



Provost's Report to Senate

March 30, 2020

Academic Plan Framework

Lakehead University's 2019-2024 Academic Plan is built around four interconnected Academic Priorities, which represent key opportunities for transformational change at Lakehead over the next five years: **high-quality programs; innovative and impactful research, scholarship, and creative activities; commitment to social responsibility; and Anishnaabe Miikana Gichi Kendaasiwin.**

A number of Academic Strategies have been developed to support these Academic Priorities with the goal of aligning with Lakehead's Academic Statement and advancing the implementation of the University's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan. Each Academic Strategy includes a number of actions to be completed over the course of the 2019-2024 Academic Plan.

In Fall 2019, the Provost's Report to Senate was redesigned to align to the 2019-2024 Academic Plan.

Delivering High-quality Programs

[Bora Laskin Faculty of Law](#)

The Curriculum Committee has completed a survey to document Indigenization efforts in Law courses. Next steps include revising course descriptions to reflect Indigenous content and identifying and supporting professional development regarding Indigenous content for instructors.

[Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences \(HBS\)](#)

The Kinesiology IQAP review has been completed; reviewers were impressed with many aspects of the programs and the faculty/staff.

The Canadian Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators (CCUPEKA) had its accreditation team on campus February 11-12; the School is currently awaiting their report.

The HBSW (Social Work) program has been officially re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) of the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) for a four (4) year period, with a Progress Report due November 2023.

Representatives from the College of Nurses of Ontario were on-campus to do a Program Review orientation on February 19. The College of Nurses Program Approval is a new mandatory process for Ontario Nursing Programs.

The PhD program in Health Sciences received 12 applications for its charter class.

Faculty and Staff have shown incredible commitment and ingenuity in navigating the challenges of moving all instruction online. The Dean wishes to express gratitude to everyone in HBS and everyone who has provided the faculty with support to make this possible.

Teaching Commons

As the university community responded to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, and courses were suspended to move into an online environment, the Teaching Commons mobilized to provide support. All courses already not using D2L were identified on March 13, and 330 course shells were made for those instructors so that they would be available on March 14. In addition, [a new resources section](#) of the Teaching Commons website was launched. On March 16 and March 17, workshops were held to assist instructors in moving their courses on to D2L and to begin planning for final assessments; in addition, the Teaching Commons staff directly supported people individually. We are pleased to share with the university community that these resources were well used. Combined statistics for Mar 16/17 indicate the following:

- 393 attended the workshops via Zoom
- 50 people attended the workshop in person
- 17 appointments were scheduled
- 24 people came to the Teaching Commons for walk-in support
- 433 emails were responded to by the Teaching Commons staff

While we have had an online forum for instructors at Lakehead for some time, we advertised the Teaching Commons Connecting Group on our resources page and are pleased to see the ongoing interaction and support being shared among our university community. Some instructors are experts at online learning and others are brand new – the sharing of experience and tips has been exceptional, and we are grateful to everyone for their patience, hard work and willingness to support our students at this critical time.

Enhancing Lakehead's Culture of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law had a very successful year participating in mooting competitions. The trial moot team successfully defended the Arnup Cup, and went on to win the national round known as the Sopinka Moot. In addition to the overall award, students won personal awards for best advocate, best cross-examination, and best direct-examination. The Faculty was told that this sweep of awards is unprecedented in the history of the Sopinka Moot.

Lakehead's teams also won personal awards in the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association Cup including best cross-examination and best overall advocate. In the Walsh Family Law Negotiation moot, students came in third and one (1) student picked up the award for second best oral advocate overall. Students also successfully participated in the Kawaskimhon and Wilson moots. The Faculty is grateful for the many practicing lawyers who coached and offered practice sessions to students.

Advancing Access to Education

Associate Vice-Provost (Special Projects)

On March 13 Lakehead University joined Confederation College and the five (5) other colleges and three (3) universities in Northern Ontario in signing an agreement to better prepare students for the job market by integrating business skills into their degree. The Business Fundamentals Co-Registration Initiative allows a student to graduate with a university degree in any of the Social Sciences and Humanities, while simultaneously earning a one (1) year college certificate in Business Fundamentals.



Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

Welcome Day took place on February 25 for admitted students and was a resounding success. High school Law Day was quite affected by the strikes in the education sector, resulting in fewer students attending than would be typical. The Faculty will connect with high school students in the fall.

Supporting Student Potential

Faculty of Business Administration

An interdisciplinary team of students presented their newest project to faculty members and students on March 10. The project uses technology to connect international students in a mentorship program. The team was to present at the Regional Competition in Toronto on March 13; however, the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. The team won second place at the Regional and National events last year.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HBS)

The School of Kinesiology held its "Speed Networking Night" on January 23 where Alumni are invited to share their journeys and advice to undergraduate students. Eleven alumni took part in this event.

