

Provost's Report to Senate

January 2016

The Provost's Task Force on Innovation and Excellence in Teaching, Technology and Learning

Lakehead's Strategic Mandate Agreement Proposal (2014) outlines a vision to expand our Instructional Development Centre (IDC) to include a skillful team of technology, pedagogy, and curriculum specialists in order to support innovative approaches to a wider range of pedagogical initiatives. The proposed Centre will play a key role in supporting and improving technology enabled delivery on campus and in our virtual and telepresence classrooms.

In the fall of 2014, I appointed a Provost's Task Force (PTF) on Innovation and Excellence in Teaching, Technology, and Learning to recommend specific sustainable initiatives and processes that will foster a student-centred learning environment, promoting innovative and effective teaching and learning practices at Lakehead University. The Task Force was charged with making recommendations for institutional changes to organizational structure and infrastructure, policy, and resource requirements that would set the stage for the development of an Advanced Teaching, Technology, and Learning Centre.

Over the 2014/15 academic year, the Task Force completed extensive research and reached out to numerous groups across campus to better understand the work underway at the University and models of support that have evolved at other universities. An Executive Summary provides an introduction to this work and a summary of the 18 recommendations and is posted, along with the report and next steps, on the [Provost web page](#).

A sincere thank you to each of the Task Force members for the significant time and thought they have invested to create a vision and plan for a vibrant and supportive teaching and learning culture at Lakehead University. I am now looking forward to working with our community to address next steps.

Update on Sustainability at Lakehead University

As you are aware, last spring Lakehead University launched an exciting new initiative in the area of sustainability. The Sustainability Executive Advisory Committee in collaboration with our Sustainability Coordinator, Ledah McKellar, have been working over the last year to create a sustainability governance plan and setting the stage for the launch of the **Sustainability Stewardship Council (SSC)**.

Sustainability is a diverse, global movement in society, economics, environment, and in higher education. At Lakehead University, sustainability is being considered in a pluralistic and inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice and equity, secure livelihoods, workplace well being, and leadership for vibrant and resilient communities. Recognizing that sustainability is one of the greatest challenges of our times, Lakehead is currently deepening its commitments around the theme. Convening the SSC is a vital expression of that commitment.

The SSC will be a place where faculty, staff, students, and community representatives will help shape Lakehead's unique approach to sustainability-related matters across the institution by examining key sustainability issues and developing and implementing a sustainability action plan impacting all sectors of the University at its Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. Working groups will be coordinated in key sustainability areas.

The internal process to populate the SSC with faculty, staff, and students has now been completed and the SSC will convene its inaugural meeting on March 4, 2016. A web page highlighting the SSC terms of reference, membership and upcoming initiatives is in development.

Instructional Development Centre

The IDC, together with the Office of Continuing Education and Distributed Learning, offered two well-attended workshops on Online learning in November and December 2015. A workshop series on Learning Outcomes and Assessment is being organized for the winter term; interested individuals can contact Breanne Neufeld (idc@lakeheadu.ca) for more information.

Approximately 20 graduate students have registered for a newly designed, non-credit, professional development program providing an introduction to pedagogy theory and practice. The program consists of self-directed online modules (fall term) with three assignments, including a classroom component, to be completed in the winter term. Successful participants will receive a Certificate for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and recognition on their Co-Curricular Record.

All graduate students and instructors (using their Lakeheadu.ca email) are encouraged to check out the free resources available at MyGradSkills.ca. Modules covering Research, Teaching and learning, Communication, Career Development and Entrepreneurship are available. Module completion is recognized by universities across Ontario.

More information on these and other IDC resources can be found at idc.lakeheadu.ca or by email idc@lakeheadu.ca.

Aboriginal Initiatives

Our CLAN database continues to grow with the support of our partner MAGNET and the efforts of many staff, including over 35 student employees.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services and Aboriginal Student Recruitment will be filling a new counselor position in April 2016. Planning and event hosting for students on both the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses will continue to be managed from the ACSS office until then.

Faculty of Grad Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce two appointments in the Office of Graduate Studies. Ms. Trish Sokoloski has been appointed Manager of Graduate Studies. Ms. Sokoloski has been acting in this role for the past six months and previous to that was the Graduate Funding Officer in the Office of Graduate Studies for seven years.

Ms. Meagen Lavallee has been appointed Graduate Funding Officer. She has been acting in this role for the past four months and previous to that was Research Coordinator in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics.

Library

Chancellor Paterson Library was open extended hours (until 3 am) from November 16 to December 18. An average of 95 students per night took advantage of these extended hours.

The TSC Help Desk has moved to the main floor of the Chancellor Paterson Library.

The Library has asked that any suggestions for print monographs to be ordered in this fiscal year be made by the end of January at the latest.

Ongoing culling of the monograph, bound periodicals, reference, and government publications is being planned. A web site is being developed to provide regular updates and information to faculty and there will be a place in Paterson for faculty to review potential material to be culled.

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services - Undergraduate Recruitment

The Recruitment Team visited approximately 800 high schools across Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta between September and December. Visits were also made to various universities and colleges to promote transfer options and post-graduate studies.

Fall Preview Day at the Thunder Bay campus saw over 500 students and families visiting the campus to learn more about our academic programs and student life. The day was filled with campus tours, a student life fair and sessions on all of our academic programs and student supports available.

