

# Provost's Report to Senate

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November 2015

## Decanal Searches

The following searches are currently underway:

- **Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies**
- **Dean, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**
- **Dean, Faculty of Law**

The Appointment Committees are working with my office to complete the searches in a timely fashion. The University community will continue to be involved at key stages throughout the searches.

## Decanal Review

The Decanal Review within the Faculty of Natural Resources Management has been initiated. It is anticipated that the process will be completed in February 2016.

## Quality Assurance

The Deputy Provost continues to work with Academic Units as they prepare proposals for new programs and major modifications (including program changes, new specializations, new concentrations, transfer pathways, etc.). Academic Units planning to bring forward new programs and/or major modifications for September 2016 consideration are reminded that all such requests must meet the January Senate deadline for review through the Senate approved process.

Over the Fall term, two program areas - MA Economics and Undergraduate Nursing - undertook the Site Visit portion of their Cyclical Review. I wish to thank both Departments for the hard work and professionalism they brought to these visits in their efforts to be both informative and welcoming to the Review Teams.

## Aboriginal Initiatives

The Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) participated in a fundraiser for Teach for Canada with Former Prime Minister Paul Martin and Dr. Alika LaFontaine at the Reismann Home (Indigo Books) where \$120,000.00 was raised to support teaching for kids in Northwestern Ontario communities.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), together with the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, hosted a conversation on the Centre and on the documents, records and photographs of the Survivors of Canada's Indian Residential Schools. The NCTR houses all statements, documents and other materials collected by the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission of Canada (TRC). The session, held on November 9, 2015 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, was well attended by members of the University and broader community. An evening session, designed for students, was also very well attended.

### **Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Outreach**

Aboriginal Initiatives received a Targeted Initiative Fund (TIF) grant through the Office of Aboriginal Education (Ministry of Education) for 2015-2018 in the total amount of \$890,000 over three years. The application included 28 letters of internal and external support, including school boards in Thunder Bay and Orillia, mentors and corporate interests. The implementation process will begin immediately with posting for an additional Aboriginal Mentorship Program coordinator position in Thunder Bay and a new one in Orillia.

The Aboriginal Student Recruitment team has been working exceptionally hard on outreach, recruitment and mobilizing the Aboriginal Mentorship Program at new schools and attending new recruitment opportunities through foundations and businesses. There will be a second On Course Workshop and an updated questionnaire has been distributed to all Indigenous students (online and in person) to gauge where we are at now, and where students would like us to go.

The Orillia campus now has a new Club for Indigenous students and allies with a budget provided by the Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives).

The development of the CLAN database continues with 10 University and High School students, representing several cultural backgrounds, hired to recruit students to register.

The Vice Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) took one Churchill High School student to Ottawa and one Lakehead graduate student to meet with the Canadian Federation of Students on November 24.

### **Faculty of Business Administration**

Congratulations go out to the Faculty of Business Administration who received AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) International Business Accreditation. This is truly a milestone that reflects the hard work and dedication of the Faculty. AACSB accreditation will help attract domestic and international students to Lakehead University, as well as elevate the Faculty's profile.

### **Lakehead International**

Lakehead University welcomes 30 students from The University of Guadalajara who will take part in an intensive English program through ELP, November 23 - December 18, 2015.

Accompanied by a faculty member from the University of Guadalajara, the students will study English five hours per day and then participate in a robust social and cultural activity program during the evenings and on the weekends.

### **Library**

On November 16, 2015 the Chancellor Paterson Library hosted **The Long Night Against Procrastination**. The Library was open over night and over 200 students participated from midnight to the serving of breakfast. We would like to thank LUSU for sponsoring breakfast.

The purpose of the event was to get students to think about starting to study earlier, so they don't have to stay up all night. The highlights of the night included three therapy dogs supplied by St John Ambulance and yoga in the Northern Studies Resource Centre. Over 20 pizzas were enjoyed by the students.

As part of an overall review of library operations, the Library has instituted a one-year moratorium on the acceptance of large donations of library material. Please see the policy at <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/about/reports-policies/giving-to-the-library>

The **Collaborative Futures** project led by the Ontario Consortium of University Libraries is in the second phase. A proposal to Ontario Buys for project funding has been submitted. Libraries in Ontario's universities are seeking to improve their support for faculty and students; to modernize backroom workflows with greater streamlining and reduced duplication of effort; to share expertise; to reduce or redirect costs; and to meet their stewardship responsibilities for the province's valuable print and electronic research collections (<http://www.ocul.on.ca/projects/collaborative-futures>).

