

Provost's Report to Senate

October 2017

Strategic Mandate Agreement 2

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) announced in December 2016 that it would begin negotiations with institutions on the second round of Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA). It also announced that Bonnie Patterson, former President of COU and Trent University, would serve as Special Advisor for the Ministry on the university SMA negotiations.

Significant parts of the negotiations for this second round of SMAs (SMA2) would be informed by the ministry's new funding model, particularly around enrolment management and differentiation priorities and metrics. Building on system-wide metrics initiated in SMA 1, SMA2s would include a wide range of system-wide metrics defined by the Ministry in five areas of focus:

- Student experience;
- Teaching and learning excellence;
- Access and equity;
- Research excellence and impact; and
- Innovation, economic development and community engagement.

Universities would also have the option of identifying additional institution level metrics in these five areas as appropriate.

The period of this 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 quality outcomes and related performance based funding. In that spirit, colleges and universities will have the opportunity to inform provincial metrics and amend their respective targets in the development of SMA3 (2020-2023). This will help ensure metrics and targets are aligned with both institutional and government priorities and with government funding allocation and accountability mechanisms.

Following a consultation period and incorporating feedback from our Lakehead Community, a draft of Lakehead's SMA2 was submitted to MAESD in the spring. Continued development of provincial system-wide metrics and negotiation around the enrolment and funding formula parameters occurred throughout the summer and early fall. Pending notice from MAESD, we anticipate communicating shortly regarding the final draft of SMA2.

Strategic Enrolment Management

Throughout the 2016-2017 Academic Year, the Vice-Provost (Institutional Planning and Analysis) and I met with almost all of the Faculties to engage in discussion and to identify opportunities as we develop Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) at Lakehead University.

The Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis conducted follow-up meetings with the majority of departments to validate enrolment projections by Program. In addition, meetings were held with non-academic departments to share information relating to enrolment, retention, and student satisfaction, further developing Lakehead's comprehensive approach to multi-year enrolment planning.

This work, and the input provided by departments in these discussions, proved to be instrumental in developing multi-year enrolment projections to inform Lakehead's SMA2.

This autumn, the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis, the Acting Vice Provost of Student Affairs and the Director of Student Affairs, will be hosting meetings with Department Chairs and School Directors to discuss: projected enrolment for the department for 2018-2019; opportunities, challenges and best practices related to the enrolment projections, recruitment, retention and graduation of students; and to continue the dialogue initiated last year on SEM.

In addition to the discussions we will 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 the implementation of SEM are welcome as Lakehead University continues to implement evidence-based enrolment planning.

Aboriginal Initiatives

Ms. Denise Baxter has been appointed as the new Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) effective October 30, 2017. Denise comes from the local public school board system where she was the Principal of Adult and Continuing Education. She also has experience with the Ministry of Education and First Nations private schools. She is a Marten Falls First Nation member and maintains that preserving and practicing cultural traditions and ceremony keeps her connected to the community, Aboriginal cultures, traditions, and protocol. At this time, I would sincerely like to thank Dr. Peggy Smith for her passion and leadership in the role of Interim Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives). Peggy will now begin her retirement after dedicating over 17 years at Lakehead in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management and in the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services and Aboriginal Student Recruitment

Janice Battiston has accepted the position of Aboriginal Student Counsellor, effective October 10, 2017 to April 30, 2018.

Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Development (MAESD) Consultations on Funding for Post-Secondary Indigenous Programming

The Council of Ontario Universities Aboriginal Reference Group met at the University of Western Ontario on May 2, 2017. Mr. Glenn Craney, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of MAESD attended the meeting to bring the group up to date on the review of the Student Success Fund for Post-Secondary Education for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) and the Phase II

Implementation Plan Development Committee that have been delayed because of staff changes at the Indigenous Education Branch of the Ministry. The ADM reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to consulting on these processes and said that funding would be renewed annually until the review was complete (notes available). The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives has been invited to participate in a review of PEFAL.

Council of Ontario Universities Aboriginal Reference Group

The COU Aboriginal Reference Group is updating the *Deepening Our Relationships* report on Indigenization activities at Ontario's Universities (<http://cou.on.ca/papers/deepening-our-relationship/>). This is considered a living document and the next version is anticipated to be released on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2017.

Cultural Protocol (Smudging) Policy Review

The Cultural Protocol Policy has been redrafted under the title "Indigenous and Aboriginal Cultural Ceremonies Policy". The Elders Council and the Executive Team Working Group have reviewed and approved it. The Policy will be presented for approval by the Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council at their meeting in October 2017.

Medicine Garden

The Medicine Garden at the Sweat Lodge site was completed in June 24-26, 2017. Elder Man-ee Chacaby did a groundbreaking ceremony. Native Access Program student Keith Fenton, a stone mason, and a crew of dedicated helpers, volunteered to make the garden. Many people from both the university and external community also lent a hand. Elder Gene Nowegejick dedicated The Medicine Garden and acknowledged the volunteers at the Annual Fall Harvest on September 23, 2017. Chief Peter Collins of Fort William First Nation (FWFN), who donated and delivered shale from FWFN and Keith Fenton, Roman Jakubowski, Don Lefebvre, Patrick Sabourin, and Robin Sutherland, the crew who designed, laid out and built the medicine wheel, all received eagle feathers for their contributions.

