

Provost Report to Senate

September 16, 2013

Provost's Task Force

The 2012 Academic Plan identified the importance of reviewing the governance structures and the relationships between the academic programs at the two Lakehead campuses. In January 2013, I appointed a Provost's Task Force (PTF) to recommend a model of academic structure and governance that effectively connects the academic units on both campuses, clarifies reporting lines, and promotes effective management. In addition, the PTF was charged with forming recommendations regarding future undergraduate and graduate program development, transfer pathways between programs on the two campuses, and the development of new articulations and pathways between colleges and the University's degree programs.

I have received the final report presenting the work and recommendations arising from the work of the Task Force and the Deans will be working with their faculties over the fall term to move forward on a number of recommendations.

Library

After 37 years of service to Lakehead University, Ms. Anne Deighton, Lakehead's University Librarian has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2014. Anne was appointed University Librarian in January 2000. Since joining Lakehead University in July 1976, she has also served as Interim Chief Librarian, Head of Collections Development and Acquisitions Librarian. We wish Anne well. A search for a new Librarian will begin shortly.

Aboriginal Initiatives (AI)

Community Relations

Revitalization of the Metis MOU is underway with renewed support from Gary Lipinski, President of the Metis Nation of Ontario.

A meeting with Mayor Keith Hobbs re: Thunder Bay Aboriginal Strategy is being coordinated and AI will strike a partnership with Thunder Bay on 'actioning' this strategy with youth as participants.

A meeting has been set with John Mason, Project Manager with the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, to form a partnership on future support and dialogue in upcoming and ongoing education and research needs within the Mining Readiness Strategy.

Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) has agreed to work with LU on a student outreach & recruitment plan and to develop an on-campus recreation project and pool use schedule.

Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services

The Aboriginal Mentorship Program has been funded and launched – Aboriginal Initiatives will be full partners in this initiative – recruitment and outreach will take the lead.

Aboriginal Initiatives has formed a partnership with Dennis Franklin Cromarty, the Multicultural Youth Centre, and the Canadian Roots Exchange. Lakehead students will be invited to participate in a Thunder Bay wide “Anti-Stigma” Mental Health PSA Project for youth by youth – which will be launched in February 2014. All Aboriginal support services will engage with this project.

Administration

Aboriginal Initiatives is currently revamping their office and completing detailed work plans and team calendars for the coming academic year. AI will now be offering graduate recruitment, inspiration and stronger internal/external partnership development and workforce transitions support across Thunder Bay.

Academic

The Vice Provost (VPAI) is exploring the development of several summer and winter institutes and adult learning opportunities. She is reviewing SSHRC and other funding opportunities and will work closely with several potential partners and supports inside and outside of Lakehead. The VPAI is also assisting in the writing and publication of articles to promote Lakehead as a destination for Indigenous Education. The goal is to increase Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students.

Faculty of Business Administration

Faculty of Business is in the process of developing a pre-MBA program. This program will help international students and domestic students to prepare for full-time enrollment in the MBA program.

The Dean has met with Canadian Arms Forces and OPP to examine the possibility of delivering a leadership program for them.

Faculty of Education

The Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities has recently announced details around its plans to move from a one year (two term) to a two-year (four term) program in teacher education. The Faculty of Education is currently conducting a series of working group meetings and internal consultations on possible models for the delivery of the new program. In addition to curriculum development changes, the practicum teaching requirements will double from 40 to 80 days. Concurrent education students will be grandfathered through their program. To accommodate this change; the number of Professional Year admissions will be halved in 2015-16. In 2016-17 the ceiling will again be 857.

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These reductions in teacher education have affected our enrolment with a decline of more than 450 students in our BEd and concurrent education programs. In addition, the funding formula will change in 2015-16 with a BIU weight reduction from 2.0 to 1.5, which amounts to an on-going grant reduction of one third for the teacher education program.

The Department of Professional Development in Education’s Teaching English as a Second Language program has been officially recognized by TESL Canada. The Chair, Dr. Don Kerr, and staff of Department worked closely with Lakehead International to make this a reality.