## **Student Affairs Enrolment Services**

### **Undergraduate Recruitment**

The Recruitment Team has been visiting with prospective students at over 700 high schools across the province. Connections are also being made with schools and guidance teams to ensure Lakehead is top of mind as students begin to prepare their university applications.

The Orillia Campus Preview Day Open House took place on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all faculty, staff and students that participated in this very important recruitment event. Over the course of the day, over 285 visitors were in attendance making this one of our best attended events to date.

Preview Day Open House in Thunder Bay will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Your continued support and participation in this event is much appreciated as we showcase our campus and offerings to our future students.

A successful Educators Seminar event was hosted at the Thunder Bay Campus on November 13<sup>th</sup> with counsellors from across all Thunder Bay schools in attendance as well as a few from the region.

A new initiative, the "Recruitment Crew" has been established this fall, comprised of a group of current students that participate in various new student recruitment efforts. Academic units that have exceptional students that could help to recruit to your particular program are encouraged to contact Jo Krisko, Acting Manager of Undergraduate Recruitment ([jo.krisko@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:jo.krisko@lakeheadu.ca)) to learn more.

### **Student Awards & Financial Aid**

In recognition of Financial Literacy Month (November), a number of initiatives were held. A first-ever Financial Literacy Fair took place on November 19<sup>th</sup> with financial institutions on campus to help students become 'money wise'.

Comedian James Cunningham was on campus on November 26<sup>th</sup> in the Agora at noon and helped students learn more about money management in a fun and humorous way.

### **Student Accessibility Services**

The number of students registered with Student Accessibility Services is up slightly from this time last year, subsequently the demand for the variety of services provided has increased (e.g. advisor appointments, note taking, alternate format tests, assessment referrals and accommodated tests).

Once again, the use of the area (previously used for the Nanabijou Day Care Space) as a Testing Centre has been very beneficial and well received by students.

Student Accessibility Staff visited local high schools and teleconferenced with schools in the region the week of Nov 23-27, 2015 to provide information and to answer questions of students with disabilities who are planning their transition to post-secondary next fall.

### **Student Success Centre**

The Student Success Centre at the Thunder Bay Campus hosted a series of events for students with wonderful turnout and engagements:

- **First Generation Student Supports Fair** - held in the Chancellor Paterson Library on November 25. Students explored a variety of interactive student support services displays, Writing & Math Centre games, and had a chance to win prizes
- **Engineering Career Fair** - welcomed 17 local, regional and national engineering firms on campus to recruit Lakehead graduating students on November 18. Over 250 students took part in the Fair, which included advanced resume preparation clinics, and an on-site photo booth for students to receive professional headshots

The Student Success Centre at the Orillia Campus has launched two new initiatives to support student success:

- **Writing Centre in Orillia** - a writing coach is now based out of Orillia and available for student appointments, with coaching space supported by the Orillia Library
- **Peer Tutoring Program (PAL)** - has been launched at the Orillia Campus, enabling students to access one-on-one and group peer tutoring supports

Details of all of the academic supports and services available at the Orillia Campus can be found on the new website: <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/ssc-orillia>.

### **Web Development Services**

Website migrations have been completed for over 95 department and unit websites representing 70% completion rate. Of remaining sites to be migrated:

- 26 faculty member websites
- 14 departmental websites - including some large, more complicated such as Human Resources and the Library

Migration is currently in process for: External Relations, Conference Services, Faculty of Education, ORPT, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and the Instructional Development Centre.

During the migration process, Web Development Services actively works to ensure that all accessibility compliance obligations are met. Web Development Services 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 Lakehead University homepage has been modified to highlight enrolment initiatives through the use of promotional graphics. The previously used “path” on the homepage has been disabled.

Website training is once again being offered. Please watch for Communications Bulletins with dates and times for the training.

Web Development Services in cooperation with the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and Marketing Support successfully launched the “Dr Arthur Mauro Scholarship Challenge” button on the homepage.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)