

Provost's Report to Senate

March 2016

Aboriginal Initiatives

Lakehead University has received confirmation of a new Postsecondary Education Funding for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) Funding Agreement which will extend to March 2017.

A new part time CLAN/AMP Coordinator has been hired on the Orillia Campus. A number of Lakehead students will be attending a conference on Diversity and the Canadian Roots Exchange AGA in March 2016.

A new CLAN representative has been hired on the Thunder Bay Campus to work with businesses and remote First Nation's until August 2016.

Native Access Program

The first "Native Access Alumni Gathering" was held on March 3rd. Over 90 Alumni and friends attended as well as representative from MTCU.

Aboriginal Initiatives is continuing the CLAN recruitment and community outreach process as well as hiring new student ambassadors from local high schools and organizations. They are in the process of creating two new professional videos using students from urban and remote communities. A video is also being produced to highlight our Aboriginal programs.

Faculty of Grad Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies provided Direct Offers to eligible Lakehead undergraduate students in January – February, 2016. This initiative, which has been strongly supported by our Graduate Programs, aims to identify and retain our own undergraduate students as excellent prospective Graduate Students. Identified students are sent an Offer of Admission from Graduate Studies without having to go through the application process. To date we have made 242 direct offers and we have received 59 acceptances, which equates to a 24% acceptance rate.

The Masters of Arts (Social Justice Studies) program has received MTCU approval. We are working with the Interim Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Graduate Coordinator to recruit students, and to date 14 students have expressed interest in this new program. The addition of this Masters program will certainly assist Graduate Studies in its aim to meet our target domestic enrollment.

Library

Library material on the ground floor of the Chancellor Paterson Library is being removed to make room for the English Language Program. Construction is expected to start in June. The Library is removing bound periodicals from the 2nd floor. Only periodicals with perpetual access (when we own the rights to the online content) will be removed. Government publications currently located on the ground floor will be moved to the 2nd floor and

microforms will be temporarily relocated to the 5th floor. The location of temporary storage is still being worked out. Please contact the University Librarian, Karen Keiller, kkeiller@lakeheadu.ca with questions and concerns.

The Library has subscribed to National Film Board Campus streaming videos (access starting on April 1, 2016).

On March 21 at 7:00 pm the Chancellor Paterson Library will be hosting therapy dogs from the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program.

Exam hours at the Chancellor Paterson Library start on March 21. The Library will be open until 3:00 am until April 21, check the library web site for details on Easter weekend hours.

Student Affairs

Lakehead's first ever Student Appreciation Week (February 22-26) was a huge success. A big thank you to all Faculty and Staff for their participation in the week and helping to make the week a tremendous success across both campuses! Each day was filled with events and surprises for students as well as opportunities for students to hear more about the many resources and supports that are available to them within their academic departments and across the University.

Many thanks to all those who wore the "**Lakehead ♥ U**" buttons! The week reflected a strong collaborative effort across multiple departments and across the campuses. It was a delight to show appreciation for our students and we heard many comments of appreciation from our students. May the theme of "**Lakehead ♥ U**" continue and live on as we are in the final weeks of the term.

Orillia Student Affairs

Athletics and Recreation

The men's extramural hockey season has ended; and the women's team is progressing to the championship game for the Barrie Super League.

Wellness Centre

Winter semester Wellness Week was held in conjunction with Student Appreciation Week. Activities included "Know Your (Blood) Type" by Canadian Blood Services, Healthy Snack Breaks, Health Vendor Fair, and Free Massages. The Wellness Centre has seen a slight increase in the number of student visits to see counsellors, the naturopath doctor, and nurse practitioner.

Student Central

Student Central continues to see steady traffic as students have adjusted to this new service. Common inquiries at the moment are related to OSAP extensions and spring/summer courses. Signage for the Centre was installed on March 11th. This includes a sign for Student Central and a large Lakehead sign (2'x6') on the wall.