Contract lecturer and MEd student Robert Animikii Horton was awarded the "Graduate of the Last Decade Award" from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota in April. These awards are presented

annually to undergraduate alumni of the last decade who have shown outstanding achievement in their careers or in service to the community or in service to the university. Robert was given this award in recognition for First Nation's activism and leadership.

Dr. Seth Agbo recently received the Best Paper Award at the Clute Institute International Academic Conference held in June 2013 in Paris, France. His paper, "Paradox of ICTs and Indigenous Cultures: Integrating Technology and Tradition in Fly-in Canadian Aboriginal Schools", was granted the conference's *Best Paper in Session Award* as determined through a peer-review process.

Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences

Dr. Lily Wu (Department of Health Sciences) has received a three-year (2013-2016) \$415,038 grant from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada to support her work in the area of "Regulation of aldolase B expression and scavenging methylglyoxal in vascular smooth muscle cells".

Faculty of Law

On September 4, 2013, the Faculty of Law was officially opened and welcomed 60 students to its inaugural class. Many dignitaries and community partners, including Ontario's Premier Kathleen Wynne, were on hand to celebrate.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

A component of the 3rd year class (HBEM and HBScF) spent four weeks in India as part of their field school component. They were exposed to a multitude of resources management events ranging from community engagement, industrial capacity, government and university applied research.

Currently, 16 undergraduate NRM students are conducting a 2-week field school excursion in Finland with a focus on precision forestry and fibre optimization.

The staff and faculty of NRM have been active with strengthening their international relationships for research and student engagements. This has included site visits to China, India, Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa, Finland, Ecuador, Czech Republic and Croatia.

The Faculty hosted a full-day town hall technology demonstration meeting in Huntsville with participation from the Algonquin Forest Authority, eNGOs, MNR, forestry management consultants, Simcoe Country woodlot owners and associations, Halliburton forestry staff, City of Barrie urban forestry staff and Georgian College – the session was housed at the Huntsville City Hall and focused on various geomatics management tools.

Amity University (India) computer science interns were hosted by the Faculty for 6 weeks – the participants were involved with building portable (android and iPad) software applications for more effective field-based data gathering as well as training in airborne remote sensing.

The Faculty has also hosted of a small number of Brazilian SWB students (wood science, food security and ecology).

Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies

In June the Faculty partnered with the Thunder Bay Center of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to host their annual general meeting. It was the 25th anniversary of the Thunder Bay Chapter. There were a number of public talks given including keynote address from world-renowned expert on Exoplanets, Dr. Sara Seager from M.I.T. Dr. Raymond Carlberg from U.of T. also attended and gave a lecture on Canada's role in the development of the 30 meter telescope.

In June-August, the Faculty and Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRI) held their third annual Summer School on Medical Imaging. The summer student research program, offers a unique research experience that highlights graduate studies in Medical Imaging as a prospective career path for undergraduate students. This year the school had over 50 students take part. Special congratulations to Dr. Alla Reznik (CRC: Physics of Molecular Imaging) and Dr. Mitchel Albert (Lakehead University-TBRI chair in Chemistry) for all their work in organizing this event.

In partnership with Parks Canada, the Faculty introduced a new third year field course for students in Water Resource Science and Environmental Science/Studies programs. This two-week course (one week in the field at Pukaskwa National Park and one week in labs at Lakehead). Students gained hands on experience with techniques commonly used in environmental field studies, which ranged from surface and ground water sampling to terrain analysis to identifying invasive plant and animal species and classifying soils. The course was led by Geology Professor Dr. Amanda Diochon with guest lectures from faculty from Geography and Biology. Stayed tuned to the Faculty website for a short documentary on this new field school will soon be posted on the Faculty website.