Traditional Lands Acknowledgement

The Elders, at the request of the President, have reviewed and recommended that the University's acknowledgement to the traditional lands be:

Thunder Bay Campus

We would like to acknowledge the original custodians of this land and pay our respect to the Elders – past, present, and future... for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture, and the hopes of Indigenous peoples.

We would also like to recognize that we are on the traditional land of the Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior treaty territory of 1850. We also acknowledge our relationships with other Indigenous and Métis peoples who have a history in this territory.

Community Engagement

Oshki Pimache-O-Win

Lakehead University and Oshki Pimache-O-Win continue to meet and discuss strengthening their relationship. Oshki is an "Aboriginal Institute" that is part of the Aboriginal Institutes

Consortium (including Seven Generations with whom we also work closely) in Ontario. The Consortium is supported by the Chiefs of Ontario with a mission to “ensure the existence of free standing, fully funded, recognized and accredited post-secondary institutions in Ontario” and “to facilitate an Ontario-wide process toward federal/provincial recognition of Aboriginal controlled post-secondary institutions”. In the 2017 spring budget, Ontario allocated \$56 million over three years to the Aboriginal Institutes (<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/aboriginal-institutes-consortium-applaud-new-funding-for-indigenous-postsecondary-education-620937623.html>). Representatives from Oshiki have been invited to Lakehead to view our telepresence technology.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Lakehead is in the process of renewing the 2011-2015 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed with the Métis Nation of Ontario for the period. Working with MNO representatives Brian Tucker, Tim Pile and Melody Chislett-Morris, meetings to discuss the drafting of the new MOU have begun.

Indigenous Languages Symposium

Sponsored by the Ontario Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and Skills Development, Lakehead University hosted the Indigenous Languages Symposium May 30-June 1, 2017. Approximately 350 delegates from across Ontario attended the event. Aboriginal Initiatives was instrumental in arranging cultural events for the symposium, including use of the Sweat Lodge site, sacred fire keepers, counseling and Elders (http://www.chroniclejournal.com/gallery/language-strategies/image_18d71e42-461c-11e7-8d01-576ff959a0f1.html).

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

The regular field-based research sessions were held throughout the region in the fall. One group of 4th year students (Hons BEM and Hons BScF) toured New Brunswick for two weeks with exposure to many examples of best practice approaches to sustainable land use management (including alternative means of energy (heat and electricity) production. The second 4th year group went to Ghana, West Africa where they were exposed to many challenges and opportunities with sound land use management – including topics like elephant and hippo population management, over-exploitation of tropical timbers, small-scale and industrial lumber procurement and saw-milling, mining, agricultural expansion, etc.

Regional trips for 3rd year students focused on wildlife and forest management challenges and opportunities.

At the end of September, a group of twenty 4th year students participated in a professional forestry full-day workshop focused on Remote Sensing Applications – the event was held at the Cloquet Forestry Centre in Minnesota (MN) and was led by the Department of Natural

Resources, MN. The NRM UAV (drone) group was responsible for a technical session on advanced UAV applications. In addition, The NRM UAV group has also been engaged with professional training to new clients, including gold mining organizations.

NRM Faculty members have been busy with maintaining the international connections in China (Drs. Dang and Chen), South Africa (Dr. Pulkki), Ecuador (Drs. McLaren and Leitch), Mexico (Drs. McLaren and Shahi), Ghana (VanDamme) and India (Dr. Shahi).

The LU-CARIS (NRM UAV group) hosted the Swedish School of Forestry (SLU) for a regional exposure to precision remote sensing inventory of woodlots.

This semester the NRM Faculty is hosting the Chair of Finnish Studies, Dr. Lauri Sikanen. Dr. Sikanen is Group Manager, Bioeconomy Business at the Natural Resources Institute, Finland. Dr. Sikanen will help the NRM Faculty strengthen its connection with Finnish counterparts.

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

History student, Peter Walsh, has been awarded a Highly Commended Entrant in the Undergraduate Award 2017 Programme. Each year, the Undergraduate Awards accept papers from undergraduates from all over the world. Mr. Walsh has received an invitation to attend the Global Summit in Dublin.

Teaching Commons

During renovations to create the Teaching Commons on the 5th floor of the Chancellor Paterson Library, the temporary new home of the Teaching Commons is UC 1007 (across from Security). Our website is still located at teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca, which includes a full schedule of our workshops.

In response to questions about Communities of Practice (CoP), there has been interest in an Experiential Learning CoP and Active and Collaborative Learning CoP. If you are interested in starting or joining a CoP please contact Karen Keiller, Vice-Provost (Teaching & Learning) and University Librarian at kkeiller@lakeheadu.ca.

