

Report to Senate – Jan 28, 2011 Acting Vice- President (Academic) & Provost

Academic Planning

Just prior to the holidays, the Planning Committee met for a full day session to complete an environmental scan and SWOT analysis. The outcomes of these sessions are being incorporated into the Introduction to the Academic Plan. The Committee is currently preparing a discussion framework to launch the Consultation Stage. Over the next month the details of the consultative process will be developed and communicated. The following are principles that will guide us as we move forward.

Stage Two should:

- Ensure and support full and transparent consultation
- Engage internal and community stakeholder groups – faculty, chairs, deans, students, senate committees, councils, advisory groups, etc.
- Provide opportunities for inter and intra-unit discussion (both within and across academic disciplines)
- Ensure consideration of multiple perspectives
- Provide timely communication

Transition to the Provincial Quality Assurance Framework

The response to the feedback received from the Quality Council has been addressed and the revised IQAP was resubmitted this past week. Workshops covering the self-study and cyclical review process will continue to be delivered throughout the term.

Merit

The Merit Review Process was completed the second week of January. Merit applicants will receive a letter from the President by January 31, 2011.

Hiring

Review and approval of hiring proposals started in November and has continued since. Early decisions to fill funded positions, and to replace retirements and resignations, were made at the beginning of December. A second set of approvals for term and tenure track positions which were tied to strategic decisions around undergraduate and graduate growth and sustainability, were made towards the end of the fall term. The review and approval process has continued throughout January for tenure track and term positions both here and on the Orillia campus. Advertisements have gone out (or are currently being developed) for nine tenure track and four term positions on the Thunder Bay campus, and eight tenure track and two term positions on the Orillia campus. The positions involve the following programs: Anthropology, Business, Education, Engineering, Geography, Kinesiology, MPH, Social Work, Sociology, Political Science, and Visual Arts.