Grade 12 Exploration Day at the Orillia campus also saw hundreds of high school students; specifically from Simcoe County attend the campus for a day of exploration.

Throughout the fall recruitment season, over 4,000 inquiries were collected from prospective students expressing an interest in learning more about Lakehead University. Throughout December, phone calls, emails, tweets and texts were made to all prospective students to reconnect, answer questions and encourage them to apply to Lakehead.

A big thanks to all faculty members for their participation in Preview Day and Exploration Day as well as their efforts to reach out to prospective students at this very important time in the recruitment cycle.

Undergraduate Admissions

The deadline for Ontario high school students (101) to apply to an Ontario university was January 13. Application numbers are being assessed and preliminary figures will be made available in February.

101 Early offers of admission were extended in December and will continue throughout January. The next round of offers will be extended in March.

Orillia Student Affairs

There was a great kick-off to the semester as “warm welcomes” (hot chocolate) were provided to students on the first two mornings of the first week of January.

Athletics and Recreation

Nathan Gardner will step into the role of Athletics Facilitator until the end of March. He has a background working with the Brock Community Health Centre. Nathan will also be coaching our Women’s Basketball Team.

Wellness Centre

Continues to see steady utilization of all services. The Wellness Centre offers personal counselling, a naturopathic doctor, and a nurse practitioner and serves as a silent prayer/meditation space twice a week. Plans are underway for a winter semester Wellness Week to occur after reading break.

Student Central

The new one-stop (as of September 2015) has proven to be a great resource for students. New signage for Student Central should be arriving soon. The space is able to accommodate an enrolment professional during peak periods (first week of each semester). This has improved service as students can be directly referred to the advisor for immediate support without the need to book an appointment.

Student Success Centre

Successfully launched a newly envisioned winter re-orientation program titled: **Frost Week 2016** – featuring a wide range welcome events, support fairs and social events; including workshops on financial aid, stress management, and student supports. The week closed with an exhibition hockey game against Georgian College.

Two new initiatives have been launched 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 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>.

Student Accessibility Services

The Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Policy and related Procedures are currently under review through the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee. Any directives and/or clarification related to our obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code will be updated as part of the Policy/Procedural review process.

Student Success Centre – Thunder Bay

Mr. Robert Perrier will be leaving Student Success Centre where he has served as Director since June 2014 to take on his new role as Director of International Recruitment. Chris Glover will serve as Acting Director of the Student Success Centre in addition to his role as Director,

Student Affairs in Orillia. Chris is well positioned to serve as Acting Director given his current role as well as his past experience at Dalhousie University and Trent University. During this time, Joy Himmelman will serve as the Acting Coordinator of the Student Success Centre in Thunder Bay; reporting to Chris Glover.

A series of events, with wonderful turnout and engagements, were hosted:

- *Winter Re-Orientation 2016* – included a “Warm Welcome” and a series of open houses and workshops to welcome new students and provide a personal Orientation to campus; in the process of delivering a series of Skills for Success Seminars, while enhancing their academic skills
- *Student Support Services Fair* – coincided with Winter Re-Orientation on January 6. Over 200 students took part in the Fair, which featured interactive displays, prize draws, and opportunities for students to become engaged on campus through volunteering, etc.

All faculty and staff are being asked to promote the upcoming Career Fairs to their students. The Fairs will feature regional, national and international companies on campus recruiting Lakehead students:

- **Education Fair 2016 – Wednesday, January 20 (The Agora)**
targeting Education graduates and those students who are interested in career opportunities in the field of education (featuring 39 regional, national and international exhibitors)
- **Spring Career Fair 2016 – Wednesday, February 10 (The Agora)**
targeting all Lakehead students and will feature a wide array of employment sectors actively recruiting students

Student Health and Counselling Centre

- The on-campus Flu Clinic held in collaboration with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit in November was well attended.
- The Centre is utilizing the [TV screens](#) across campus, including Aramark areas, during the exam periods to remind students of the Centre’s services, Student Success Centre’s (SSC) services and the *Good2Talk* services. This awareness strategy will be repeated in the next weeks. (Thanks to Andrew Brigham, Manager – Server, Desktop and Client Services, TSC, for his assistance with this strategy.)
- The Centre will again be hosting the *Winter Health & Wellness Fair* coming up January 21
- A new physician will begin at Centre as of January 12; a second casual physician will be returning to the Centre; and, a new RN staff member has been hired.
- The Centre wishes to thank concerned faculty members and residence staff who provided support for students particularly during the month of December.

Web Development Services

The following websites were migrated to the new platform in December: Department of Health Sciences, and the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism. An accelerated plan for website migration is in development.

The Lakehead University website has been updated to be more mobile-friendly. Since launching the new mobile navigation, a decrease in the Bounce Rate (percentage of visitors who navigate away from the site after viewing only one page) has been observed.

Web Development Services is continuing to actively work to ensure that all accessibility compliance obligations are met. They are respectfully asking 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.

A web training session is scheduled for January. Details will be found within upcoming Communication Bulletins.

Institutional Quality Assurance Process

The revised IQAP (presented as an item of information to Senate – October 26, 2015) has now been submitted to the Council of Ontario Universities Quality Council for review and approval. Thanks to the members of the Quality Assurance Sub-committee of the Senate Academic Committee for their input and guidance as revisions were incorporated into the document.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)