International

International Student Services Power Hour is a new online forum for international students to ask any pressing questions from the International student services team. The team includes the International student advisors, Study Abroad Advisor, Immigration Advisor, and the Student Services Coordinator.

“Big Up” with Lateefah, a conversational live show hosted by an international student advisor, invites different hosts to share stories of well-being and discuss various non-clinical wellness and wellbeing topics related to personal development and self-growth. Hosted every weekday afternoon for one hour, “Big Up” is a safe, inclusive and positive space which allows students to feel comfortable, make friends, share resources and practice conversational skills.

LUI Virtual Coffee house has been designed to keep our student community connected. Lakehead International’s student assistants host the Virtual Coffee House on the Zoom platform and delivers fun interactive activities, movie and trivia nights, cooking shows, prizes and more.

Generating and Supporting Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

Professor Frances Chapman has been appointed MacCormick Fellow at the University of Edinburgh where she will be conducting comparative research on legal responses to domestic violence in Canada and Scotland in the fall term.

Faculty of Business Administration

The Faculty of Business Administration’s Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research (CIER) launched the CIER Analytics Lab (CAL). CAL will facilitate business analytics research and educational projects for all students and faculty members at Lakehead University, as well as strengthen collaborations with researchers from different universities or organizations across the world. The lab will be committed to addressing practically relevant problems, producing impactful research, and training students in business analytics theory, technique, and skills.

CIER hosted an event during Research Week titled “Journey of a Data Scientist” in which Amir Tavasoli discussed applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and using big data in decisions made in retail settings. Mr. Tavasoli drew on his experiences at Canadian Tire and Home Depot in the application of data analytics for sales forecasting, inventory management, and other industry applications.

Faculty of Education

Orillia Contract Lecturer Jess Clausen, has been awarded a two (2) year post-doctoral research award under the supervision of Meridith Lovell-Johnston. The project combines curriculum development and action research, and will be conducted with Indigenous communities who are actively developing schools in holistic, experiential, and Land-based learning.

Drs. Meridith Lovell-Johnston and Sonia Mastrangelo will be working with six (6) First Nations schools 'to empower northern educators and communities to support their children with culturally relevant practices'. See the full story [here](#).

The Faculty of Education was well represented at the Research & Innovation Week Awards, with a number of faculty being recognized for their outstanding work. Dr. Ruth Beatty, along with Colinda Clyne (Upper Grand District School Board) received the Community-Engaged Research Award for their work titled “The First Nations and Métis Math Voice Project”. Dr. Pauline Sameshima received the Building Research Capacity Award. Masters student Ms. Beverly Bannon, supervised by Dr. Paul Berger, was the Graduate Student Conference Poster Winner in the SSHRC category.

Engaging with Communities

Faculty of Education

Thirty-one teacher candidates attended a collaborative water education training certificate program run by Ellen Field from the Faculty of Education (Orillia) in partnership with Bonnie Anderson, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board coordinator of Outdoor Environmental Education and Healthy Active Living.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HBS)

Members of the Department of Psychology are at the beginning stages of networking with various community groups/organizations to provide undergraduates students with volunteer opportunities in the community, to enhance learner experience while supporting community organizations.

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Faculty is working on creating additional supports for incoming Indigenous students affected by the cancellation of the Indigenous Law Summer Program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Faculty of Education

In the collaboration with Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services (ACSS), the annual Rock Your Mocs event took place on March 9. The event featured the Ogichidaa Makwa Singers, a potluck and a powerful talk by Elder Ernie Kwandibens on the need for reconciliation based on a culture of love and respect.

Championing Inclusion

Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering has established a new Transfer Award intended to help students in four (4) designated groups with tuition costs associated with the program. The Faculty of Engineering Post Diploma College Transfer Award requires no application and provides a total of 20 scholarships, \$1,000 each, to self-identified underrepresented groups admitted to our BEng Post Diploma programs.

The Faculty of Engineering’s annual GO ENG Girl event was held in January 2020. GO ENG Girl is sponsored by Ontario’s Faculties of Engineering & the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering (ONWIE). GO ENG Girl provides opportunities for young women, as well as their parents, to meet role models, participate in fun hands-on activities and learn about the wide range of undergraduate programs available in engineering and career options for engineering graduates. Go Eng Girl 2019-

2020 was offered in conjunction with the Superior Science 'Girls Club' and was attended by 29 young women in Grades 2-7. Over 20 engineering student volunteers and engineers mentored the participants throughout the activities.