Grammarly - libguides.lakeheadu.ca/grammarly

Over 300 faculty, staff and students have created Grammarly Pro accounts as part of the Grammarly Pro pilot. The Writing Committee will be requesting feedback in the winter term to help evaluate the pilot. Grammarly can be used by students, staff and faculty to improve spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and style in your writing. Students can also use Grammarly to check for plagiarism before handing in work. If faculty are interested in participating in the evaluation of the pilot, please contact teachingcommons@lakeheadu.ca.

Academic Writing and Research E-Learning (AWARE)

There are 365 students registered for AWARE. Over 50 students have completed all six-course awards in the first module, on Academic Integrity. AWARE is intended to help students learn about academic skills, strategies, and regulations/policies and includes text-based resources, videos, and links to additional support materials. AWARE is available from the Self-Register link in myCourselink (D2L/Brightspace). Contact teachingcommons@lakeheadu.ca if you would like to integrate AWARE into your courses.

Library

Lakehead University Library Supports CFLA Truth & Reconciliation Initiative

On August 29, 2017, Lakehead University Librarians' Council unanimously passed a motion to support the report and recommendations produced by the Truth & Reconciliation Committee (TRC) of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA). The Committee's mandate

was to promote initiatives in all types of libraries to help advance reconciliation by supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.

The work of the CFLA was organized into four groups by adapting the medicine wheel framework under the guidance of an elder. The work included the following components:

- White Team – TRC Calls to Action, Gap Analysis
- Red Team – Decolonize libraries by recognizing and supporting Indigenous cultures, languages & knowledge. Recommendations regarding culturally appropriate space planning, programming, and classification of collections.
- Yellow Team – Creation of a contacts database of Indigenous groups
- Black Team – Environmental scan of best practices & formation of online resource links

The final report of the CFLA Truth and Reconciliation Committee (<http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Truth-and-Reconciliation-Committee-Report-and-Recommendations.pdf>) includes ten overarching recommendations.

By passing this motion of support, the Lakehead University Library has demonstrated a commitment to putting the commission's findings into practice. The Library will strive to consider the informational needs of all Indigenous students and will attempt to ensure that the collections, services, policies, practices, and space will help advance reconciliation.

Course Resources

Processing of requests for course resources and course packages made through the [Course Resources Request Form](#) are well underway with 124 courses having items listed in D2L/Brightspace. Once material is submitted either for Course Reserves or a Course Package, library staff ensures that if copyright clearance is required, it is obtained.

Also a reminder that [Copyright Information & Resources](#) found on the Library's web site, includes a guide to fair dealing.

Questions about course resources or copyright can be directed to Karen Keiller, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and University Librarian or Debra Gold, Acting Law Librarian.

Open Access Week (October 23-29, 2017)

On October 24, 2017, Moira Davidson presented an introduction to open access journals from the perspective of prospective authors. Topics covered included: how to find open access journals, how to assess the best fit to your research, how to identify questionable publishers and how to use traditional metrics and altmetrics to evaluate responses to your research. Please contact Moira Davidson for more information at moira.davidson@lakeheadu.ca and visit [Open Access and Scholarly Communications](#).

Open Textbook Library [eCampus Ontario \(openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/\)](http://openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/)

"eCampusOntario and BCcampus have partnered to build an Open Textbook Library website that allows students and faculty to browse, view, and download free open textbooks for use in their courses. The eCampusOntario Open Textbook Library provides digital access for all Ontarians to over 180 open textbooks created by a variety of contributors. Open textbooks are important to the post-secondary culture in Ontario because they have the potential to:

- Make education more affordable and accessible for students
- Improve learning experiences by allowing faculty to customize resources
- Create possibilities for sharing, creating, and collaborating to expand knowledge”

If faculty would like assistance in identifying open educational resources please contact their liaison librarian or Karen Keiller at kkeiller@lakeheadu.ca.

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services – Undergraduate Recruitment

Annual Preview Day Open House Coming Soon! - Lakehead University will open its doors for its annual Preview Day Open Houses on November 4 (Orillia) and December 5 (Thunder Bay). This open house style event provides prospective students and their families to tour our exceptional campuses, meet with their future professors and students, and hear more about how Lakehead fits with their interests and future goals.

To assist academic departments with getting ready to meet and recruit our future students, Undergraduate Recruitment is offering an information session on "Making the Most of Preview Day" on **Thursday November 16 at 1:00pm** in AT 5035 and OA 2005. This session is open to any faculty and staff involved in Preview Day activities. One was also hosted on October 26.

Ombudsperson

Robert Thompson has accepted the position of Ombudsperson for the period November 2017 to April 2018. He originates from southern Ontario, attended McMaster University, and completed a Master's in Conflict Resolution at the University of Bradford in the UK. After completing a civil mediation program and mediating Small Claims Court cases, Rob joined the British Columbia Civil Mediation Roster. Most recently, he worked in Geneva as the Ombudsperson Support Officer at the International Organization for Migration, the UN migration agency. More information about Rob's availability to assist students, staff and faculty can be found here (<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/ombuds-office>).

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)