Provost's Report to Senate

May 2016

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

The Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) held a two-day Forestry Expo (themed Growing with Our Forests) at the Valhalla Inn on April 20 and 21. The Faculty of Natural Resources Management was a major exhibitor (with 8 presenters) at the event. NRM participation focused on Advanced and Value-added Wood Technology as well as Geomatics Applications (including Unmanned Aerial Systems solutions or "drones") for a multitude of natural resources inventory and assessment needs – wildlife, wetlands, harvesting, mill yard volumetrics, fisheries and environmental assessment. The event had a total of 65 exhibitors.

The Expo had a complex agenda with, for example, a Youth Panel with participation from two PhD students from NRM. The Expo presentation/discussion agenda involved the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, many regional First Nations, the Mishkosiminiziibiing Development Corporation, the Honourable Bill Mauro (Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry), Biomass North Development Centre, the Centre for research & innovation in the Bio-economy (CRIBE), FP Innovations, the Ontario Forest Industries Associations and the Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research. In addition, most forestry-based industrial groups and associated consultants and service providers were present.

Library

The English Language Program and the International Centre will be moving to the ground floor of the Paterson Library. Construction is set to start on June 1. To make room we are clearing out bound periodicals on the second floor and moving lesser used material to our off-site storage facility at Big Thunder. The bound periodicals are also located online in trusted digital repositories (where we have perpetual access and ownership). The CODOC and government documents collection is moving up to the second floor, with some material going to Big Thunder. The classrooms being built on the ground floor will be open study rooms for students when not being used for classes.

A new organizational structure for Lakehead University Libraries is the result of months of research, reflection and consultation. Consultation included individual meetings with all library staff early in the process, all-staff meetings in June and December 2015, several discussions at the Library Leadership Team and Librarians' Council and individual discussions with librarians and many library staff. Feedback was incorporated at many times in the process. The new structure is flatter than the previous structure, and we have eliminated the traditional three-department structure of reference, technical services and collections. The organization relies on both teams and liaison librarians to enact the mission, values and goals of Lakehead University. Underpinning the structure is the knowledge that we need to be closely aligned to University plans and be able to adapt to our students, faculty, staff, new technologies, and changes in the post-secondary sector. The new structure also recognizes the critical importance of engaged and trained support staff. The new structure contains the following core elements:

- Task Forces
- Teams
- Librarian Portfolios
- Liaison Librarians

Preparations are well underway for a post-Access Copyright world (as of August 31, 2016). We have a new copyright guide (http://libguides.lakeheadu.ca/copyright/) and we have created a course in D2L for faculty and students. Content will be added to the course in the coming months. Feedback to Karen Keiller, University Librarian at kkeiller@lakeheadu.ca is most welcome!

Aboriginal Initiatives

In collaboration with Mr. Bill Taylor (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), "Building Cross-Cultural Understanding" training continues for the MNRF staff. Promotion of the Aboriginal Mentorship Program and the Coordinated Learning Access Network (CLAN) Platform for rural and remote students continues – the next session is in Thunder Bay on June 13.

Lakehead will once again be hosting the Teach for Canada summer seminar for certified teachers; this year we are expecting 50-60 teachers to be engaged in training for educating in northern communities. Lakehead will be hosting the training in July and August at the Avila Centre.

Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services

ACSS Staff have been doing an amazing job of bringing in educators and students to experience Lakehead. Aboriginal Preview days brought in well over 250 students from across the region with more schools coming later this month. The Aboriginal Mentorship Program has been an extraordinary success and everyone is involved in extending its reach – the end of term fair was exceptional and over 100 students, teachers and staff participated and received a tour and swag from Lakehead. Our recruitment format is different, but highly effective!

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services
New Student Conversion Update:

As we prepare to welcome our next incoming class of students, many initiatives have been underway to reconnect with our applicants to encourage them to select Lakehead as their institution of choice. Some of the highlights of our conversion efforts include:

- Personal phone calls made to our applicants
- Hosted 19 Applicant Receptions for applicants and their families at both campus locations as well as various locations across Ontario
- Monthly electronic communications and direct mail campaign to applicant's homes
- Entrance scholarship offers and in-home deliveries to applicants in Thunder Bay and Orillia/Barrie

Enrollment Services (ES) thanks all faculty that have been involved in both recruitment and conversion initiatives this past year. In response to the question raised in Senate regarding tracking of success with respect to student recruitment, we can provide the following information.

- Potential students who apply to Lakehead are issued a student ID number.
- If faculty members collect this information as part of their interactions with applicants, this number can be used by ES and/or Institutional planning and Analysis to check student registration status after 1 November.
- Faculty will then have evidence of the effectiveness of their of efforts.

2016/2017 Registration Opens:

Course registration for the 2016/17 academic year will open on June 13. Students will be advised through email when registration will open for their particular year level.

Registration will roll out as follows: June 13 (year 4 students), June 15 (year 3 students), June 17 (year 2 students), June 23 (year 1 students), June 20 (Professional year Education students) and June 27 (Graduate studies students).

To assist new students with first year, course registration "Fast Pass" is an event being offered throughout the summer to assist students with registration, program details and getting started for their first year of university. Fast Pass is available June 23-29 and July 8 and 15. For more information visit lakeheadu.ca/fastpass.

Student Accessibility Services

In 2015/2016 Student Accessibility Services had 662 students register with them (521 Thunder Bay / 141 Orillia) [pending final confirmation]. This is an increase from the 618 in 2014/2015 (487 Thunder Bay / 131 Orillia). Although these numbers reflect students who received a "service" as defined by MTCU, they do not represent the total number of students and/or prospective students who accessed SAS for a variety of requests/supports.

Many students experiencing health issues prior to and during the exam period were supported by Centre professionals and were provided documentation for accommodations, as needed. The Centre had appointments/interactions with ~1500 students in March and April.

The Wellness Activities Leads were involved in a *Nutrition on a Budget* display and hosted three *Stress Buster Walk-abouts.*

Web Development Services

Website migration was recently completed for the Health and Safety website.

Website Development Services (WDS) is preparing to launch an enhanced registration tool making it easier for students to plan their upcoming registration 2016/2017. A 'Timetable Shopping Cart' will be available to students in the upcoming registration period through myInfo.

Efforts are also underway to enhance the academic program landing pages and the departmental subsites. While program-landing pages will be focused on providing prospective students with relevant information, departmental subsites will also focus on departmental messaging relevant for current students as well as resources for faculty and staff. This enhancement is planned for launch by early September in time for the new recruitment season and the new academic year.

WDS respectfully asks that all website administrators work to ensure that website content meets accessibility standards. If there are any questions, please consult with Web Development Services at 343.8499 or by email to spencer.ranta@lakeheadu.ca.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)