International

Cultural pride was evident when Lakehead University (Thunder Bay campus) held its first ever Holi celebration on March 9-10. Holi is a Hindi celebration recognizing the arrival of spring and is focused on spreading happiness, love, and bringing together friends and families to rally over the triumph of good over evil, and the opportunity to mend fences with neighbours for the new year ahead. This two (2) day event kicked off with a Rangoli (Mandala) team competition in the International Centre, followed by a Colour Throw Festival in the front courtyard of the library. This engaging international student event, which attracted over 100 students, was the result of passionate work by International Student Advisor, Vajay Babu, with the support of the LUI team. The Rangoli artistic competition had many team participants, and Lakehead students were able to vote on the winning team creation. The event concluded with Indian sweets served in the International Student Lounge.



Developing and Sustaining Global Perspectives

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Faculty is developing a new collaboration between the Faculty of Law, the Multicultural Association of Thunder Bay and the local bar to provide cultural competency training to Law students for serving refugee clients.

Faculty of Education

Dr. Michael Hoechsmann and Dr. Laxmi Pathak have been selected to participate in the ERASMUS+ program in Turkey later this year.

Faculty of Engineering

Six Lakehead undergraduate Engineering students participated in How to Change the World Canada 2020 in Toronto. In this three (3) day event students worked on a team project to collaboratively develop ideas to address affordable clean energy and sustainable cities and communities. Lakehead participants will share their knowledge with the Engineering student community in a future Engineering in Action event.

The Faculty of Engineering facilitated the CSCE National Lecture Tour Presentation 'Climate Change: Current Issues for Civil Engineering' offered by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) offered in January 2020. The presentation provided a picture of future climate projections across Canada and the expected impacts of climate change on infrastructure. The event was coordinated by Dr. Juan Pernia, Department of Civil Engineering, in conjunction with the CSCE and the PEO Lakehead Chapter, and included a presentation, lunch and networking opportunity for all

participants. The presentation was attended by Lakehead engineering students and engineers from the local Thunder Bay community.

[Faculty of Natural Resources Management \(NRM\)](#)

NRM conducted a Ghana multi-institutional site visit in March to five (5) institutions for the activation of three (3) research-focused MOUs and the commencement of two (2) additional collaborations. The activities will initially focus on wood science, forest protection and geomatics. Arrangements were also made for future field-activities in Ghana, which have been deferred due to the current COVID-19 situation.

Advancing Life-long Learning

[Faculty of Education](#)

The Faculty is pleased to announce that Mr. Kevin Dempsey will be joining us as the new Director of Professional Development in Education, starting on April 1. Kevin comes to us after serving most recently as the Principal at Keewatinook Internet High School, which is based in Fort William First Nation. He brings a wealth of experience in online learning environments as well as experience working with a range of education authorities across northern Ontario, and working with federal and provincial government agencies.

[Faculty of Engineering](#)

The Faculty of Engineering supports 'Engineering in Action' which is an initiative for all engineering students in all programs and year levels to see 'engineering in action' through tours, invited engineering speakers, other engineering related events. Engineering students actively participate in every event and also volunteer in the organizing and delivery of the events. Many are offered in conjunction with the engineering student Technical Chapters of the IEEE, CSCE, CSME and CSCHE.

Recent events include the Lakehead Student Technical Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) talk, *Software for Focused Ultrasound*, a presentation about working effectively in a multi-generational workplace, and a Power Plant tour. The Lakehead Student Chapter of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) in conjunction with the Student Success Center provided a Resume workshop with student resumes critiqued by engineers, and a Corrugated Steel Pipe presentation by the Executive Director of the Corrugated Steel Pipe Institute. The Engineering Students Society (ESS) along with the student Technical Chapters, also recently hosted an Engineering Club Day showcasing engineering projects and club activities.

[Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences \(HBS\)](#)

Dr. Mike Moland gave a presentation on the neuroscience of the placebo effect as part of the Neuroscience Research Interest Group and PsiChi speaker series. This presentation was very well attended by alumni and community members.

Developing People, Places and Systems

Faculty of Education

An Ad-hoc Committee is looking to redevelop spaces in both Orillia and Thunder Bay as community building places for staff, students and faculty. A component of the Committee's work is to investigate the development of indigenized learning spaces.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

In March, NRM conducted four (4) day training sessions in chainsaw safety procedures which will continue in the fall with expanded participation. These sessions will also be augmented with professional first-aid training by certified instructors. Once the COVID-19 concerns subside, geomatics and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) external training to industry and government will continue, and will also expand to foreign locations.

Library

A task group consisting of two (2) librarians and three (3) staff has been formed to develop the library's action plan to address issues identified in the Employee Experience Survey 2019. Meanwhile, an internal survey was carried out to gather further information on problem areas, comments, and suggestions from staff. The task group is working on a draft action plan based on the responses that were received.