

Provost's Report to Senate

March 2015

2012-2017 Academic Plan

During the last Senate Academic Committee, I presented the plans to review and refresh the 2012-2017 Academic Plan. Senate Academic Committee (SAC) members received a draft of the Implementation Status Report that compiles all of the work that has been completed to date on the 202 action items included in the Plan. At this time 46% of the actions are significantly in progress, 46% are in progress and 8% have been classified as little-to-no progress.

An expanded Academic Planning Committee was endorsed by SAC and will start a detailed review of the implementation of the Academic Plan to date. The Committee will focus particularly on those actions that have been classified as "in progress" and as "little-to-no progress" in order to consider how best to re-focus and/or re-affirm the University's commitment to them. It was anticipated that the Committee will begin their consultations with the university community in May. The documentation will be drafted during the summer with reports to SAC and Senate in the early fall.

Vice-Provost Review

The Review of the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs) is currently being conducted. I have communicated a call seeking feedback on the leadership of the Vice-Provost. It is anticipated that the process will be completed by the end of May 2015.

Aboriginal Initiatives

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives has proceeded on the development and implementation of CLAN and have recently engaged MAGNET, a data base company that will help Lakehead link education and employment as well as provide us with strong metrics for all Aboriginal students and participants in our data base.

http://www.ryerson.ca/news/news/General_Public/20140924-new-consortium-links-jobs-to-job-seekers.html. At present Lakehead University is the 25th university to join.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services (ACSS)

The Aboriginal Transitions Advisor is continuing to host Lakehead's Toastmasters Club, Storytellers, and is offering a four-session course called Speechcraft. This initiative focuses on becoming a confident, competent public speaker in a four-week timeframe. To date, there are 16 people registered for the sessions, which will begin on March 13, 2015.

Aboriginal Student Recruitment

In addition to Speechcraft, Aboriginal Initiatives offered a Toastmasters Youth Leadership program, which was delivered in partnership by Lakehead University and Toastmasters to 20 students consisting of the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Program as well as English classes at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School. This was very successful and there are plans for this to be possibly delivered annually.

Native Access Program (NAP)/University Prep Program (UPP)

The second annual Undergraduate Exploration Day was held on Friday February 27. There was a great show of support from faculty who were happy to share information about their programs with the NAP/UPP students. In total, fifteen academic departments attended, all selected by the NAP/UPP students. Ms. Yolanda Twance, ACSS Coordinator, and Ms. Victoria Bolduc, Aboriginal Transitions Advisor, presented on empowering students to be successful as they begin their first year of undergraduate classes. It was a great day brought together by the entire staff of The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives!

Faculty of Education

Professor Emerita Dolores Wawia was appointed to the Order of Ontario on February 3, 2015. A leader and pioneer in Aboriginal education, and a storyteller who has expanded educational opportunities for Aboriginal people, Professor Wawia was the first Aboriginal woman in Northwestern Ontario to earn a Bachelor of Arts and the first to get a Master's degree in Education. She joined Lakehead University in 1975 as a key member of the newly established Native Teacher Education Program. Also known as "The Frog Lady", Professor Wawia is an Ojibwe Elder who has championed Aboriginal teacher education and served as an inspiration and role model for students. This award reflects her lifetime achievements and commitment to Aboriginal education.

Faculty of Engineering

Lakehead University Civil Engineering students hosted a very successful American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Midwest Region Student Conference and Steel Bridge Competition. This was the first time Lakehead has hosted the regional competition and over 200 attended the conference dinner at the Valhalla including approximately 100 students from the US and many of the event sponsors. The Lakehead Team came out on top of the overall competition and also took 1st place in 4 individual categories (Lightness, Stiffness, Economy, and Efficiency). The team now qualifies for an invitation to the US National Student Steel Bridge Competition hosted by the University of Missouri in Kansas City on May 22-23, 2015. Many bridge team alumni came back to serve as judges for the day-long Saturday event and numerous student volunteers helped everything run smoothly. In addition to the competition, a reunion of over 40 alumni members was held, including members from as far back as the 1999 team and as far away as Abu Dhabi. Many thanks to Dr. Tony Gillies who has served as mentor to the team for over 15 years and organized this outstanding event to showcase Lakehead University.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

In March, the NRM undergraduate student society (NRSS) conducted the 46th iteration of its annual symposium and dinner with the focus on "Global Food Security for Sustainable Development". Guest speakers included representatives from Iowa State University (representing Lovely Professional University, India), University of Guelph (representing Tribhuvan University, Nepal), Canadian Institute of Forestry (representing Forests without Borders) and University of Energy and Natural Resources (Ghana).

Student Affairs

Student Accessibility Services

The SAS Participated in Student Health and Counselling's "Health Comes First" event on March 10 with a display and handouts focused on Stress reduction. Handouts included; Signs of Distress, Helping a friend, Quick Tips to reduce School Stress and Apps for Success (examples; meditation, relaxation, calendar manager, study tools).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre, in collaboration with the Student Health and Counselling Centre, assisted in the coordination and program delivery of a very successful **Mental Health Awareness Recess** with the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. The event included presentations from university personnel, faculty, and representatives from the legal community.

The Student Success Centre celebrated **National Co-operative Education Week** (March 16-20), with an information booth promoting Lakehead's Co-op programs, information sessions, and one-on-one appointments with the Co-op and Employer Relations Officer

- Program chairs interested in exploring how to enhance your degrees with a Co-operative Education option, should contact Robert Perrier at 343.8674, reperrie@lakeheadu.ca

The Student Success Centre continues to seek out students to join the newly re-launched **Student Ambassador Program!** The program is designed to build a strong pool of enthusiastic and engaged student volunteers who want to support and contribute back to the Lakehead Community.

- students may be referred by faculty and staff to join the program by contacting Joy Himmelman, 343.8981, jhimmelm@lakeheadu.ca

Student Health and Counselling

The Centre's physicians' schedules will be reduced for the remainder of this term. Work has begun on the renovations of the old Prettie Residence. It is anticipated that the Centre will be open in the summer of 2015. The new location will provide better service opportunities for our students.

Web Development Services

The migration to the new website has been completed for the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, School of Kinesiology, Water Resources Sciences, Applied Bio-Molecular Sciences Program and Institutional Analysis.

Web Development Services is working on a number of long-term projects including:

- Searchable Course Timetable
- New Web Portal for myInfo (with ERP/Technology Services Centre)
- An updated Lakehead Theme focusing on Accessibility, Responsive Design and updated brand (fonts)
- English as a Second Language Online Self-Test
- Work order system for Physical Plant

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)