

Provost's Report to Senate

October 2015

2012-2017 Academic Plan – Review and Refresh

Our Academic Plan needs to respond to inevitably changing circumstances and was designed to be a living document. At the midway point of the period covered by the Plan, we reviewed our progress in order to take stock of how much we have accomplished, and where we may need to shift or refocus attention.

Over the past six months, I have worked with the Senate Academic Committee - Academic Plan: Review and Refresh Committee to lead a review of the implementation of the Academic Action Plans to date. The Committee has affirmed the five priorities articulated in the Plan. The progress made on achieving the many actions has been carefully examined and actions revised or emphasized as necessary.

In support of the motion before Senate today, the Report of the Review and Refresh Committee (Item 6.1 - a detailed summary of the process used to complete the work of the Committee and the Implementation Status Report); and the Revised Action Plans for the 2012-17 Academic Plan (Item 6.1.1) has been provided as part of the Senate Academic Committee Report.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Committee for their work on this review.

Faculty of Engineering

Congratulations to the team of students from Chemical Engineering who represented Lakehead University at the 2015 SNC-Lavalin Undergraduate Plant Design competition. The annual competition is hosted by the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSChE). A panel of judges from industry, government, and academia evaluate all the entries and selects three teams to compete in the final round. This year's finalists included Lakehead University, the University of McGill and Ryerson University. For the second year in a row, the team of Lakehead University chemical engineering students placed first in the SNC-Lavalin Undergraduate Plant Design competition. This year's team, consisting of Natasha Bieniek, Ryan Gerlach, Terry Milton, Christopher Lock, and Kayte Sutherland, was supervised by Drs. Siamak Elyasi and Liela Pakzad. The students designed a cost effective chemical plant that could improve waste management practices by converting waste plastic into high value hydrocarbons such as gasoline and kerosene.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, and a member of the Department of Psychology, was one of the eminent leaders who participated in the panel discussion after the film screening for "*In This Heaven*" on October 8. The film documents the efforts of Mae Katt, a First Nation nurse practitioner, as she runs a mobile drug addiction treatment program in the remote, underserved Matawa First Nation communities. Following the screening, the panel discussed the challenges of opioid organized by the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.

Faculty of Natural Resources

The Faculty has been very active this fall with their two-week local, regional and international field school schedule for undergraduate students: first and second year students were exposed to local and regional examples of vegetation and soils related issues such as species classification, genetics, boreal ecology and disturbance agents. The field schools included:

- Third year students who participated in a regional exposure to a multitude of resource management issues as presented by the 107th Annual Canadian Institute of Forestry AGM & Conference hosted by the Lake of the Woods Section in Kenora. A 20-student subset of the 3rd year class took part in a 2-week journey in China (Nanjing and Hefei) with exposure to many of the current challenges in China related to environmental pollution, forest protection and forest renewal as well as innovative approaches to climate change adaptation.
- Senior (4th year) students participated in a number of different opportunities:
 - one group participated in the FAO 14th World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa with the theme stated as “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”.
 - another group travelled across the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta culminating with a site visit to the oil sands (Suncor) including airborne exposure of the Athabasca region affected.
 - the third group participated in the American Wildlife Society’s 22nd Annual Conference hosted by the Manitoba Chapter in Winnipeg (mainly sponsored by the US Forest Service Department of Agriculture).

The NRM Faculty also welcomed its first cohort of Chinese students as part of the three MOU’s with China to have Chinese students complete a Lakehead NRM equivalent curriculum in China followed by year three entry in Thunder Bay.

Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Initiatives continues to work our CLAN database partner to enable the NW region to link our educational organizations and institutions to our education, funding and employment database. They are working with university and high school students, to recruit students to CLAN.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services

The ACSS’s Transition Advisor, Victoria Bolduc will be leaving Lakehead at the end of October. An Aboriginal MSW graduate student will be available to provide part-time student counselling. As well, working with students in Thunder Bay and Orillia, events will be planned throughout the year.

Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Outreach

The Aboriginal Mentorship Program has been mobilized with visits to new schools and through attendance at various recruitment opportunities through foundations and businesses.

