Lakehead showcased events and learning opportunities in both Orillia and Thunder Bay including an official opening with Elder Nowegejick, Chief Peter Collins and President McPherson, an Opening Prayer and Treaty workshop in Orillia, and a panel discussion with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, Elder Nowegejick, and Associate Professor Nancy Sandy. In addition, three screenings of the *Trick or Treaty* film were shown in Orillia, Thunder Bay and at Bora Laskin Faculty of Law as well as training sessions and events at University libraries in Orillia and Thunder Bay.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services (ACSS)

Outreach/Recruitment

In October, ACSS presented at the Educator's Seminar, hosted by Undergrad Recruitment. The event, attended by 22 guidance counsellors, focused on the theme of "Exploring Lakehead's Support Services".

Student Cultural Services

The ACSS welcomed the Canada Revenue Agency who hosted 23 students for a career/summer job information session.

The following workshops/sessions were also held for students in October and November:

- A series of Indspire Bursary Workshops
- Lakehead University Bursary application sessions with the Native Access Program class
- Mijim Noongom – the next session is scheduled for November 15
- a Métis Student Meet & Greet Pumpkin Carving event
- a Trick or Treat Student Services Hunt – 73 students stopped by
- 3rd Annual Rock Your Mocs event – featured Elder Nowegejick who shared stories and an opening and closing prayer
- in conjunction with Confederation College, Eabametoong First Nation, Matawa Post-Secondary Education, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Oshki Wenjack Education Institute and 7 Generations Education Institute – the Maadaadizi Feast was held
- Beading Circles

Elders Beatrice Twance-Hynes, Gerry Martin and Gene Nowegejick, as part of the Elder-in-Residence Program, continue to meet with students for traditional counselling, traditional teachings, medicine teachings and traditional teas.

Sweat Lodge Ceremonies were also held for students. ACSS collaborates with faculty members from time to time, to allow the safe use of the sweat lodge site for orientation and academic purposes.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP)

Throughout October and November, AMP has been working to recruit university student volunteers, build new AMP youth curriculum for the 2018-2019 academic year, as well as organize school visits with regional schools and their school boards. To date, we have 15 new

AMP volunteers. They will be attending an AMP Cultural Training Workshop on Saturday November 24 which will include discussions with an Elder and the Kairos Blanket Exercise as well as cultural competency training.

The AMP program has moved into the new CASES building, with other community outreach organizations, in the Economic Development and Innovation offices.

The Aboriginal Mentorship Program was successful in obtaining a First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES) grant from the Federal government for 2018-2019 and will be hiring seven First Nation/Inuit university students to help coordinate weekly visits into our local high schools. AMP will also be employing an additional eight AMP high school youth over the 2019 March Break to spend five days job shadowing university faculty/lab tech/staff members in their area of educational interest.

In November, AMP will begin weekly visits into Westgate CVI's library every Wednesday afternoon, to meet with AMP youth for activities and post-secondary discussions. AMP visits will be initiated in all other local high schools over the coming weeks.

Aboriginal Student Counsellor

The Counsellor continues to work with the AMP program to refer Mentors and match with students. The Mentors are able to include this volunteer experience into their Co-Curricular Record.

A "Mindful Eating Week" as well as Bell's "Let's Talk" will be hosted during the last week of January by a number of departments including ACSS and Student Health and Wellness

Orillia Campus

In October and November, the following events/workshops were held:

- Tipi Tuesday at Simcoe Hall
- a Language Workshop with Scott Debassige and Luanna Harper
- Movie Night
- Paint Night Workshop with Lauri Hoeg
- A Pop Up Indigenous Resource Centre at Heritage Place with Masters of Education Graduate Assistants Cassy Cooper and Jessica Parks which featured Indigenous curriculum tools/resources for educators in partnership with the Library
- Storytelling and a Wampum Belt teaching hosted by Dr. Linda Rosenberg with traditional knowledge keeper Brian Charles

Indigenous Outreach and Recruitment

Work continues on the coordination of the Canada Mexico Roundtable on Indigenous Higher Education conference for Canadian Delegates. The IOR collaborated with Lakehead International, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Chair of Indigenous Learning to launch a successful application which saw five Indigenous female students selected to participate in a short exchange at the "*Universidad Intercultural del Estado de Puebla*" in November, representing Lakehead University, in the Mexican Government Grant Program for Canadian Indigenous Students 2018.

Aboriginal Artworks Group of Northern Ontario Christmas Fine Arts and Crafts Sale will take place on campus in the Fieldhouse December 19 - 21. The sale is expected to host almost 200 Indigenous artisans over the three days.

Library/Teaching Commons

The online teaching resources collection continues to grow with over 50 posts added recently. These are available at teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca.