Student Accessibility Services

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is working with Enrolment Services to refine the accommodated exam process to reflect consistency between campuses. For the winter term, to date, SAS has invigilated 1042 accommodated tests. (Thunder Bay: 923 compared to 870

in 2015, Orillia: 119 compared to 94 in 2015). The Medical/Disability Documentation Form has been revised to align with Ontario Human Rights Guidelines. Diagnosis of a disability remains a requirement; the specific diagnosis within a category is not required. For example, a student disclosing a Mental Health disability is not required to disclose the specific mental health diagnosis (e.g. Major Depressive, Bi-Polar, Generalized Anxiety, Post-traumatic stress, Panic Disorder, Obsessive-compulsive Disorder, Eating Disorder, Schizophrenia, etc.)

SAS has facilitated two support group sessions for a small group of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Student Success Centre – Thunder Bay Co-op

Six preparation sessions were held for approved co-op students. Two sessions were held on the Orillia Campus since January. The SSC participated in National Co-op Week March 14-18 with a social media campaign and information booths around campus. In the coming weeks, preparations are underway to organize summer co-op students, register employed students, and assist students with job searching, securing employment, interview preparation and coordination with students and employer, and supporting students with accepting contracts.

Orientation

A working group is being established to discuss planning for the 2016 Orientation on both campuses. Recruitment for Ambassadors is currently in progress.

Student Success and Enrolment Services staff are working together to support the ongoing Vocantas campaign - a program whereby automated calls are made to each and every student prompting students to engage and determine whether students would benefit from additional information relating to key areas of support. This is the second term of our participation in this initiative - focused on early identification of student needs. Other universities who partner with Vocantas traditionally experience higher retention rates year over year amongst the students.

Writing Centre

The Centre continues to see steady traffic. Special projects this year included a pilot of a peer to peer mentoring program. SSC staff contributed support to the Student Appreciation Week.

Student Health and Counselling Centre

The Centre team has been busy in the January/February period with over 1600 student - professional appointments/interactions. The students are frequently booking appointments on short notice - often <24 hours before - compared to prior years when students booked days ahead.

[Service reminders](#) were sent out via Communication bulletins again this term, as well as via posters and TV screens on campus. Due to physician availability, the Centre was open on Saturday mornings between January 30th and March 12th to provide medical and counselling services. There is a plan to continue this in the next academic year, if physician availability continues; strategies to improve counselling service utilization will be a focus.

The Centre received Ethics approval to run the *National College Health Assessment* survey; 2800 students on the two campuses were surveyed - 734 students responded (a 26.2 % return rate). (2013 saw a 20% response rate.) Report pending.

A [reminder](#) of Lakehead's *MoreFeetOnTheGround* website was facilitated to raise awareness among staff and faculty. Just a reminder of the tool: [More Feet on the Ground webpage](#) that provides faculty and staff with tools to better support students experiencing mental health issues.

Winter term activities coordinated by the *Wellness Lead* included:

- *The Centre's Winter Health Fair*
- A 'Let's Talk' campus Walk-About
- a *Mindful Eating Lunch & Learn* [w/ LUSU Food Bank]
- an *Eating Disorder Awareness Week* [with Eating Disorder Outreach Program - Sister Margaret Smith Centre]
- *Sexual Health Jeopardy* activities
- participation in Enrolment Services' *Graduation Fair* and Lakehead International's *International Student Welcome*.

The Health and Wellness lead is working with a team of staff and students on behalf of the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs) to revise and redevelop the various Sexual Assault brochures. The first printing of the brochures was well received by faculty and students alike. New brochures will be available by late August.

Web Development Services

Web Development Services (WDS) is actively working to ensure that all accessibility compliance obligations are met during the migration process. Web Development Services (WDS) respectfully asks that all website administrators cooperate to ensure that website content meets accessibility standards. If there are questions around that, please consult with the staff in Web Development Services.

The website migration for the School of Social Work is now completed. The following website migrations are in progress:

- Health and Safety,
- Department of Psychology,
- Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies, and
- Human Resources

With the collaboration of Enrolment Services and ERP, a myInfo 'Alumni' section has been launched.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)