University Library

The online study room booking system is being well used by students. From September 1 to October 20 there have been 2394 bookings made by 600 students for a total of over 5,000 occupied hours. There are 16 rooms in the Chancellor Paterson Library available for student group work.

Searches for the University Archivist and the Research Data Services Librarian are underway. Postings are available on the [Lakehead University Employment Opportunities web page](#).

The trial for a journal browsing app called **BrowZine** has been extended. Go to **browzine.com** or search for BrowZine in the app or play store. If you miss the days of coming to the library and browsing through the important journals in your discipline, try out BrowZine. BrowZine's My Bookshelf feature also makes staying up-to-date easier. New article notifications are sent automatically, synced across devices, and BrowZine always gets the user to full text, on or off-campus. Please send your feedback to Karen Keiller, University Librarian, kkeiller@lakeheadu.ca.

Student Affairs

Undergraduate Recruitment

Lakehead University once again participated in the annual Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF), the largest recruitment fair of its kind in North America, held in Toronto September 25-27. This year's event saw over 132,000 prospective students and influencers in attendance making it the most highly attended OUF to date. Over the course of the three days, Lakehead faculty, staff, students and alumni from both campuses met with thousands of prospective students to showcase our exceptional programs and life at Lakehead. Over 3,000 students signed up at the Lakehead booth and over 300 students and influencers attended a Lakehead presentation.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all members of the Lakehead community for participating in this very important recruitment event.

Orillia Student Affairs

New Director - Mr. Chris Glover has been appointed as Director, Student Affairs in Orillia. He will assume his responsibilities as of November 9. Chris comes to Lakehead University from Dalhousie University where he is currently serving as the Associate Director of Student Career and Leadership Development.

Wellness Centre - The Wellness Centre hosted the 1st Annual Fall Wellness Week (October 13-16). The centre is being well utilized, especially our new Nurse Practitioner.

Student Central - This highly visible and central location acts as the first stop for Student Affairs and continues to be well utilized by students. Slightly extended hours (8:30 am - 5:00 pm) are being offered as a pilot project for the fall term. Four laptops have been added as short-term use stations in this location allowing students to quickly access MyInfo for registration or account inquiry purposes.

Student Health and Counselling Centre

The Centre's counselling and medical appointments are steady thus far. The Centre participated in the Faculty of Education & NOSM orientation sessions, and presented a mental health session to Faculty of Law students. The campus *LeaveThePack Behind* peer team has begun their tobacco awareness programming and the Responsible Gambling Council was on campus to share their *KnowTheScore* campaign.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre hosted a series of events for students with wonderful turnout and engagements:

- **Fall Career Fair** - welcomed 22 local, regional and national employers on campus to recruit Lakehead graduating students on October 20. Hundreds of students took part in the Fair. The new SSC photo booth, providing students with professional headshots appropriate for online use on their job search profiles (e.g. LinkedIn), is proving to be very popular.
- students in the supports and tools they need at the time they need them. A new website was launched, allowing students to easily search and register for seminars. For more information, visit [Skills for Success](#).

Please mark your calendars and refer students to the upcoming **2015/16 Career Fairs**. Employers from around the region, country and world will be on campus to meet and recruit Lakehead students.

- **Engineering Career Fair**, Wednesday, November 18, 2015
- **Education Career Fair**, Wednesday, January 20, 2016
- **Spring Career Fair (multiple disciplines)**, Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Web Development Services

Mr. Spencer Ranta has been appointed as Manager of Web Development Services. He will begin the position on November 2. Spencer is already well familiar with Lakehead University and he brings with him a tremendous skill set that will be of great benefit to Web Development Services as well as the University community at large.

Instructional Development Centre

The IDC has launched a new Graduate Skills Certificate program with approximately 20 participants. Through a combination of online and in person sessions, participants will develop skills in course design, professional communications, academic integrity culminating in the creation of a teaching dossier. Workshops for all teaching instructors are also being scheduled. For more information, please contact, Ms. Breanne Neufeld, the IDC Coordinator (idc@lakeheadu.ca or go to <http://www.idc.lakeheadu.ca>).

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)