Riipen + LinkedIn/Lynda.com Pilot: Experiential Learning with Curriculum Support

Riipen is a platform that powers project-based experiential learning. Through the use of its marketplace and project management tools, students work on projects provided directly by industry partners. Students receive academic assessment in parallel with real industry feedback as they apply their learned skills to a real-life challenge. Educators across Ontario have access to Riipen's in-class project library for the Winter 2019 term. In partnership with LinkedIn Learning/Lynda.com, video micro-courses are integrated into experiential learning assignments giving students background knowledge and skills to help complete projects. Questions, contact Kevin Brooks, Experiential Learning Coordinator kbrooks2@lakeheadu.ca.

PeerScholar: Peer Assessment Tool – Pilot

PeerScholar is an online peer- and self-assessment tool available through mycourselink (D2L/Brightspace) that allows students to provide anonymous peer feedback on each other's assignments.

Access to PeerScholar is available to institutions free of charge as part of a large-scale research study. Participation in the study is not a requirement to use PeerScholar. To learn more about the study, visit <http://www.altlab.ca>, click on the Participate in Research link on the navigator bar, then select Higher Ed Research.

Collaborative Futures

The go-live date for the new library system and catalogue is December 2019. The local implementation team is being led by Moira Davidson and Louise Wuorinen. The system is being implemented as part of a collaborative project with thirteen Ontario University libraries. Over the past few weeks, all Collaborative Futures schools have experienced a marked increase in activities as the chosen vendor, Ex Libris, has assigned, and we've delivered, on initial tasks associated with the Onboarding Phase of the project. The first two deliverables, the institution information form, and FTP server configuration details, were received on time from all sites. Here are some examples of Ex Libris library sites at [University of Manitoba Libraries](#), [Washington State University](#), and [Alexandria Library Network](#).

Research Tools for Graduate Students

In collaboration with the Graduate Students Association, the Library facilitated "Research Tools for Graduate Students" twice on the Thunder Bay campus and once in Orillia.

In Thunder Bay, a two-hour workshop was held twice, on October 17 and October 19. Over 50 students from a variety of programs participated in both of the Thunder Bay workshops and six students in Orillia. A guide, [Research Tools for Graduate Students](#) is available.

Education Library, Thunder Bay

The Education Library's newest collection is the "Indigenous Children's Literature Collection". Over the past few months, Gisella Scalse and Liz Arthurs have worked on identifying and labelling children's picture books/stories with Indigenous content, and/or written by Indigenous authors from the current Children's Picture Book Collection for relocation to this new collection. All books in the collection will be identified with a yellow dot. Books in the collection written by Indigenous authors are further labelled with a medicine wheel label. Many of the titles available in this collection are also available in the Heritage Place Library's Juvenile Fiction Collection on the Orillia Campus. Also available is the [Aboriginal Education K-12](#) library guide for links to additional teaching resources.

Archives

The Web Archives Collection includes [Municipal Elections 2018](#). Data was collected from municipalities, candidate websites, and news organizations across Northwestern Ontario in the period leading up to and immediately after the October 22 municipal elections. This data will be preserved even when original campaign sites are taken down.

Northern Studies Resource Centre

The Centre has installed new displays to help identify and highlight the wealth of published works written by Indigenous authors, in both English and French. Students and faculty will therefore find it easier to select works written from the Indigenous perspective.

Law Library, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The law library has undergone several changes recently, including a major shift of books, barcoding a large part of the reference section that was previously left unlabeled (and therefore, digitally invisible), some furniture additions, and the creation of an art corner for students.

Student Affairs

Recruitment

On November 3, Lakehead University in Orillia opened the doors to future students and their families at the Preview Day Open House. Attendance at the event, nearly doubling last year's attendance, was a total of 425 guests: 176 future students and 249 guests. A sincere thank you is extended to all of the faculty, staff and students that joined us in showcasing Lakehead to our future students and their influencers.

On December 4, the Preview Day Open House will take place in Thunder Bay. This event attracts local Grade 12 students that are bused in for the day, as well as future students and families from across the province. Invitations have gone out to all Departments/Schools to attend. If anyone is interested in following up with prospects expressing an interest in a particular program, please contact Undergraduate Recruitment at recruit@lakeheadu.ca

Financial Literacy Month

November is Financial Literacy month. A series of events were offered to students including Budgeting Workshops and an OSAP Facebook Live event to help students better understand how to manage their money now and into the future.

Financial Literacy Fairs will be held:

- **November 20** – Learning Commons Orillia, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- **November 21** – Agora Thunder Bay, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Local financial experts will be available to offer students financial advice and information.

Exam Time

Finals are approaching and student anxiety levels are increasing. As a result, "**Don't stress the test ... tips, strategies and skills for exam success**" workshops will be offered on the Thunder Bay campus. Sessions will be hands-on and activity based to provide both academic and psychological preparation for students who may be anxious about test taking. Faculty are encouraged to share the following dates with their students:

- November 19, 3:30 - 4:30 pm
- November 28, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
- December 4, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
- December 5, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

All sessions will take place in the Library (5th floor) Room 5002. Students should also be reminded that the Student Health & Wellness continues to offer drop-in counselling throughout the week on both the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses.

Respectively submitted,

David Barnett
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)