In August the Faculty sponsored the 16th Canadian Semiconductor Science and Technology Conference (CSSTC 2013) - the major forum for Canadian researchers specializing in semiconductor science and technology, jointly hosted by Lakehead University and TBRI. The conference attracted more than 100 professors, graduate students, researchers and industry representatives. The program included five plenary lectures given by renowned Canadian researchers: Prof. Raman Kashyap, Tier 1 CRC in Future Photonics Systems; Prof. Safa Kasap, Tier 1 CRC in Electronic and Optoelectronic Materials and Devices; Prof. Tapash Chakraborty, Tier 1 CRC in Nanoscale Physics; Prof. Peter Masher, William Sinclair Chair in Optoelectronics; Dr. Marie D'lorio, Executive Director of the National Institute for Nanotechnology; as well as 30 invited papers, 16 oral papers, and 25 posters, contributed by scientists and graduate students from all across Canada. The program also included six tutorials for students and young investigators on fundamentals of semiconductors, their electronic, photonic, and medical imaging applications, as well as professional skills development which were offered for all interested students from the Faculty free of registration fee.

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

Associate Professor Dr. Daniel Hannah's will be launching his new book, *Henry James, Impressionism, and the Public*, published by Ashgate. Dr. Hannah's book examines the complicated relationship between James's impressionism and his handling of the public. The book will be launched in September.

Lakehead International

International student numbers will be available later this month, initial indications so far show positive growth in both international undergraduate and graduate student numbers. The diplomatic officers strike did delay some of our students. A big thank-you to everyone who provided flexibility for any of the students who were delayed. Only a handful of students are still waiting for their visas to be processed and most will arrive before the end of the month.

The English Language Program currently has 140 students registered (up from just over 90 students this time last year).

The International Student Orientation was held two weeks ago with over 125 new international students attending. The Orientation prepares students for university and for living in Canada including information sessions and social activities. A similar international orientation will be held on both campuses in January and next September as we welcome more students from around the world.

Lakehead University International has just opened an advisory office in New Delhi, India. This office will provide support to students applying to Lakehead, will develop and coordinate our recruitment efforts and work with faculties to develop university partnerships with Indian Universities.

Orillia Campus

Program Development

In addition to fine-tuning the new programs in Criminology and Media Studies, work will begin on the development of an interdisciplinary Canadian Studies program.

Research

SSHRC Insight grants were awarded to:

- Curtis Fogel, Sexual Violence in Amateur Canadian Sport
- Valerie Hébert, Post-Atrocity Justice in Colonial French Congo: The Gaud-Toqué Affair, 1903-1905
- Cheryl Lousley, Planet and Narration: Narrative Testimonies and World-Making at the Brundtland Commission Public Hearings

School of Social Work

For the first time since the program began, we have hired two graduates of our One Year program as sessional instructors; one graduated in our charter class of 2007/08 and the second graduated in 2008/09. Both went on to earn MSWs and have been employed in the field since leaving the program.

The School of Social Work is engaged in an accreditation review process by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) for our undergraduate social work programs. The School submitted a self-study report to the CASWE in the spring 2013. The CASWE reviewers will make site visits to the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses as part of the review process in the Winter Term (2014).

Faculty of Business

275 new students registered for *Orientation 2013 - Experience Lakehead* which surpasses last year's total number of participation. Dr. Stevenson joined the Orillia Orientation this year and began

some new traditions on campus including "President's Welcome BBQ" for residence students and their supporters on move in day, and the "Kick Off Breakfast" with all new students on the first day.

Student Affairs

An "Academic A-Team" event recognizing student learners with a term average of 80% or better in the 2012-2013 year is being organized.

As of May 2013 the following Orillia Student Affairs (OSA) services have been relocated to the first floor of residence: (Aboriginal support, admissions, advising, athletics, career support, financial aid and registrarial services). A Welcome Centre for prospective students and guests was also created in the Bookstore this summer.

The Student Affairs office has begun outreach to students on probation and with cumulative averages between 50-59% - working with members of the Admissions, Success and Retention committee in developing a university-wide Early Alert program and a program to support college transfer students in their transitions to university.

The EXCEL Leadership program will be introducing a 3 day Leadership Retreat in October and OSA has committed to sending two students to the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in March, 2014.

