

Report to Senate – January 20, 2012 Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Academic Planning

To date the planning process has engaged the University community and provided many opportunities for discussion within and across academic disciplines. The Planning Committee is currently reviewing and incorporating the feedback received during the most recent consultation period into the action plans. A new draft of the full Academic Plan, including the revised action plans, will be posted by the end of January. The Committee will receive and review comments, and complete a final set of edits during the month of February. A Notice of Motion to approve the Academic Plan will be brought to the February Senate.

Part 1 of the Unit Academic Planning Guide was sent to the Departments and Schools during the fall term. Part 2 will be forwarded following Senate approval of the University Academic Plan.

Decanal Searches

- Faculty of Law

The search consultant, Laverne Smith, has been actively involved in recruitment of applicants over the last two months. The Decanal Search Committee will meet again in early February to arrive at a short-list of candidates.

- Faculty of Engineering

The Decanal Search Committee for the Faculty of Engineering has been formed and met for the first time just prior to Christmas. The search firm of Janet Wright & Associates Inc. is currently recruiting applicants for the position.

Research Related to Postsecondary Student Mobility

The University was recently awarded funding from the College-University Consortium Council to complete a small research study related to postsecondary student mobility. The project, a joint submission by the Offices of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Institutional Analysis and Government Relations, will examine the success of college students furthering their education at Lakehead University.

Promotion, Tenure and Renewal

Arts & Science and Professional Faculties & Schools Committees met on the 12th and 13th of December respectively, to consider a total of 17 applicants. All recommendations made by the committees were endorsed and candidates have received notice of decisions.

Merit Increments Committee

The Committee has been reviewing applications for Merit over the past month and will meet this month, beginning on January 12th, in order to make its recommendations concerning the granting of merit increments.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Lakehead Professor Part of TBRII Winning Cancer Innovation Team

At a celebration dinner on December 5, 2011, the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario, along with Cancer Care Ontario and the Canadian Cancer Society – Ontario Division, awarded the 2011 Quality and Innovation Awards. Lakehead Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, Helle Moller, was part of the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRII) team

that won this year's Innovation Award for developing and implementing the Aboriginal Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Screening Trial. This team worked in partnership with Aboriginal communities to pilot a self-collection HPV testing strategy to reach previously unscreened women in Northern Ontario.

Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute project team members include: Ingeborg Zehbe, Marion Maar, Alberto Severini, Julian Little, Gina Ogilvie, Ann Burchell, Nicholas Escott, Amy Nahwagabow, and Helle Moller.

The annual Quality and Innovation awards honour organizations that have made significant contributions to quality and innovation in cancer care across Ontario including efforts in areas of cancer prevention.

Pat Sevean Presents Brief to the Canadian Nursing Association's Expert Commission

On December 15, 2011, Pat Sevean, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, and a Co-Investigator of the Quality Palliative Care in Long Term Care Alliance (QPC-LTC), presented recommendations on behalf of the Alliance to the Canadian Nursing Association's Expert Commission. The brief outlines recommendations within each of the following categories: human resources, education and professional development, funding, and regulations.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

The Faculty has a new scanning electron microscope. The new Hitachi SU-70 field emission scanning electron microscope with its Oxford Aztec x-ray analyzer (SEM-EDXA) will open up new worlds at the nanostructure level for Lakehead University researchers. As with other instruments in the Lakehead University Instrumentation Lab (LUIL), students will get hands on training, providing them access to the standard tool in the new and expanding nanomaterials field. Students can take a course that provides formal training in SEM-EDXA techniques in Advanced Research Methodologies. The instrument also provides improved productivity and imaging for mineralogists working on Northern Ontario's new mineral prospects. Last year, there were 33 users who relied on the previous scanning electron microscope.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

The Dean reports that a good number of early offers were made to prospective students before the end of last term. As of the first week of the New Year, applications are progressing well for Fall 2012 recruitment.

Student Affairs

Admissions & Recruitment

On Tuesday December 6th, over 550 prospective students and families from Thunder Bay, the region and southern Ontario attended the Fall Preview Day event at the Thunder Bay campus. One lucky student in attendance walked away with the grand prize of First Year Free Tuition. We appreciate the support of the university community to help make this event a success.

A new recruitment initiative "Home for the Holidays" was launched to expand Lakehead's reach into high schools and reinforce existing recruitment efforts in the high schools prior to the application deadline. We received a tremendous response from current Lakehead students at both campuses. In the end, 74 Lakehead students returned to their home town high schools to share stories about their Lakehead experiences with students, teachers and guidance counsellors.

For the past six weeks, efforts have been focused on the Prospective Student Phone Campaign with over 3,000 phone calls made to prospective students to highlight Lakehead's offerings, discuss the application process and encourage applying to Lakehead University.

Student Awards & Financial Aid

Information on the provincial Tuition Grant initiative has been posted on myInfo. Students should be directed to the MTCU website or to the Student Awards office if they have questions on eligibility or application procedures.

Faculty are encouraged to refer students to the Student awards office who may be showing signs of distress which may be due to financial issues.

Student Health and Counselling

This past semester saw an increase in counselling appointments (12%); medical appointments (25%); medical clinics (21%); and psychiatry appointments (150%). The Health Promoter has been trained in SafeTALK (a suicide awareness initiative) and sessions are planned for 2012. A physician has been recruited for an additional evening clinic.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre helped new and current students get back into the swing of things, with Winter reOrientation from January 6 – January 13. Highlights included the Expand, Enrich and Explore Expo in the Agora. Thank you to all who assisted with this initiative.

The Student Success Centre will also be introducing the new LEAD program (**L**eadership, **E**xperience and **D**evelopment), an opportunity for students to get involved with different facets of campus life.

Monday January 16 marked the official Grand Opening of the Student Success Centre.

Students learned about services of the SSC, networked with university administration, faculty and staff and had the opportunity to win prizes, including additional tutoring hours, and a Skills for Success Seminar pizza party.

Orillia Campus

The Orillia Power Corporation has become a part of the Orillia capital project, by making a \$500,000 donation to the Orillia Campus, to defray capital costs associated with Phase I construction.

John Attinson, President and Secretary, noted how exciting it has been to watch Lakehead University evolve in the City of Orillia and wished the Orillia campus of Lakehead University success as they continue to establish their roots in Orillia.

Rodney Hanley, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)