

Provost's Report to Senate

February 2015

Academic Plan 2012-2017

Lakehead University is committed to ongoing integrated planning to ensure that the decisions we make and the actions we take across the University all stream from a central vision and collective goals. The vision and goals are guided by our 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and embodied in our 2012-2017 Academic Plan.

Our Academic Plan needs to respond to inevitably changing circumstances and is a living document. We are currently midway through the period covered by the Plan and it is important that we take stock of how much we have accomplished, and where we may need to shift or refocus attention. I will be working with the Senate Academic Committee, and in consultation with the academic communities on both campuses, to lead a review of the implementation of the Academic Action Plans to date. Progress made on achieving the strategies will be examined, and actions revised or emphasized as necessary. It is anticipated that a refreshed Academic Plan that will continue to guide us towards achieving our priorities over the final years of the plan, will be presented to Senate in the early fall.

Aboriginal Initiatives

The Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) was honoured to "Swear In" new Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Chairman, Joe Moses on January 28, 2015. Mr. Moses is the first Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce Chair in Canada.

Aboriginal Initiatives received \$9,000.00 from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) to take youth from Thunder Bay to the Canadian Roots Annual Gathering at Children of the Earth High School in Winnipeg. Attending with the Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) will be a staff member from the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, three youth from Lakehead's Native Access Program, two youth from Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, one youth from Confederation College and three youth from local First Nation communities.

The Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) hosted a meeting with Confederation College's President Jim Madder and Ms. Brenda S. Small, Vice President, Centre for Policy in Aboriginal Learning to discuss ways to work more closely together. They will continue to follow up with innovative ways to bring our educational institutions closer together over the next few years. The Vice-Provost is also working closely with the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration (CESME) and the Faculty of Engineering to create new community engagement programming for students and First Nation community development.

Administration

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives continues to utilize Work Study positions in their work with CLAN and the development of a Canadian Roots Exchange (CRE) program office and program here at Lakehead University. A Confederation College Practicum student will be taking charge of the project to build a strong foundation and develop guidelines for the CRE Program.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services

In collaboration with the Student Success Centre, the ACSS continues to host *Skills for Success Seminars* for Aboriginal students in the Aboriginal Student Lounge. Workshops include: Academic Reading & Note Taking, Test Preparation – Tips & Best Practices, and Writing Multiple Choice Tests & Exams.

The recruitment and coordination of peer tutors in different programs and levels as peer tutors continues. Peer tutors have been assigned to the Native Access Program study hall, the Native Nurses Entry Program, and to various individual students who have come forward requesting the additional academic support. This is an ongoing initiative with greater demands made on resources during exam dates.

The ACSS is in the process of coordinating and organizing an *Elders Round Table*. An Elders Storytelling session is being planned for Friday, March 20 in the Faculty Lounge. Students will be asked to bring their siblings, cousins, or other family members aged 8-16 to the university for a brief tour and to spend some time with Elders, listening to their stories or legends, while making a children's craft.

The ACSS Coordinator continues to meet with Native Access Program students during their monthly NAP student check-ins. The monthly student check-ins are designed to build connections within the Lakehead University community; to promote familiarization with the program, university regulations and student support services; and to provide direction and guidance to students while working to ensure student success and retention. Regular meetings are held with the NAP Coordinator to discuss student progress and any concerns that might be raised during student check-ins.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

The recommended application deadline of February 1 for admission to graduate programs in the fall semester has now passed. We currently have 1027 applications that are being processed with 123 offers having gone out to date. We are sending completed applications to the programs for evaluation as quickly as we can and we encourage graduate programs to work through the applications so that we can provide offers to our applicants in a timely fashion.

Based on the success of the matching funding program for International students in previous years, the first call for International Matching Funding has gone out to programs. We are hoping for a quick response on funding requests for returning students so that we can release money for new recruitment.

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services

Preliminary 101 (Ontario High School) Application Update

The preliminary deadline date for Ontario high school applicants to apply to an Ontario University was January 14, 2015. Based on initial application numbers, the OUAC reported in February that Lakehead has declined -6.1% in applications compared to the same time last year. System-wide, the number of 101 applications has decreased by -0.6%. This is the second year in a row that the sector has experienced a decline in 101 applications.

These application numbers remain preliminary. Applications continue to be accepted and processed throughout the cycle.

Conversion Efforts

Conversion efforts are underway aimed at converting applicants to confirmed/enrolled students for Fall 2015. The continued involvement and participation of the University community is critical to our overall success and is greatly appreciated. To discuss recruitment and conversion opportunities, please contact Emily Shandruk, Manager of Undergraduate Recruitment at emily.shandruk@lakeheadu.ca.

Save the Date: Convocation 2015

Convocation is a special time to celebrate the achievements of our students. This year's Convocation ceremonies will take place as follows:

Thunder Bay Campus

Location: Thunder Bay Community Auditorium

Dates: Friday May 29, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday May 30, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Orillia Campus

Location: Rotary Place

Date: Saturday June 6, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.

Enhancements to Curriculum Navigator

The structural components of Curriculum Navigator are being managed by Enrolment Services – Academic Advising, Records & Registration. Over the course of an 8-month period, the functionality of the system was expanded and concerns expressed by users were addressed. As part of this work, a user resource webpage has been created to provide users with an easy to use resource guide. The guide can be accessed here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/faculty-resources/cn>

Student Accessibility Services

The number of students registered with Student Accessibility Services continues to increase, as does the request for our services.

- 564 students currently registered with SAS (550 in 2013/14)
 - 441 Thunder Bay (424 in 2013/14)
 - 123 Orillia (126 in 2013/14)

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre is pleased to announce the re-launch of the ***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. On-campus recruiting efforts will be underway in the coming weeks, and students may be referred by faculty and staff to join the program by contacting Joy Himmelman, x 8981, jhimmelm@lakeheadu.ca.

The Student Success Centre is encouraging faculty and staff to promote the upcoming Career Fair to their students, which will feature regional, national and international companies on campus recruiting Lakehead students:

- **Spring Career Fair 2015** – Thursday, February 26 (The Agora)

Student Health and Counselling

The Centre has hosted/participated in the following wellness activities:

- *Winter Wellness Fair* on issues such as: sexual assault, nutrition, sexual health, problem gambling, and mental health - ~90 students at Centre booth
- Eating Disorder Week events with partners from St Joseph's Care Group
- *Party Safe* Display with educational games
- Good2Talk cards - 100+ students.

A Stress Management workshop, held in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, the Student Success Centre, and Student Health and Counselling will be offered at the Faculty of Law on March 16, 2015.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)