Through the work of the Health and Wellness Assistant, OSA has hosted Safe Talk training for faculty and staff. To date, 25 faculty and staff have been trained and the Wellness Centre is planning to offer this training to the general student body in the fall for the first time.

Student Affairs staff continue to work closely with our Georgian College colleagues in developing collaborative partnerships in the following areas: university-college post grad programs, athletics and career support.

Community Engagement

The new Aboriginal Liaison Officer spent the summer outreaching to the local native community and increasing awareness.

The Annual Volunteer Fair for students will take place this fall and will continue to work with a variety of community organizations to link students with opportunities in the community.

Administration

New Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are being developed between Lakehead University and the YMCA (SM), the Department of National Defense, and Ontario Provincial. These agreements will be finalized before the end of September with new program activities emerging shortly thereafter.

Student Affairs

Student Affairs has said farewell to a number of senior staff over the summer including: Brenda Winter, Phyllis Bosnick, and Heather Doyle. We wish these dedicated employees well.

We welcome Michael Kelly to the role of Manager of Student Awards and Financial Aid. Robert Perrier has taken on the role of Acting Director of Admissions & Recruitment until December 2013. We also welcome back Joy Himmelman as Acting Director for the Student Success Centre. A search for a permanent Director for the Centre is underway. Andrea Huillery has taken on the role of

University Registrar as of July 1 and in January; she will assume the role of Associate Vice-Provost (Enrolment) and Registrar.

Admissions & Recruitment

The Fall 2013 admissions cycle is drawing to a close, and the Office of Admissions & Recruitment has begun the start-up for the new Fall 2014 recruitment and admissions cycle. Recruiters based out of both campuses came together in August to train for the new season – thank you to all the faculty and staff who took part in various recruiter training exercises to help ensure we have the strongest team possible heading out on the road for the next three months.

We encourage all faculty and staff to mark their calendars and prepare to take part in the upcoming major on campus Fall recruitment events:

- **The Orillia Campus Fall Preview Day - Saturday, October 26, 2013**
- **Thunder Bay Campus Fall Preview Day - Tuesday, December 3, 2013**

Hundreds of prospective students, including their family and friends will be on campus to experience Lakehead University first hand at a critical time in their university-selection process.

Student Health & Counselling

My campus, My wellness, Our W.A.LK (Walk Around LaKehead) a joint initiative with HR, is set to launch on September 17; and includes a weekly campus walk and a number of educational sessions to promote mental health, physical wellness and campus engagement. "life APPS", short wellness sessions for students, are set to launch on September 11. These sessions will share information, present skills and self-care strategies, and raise resource awareness on topics such as stress and relationships. Two physicians have been recruited for the Centre for the upcoming year.

Promotion of the provincial *Good2Talk* post-secondary helpline is underway. More efforts will be planned as promotional items are received.

The Centre facilitated the submission of a Lakehead University Cooperation Agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's City of Thunder Bay Integrated District Network *Health Link*.

Student Success Centre (SSC)

Orientation programming for the Thunder Bay campus saw much activity and involvement from students and family alike. Beginning with the move-in of Residence students, Orientation 2013 was filled with activities intended to welcome students to the University and set them up for success in their studies and university life. Students and families attended a Welcoming Commencement followed by different information sessions for both students and families. New students attended Faculty Meet and Greet sessions for a Faculty welcome and information briefing. Thank you to all faculty that participated! Students and families enjoyed a lunch BBQ for all at Lake Tamblyn and later joined staff, faculty and administration for the President's Dinner. Team building games, a Monte Carlo Event and Varsity Madness rounded out the welcome for new undergraduate students. The SSC Staff are currently working with other orientations organized for Aboriginal students, new International students, Education students, etc.

The Lakehead University Work Study Program is available on the new My Success portal. Student applications and faculty/staff employers should enjoy a faster turn-around in application and posting approvals.

The Peer Tutoring program continues to offer students five free hours of tutoring. The program is asking for Professors' assistance in recommending tutors to the SSC and in referring students who need the tutoring assistance. The Writing and Math Centres are open for business in the Library.