

Provost's Report to Senate

September 2015

2012-2017 Academic Plan – Review and Refresh

The Academic Planning Review and Refresh Committee worked hard over the spring and early summer months to review the 2012 Academic Action Plans and implementation status reports. Clarifications and additions were drafted where necessary, progress noted where information was missing, and the individuals with lead responsibility for actions clearly identified. During the summer, a number of actions were forwarded to academic and senior administrators for additional review, consultation, and revision.

The Committee is meeting this week to review the revised action plans and will then be forwarding these along with the implementation reports to the next Senate Academic Committee meeting for their review and approval of next steps. The process is on target for bringing the refreshed Academic Plan documents to Senate this fall.

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

Last fall a Provost's Task Force on Innovation and Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology was charged with recommending specific sustainable initiatives and processes across the University to foster a student-centred learning environment, promoting innovative and effective teaching and learning practices at Lakehead University. The Task Force considered institutional changes to organizational structure and infrastructure, policy and resource requirements to lay the groundwork for the development of an Advanced Teaching, Technology and Learning Centre.

I have received the report of the PTF and it is clear that members of the Task Force have invested considerable time and thought to teaching and learning at Lakehead University, and to what is needed to create and sustain a vibrant and supportive teaching and learning culture. Over the next month I will be posting the recommendations and will follow-up with an action plan for addressing them.

Appointment of Deputy Provost

Upon completion of a review of the Deputy Provost, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Nancy Luckai has been appointed to a three-year term as the Deputy Provost.

Vice-Provost (Student Affairs) Review

The review of the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs) was been completed in the Winter/Spring 2015. Ms. Marian Ryks-Szelekovszky has been renewed as the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs).

New Faculty Orientation

Orientation for new members of faculty and teaching staff was held on August 27 and 28, 2015. New faculty on both campuses attended a series of excellent sessions that were held in our Tele-Presence Classrooms. The newest edition of the Faculty Orientation handbook is now available on the University website under Faculty Resources at <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/faculty-resources>

Aboriginal Initiatives

MAGNET our CLAN database partner is in the process of raising money to enable the NW Region to link our educational organizations and institutions to our education, funding and employment database. Please contact the Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) for more information about this exciting new initiative.

Community Engagement

The Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives), Honourary Witness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, attended the closing event of the Truth and Reconciliation Closing in Ottawa in June 2015. She will support Lakehead's response to the Report in the coming months.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services and Aboriginal Student Recruitment

The ACSS continues to host regular events and has implemented the Elders Circle sessions bringing in 8 Elders and 20 children for storytelling, craftwork, and lunch.

In conjunction with Confederation College, Eabametoong First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Matawa Education, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win, and 7 Generations Education Institute, the ACSS worked collaboratively on planning and organizing *Maadaadizi 2015* - which means he/she starts a journey in the Ojibwe language. This successful event was held on September 11, 2015.

University Library

A new Library web site will be launched in September. The site uses the University's template and is developed in the Drupal content management system. Included in the launch is a new FAQ platform available at libanswers.lakeheadu.ca and the ability to send a question to librarians by text message (to 807-788-2381).

The Library has launched a new video streaming service, Kanopy, available at lakeheadu.kanopystreaming.com. Described as Netflix for universities, Kanopy provides access to one of the largest collections of films in the world - including award-winning documentaries, training films and theatrical releases - on a wide-range of topics, including indigenous studies.

We have a trial for a journal browsing app called **BrowZine**. 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.

Student Affairs

Continuing Education & Distributed Learning

In order to provide the University community with improved features and functionalities of its online learning management system, Desire2Learn (D2L) has been upgraded. It now offers easier navigation between content pages, better functionality within review and edit tools (e.g., spelling errors highlighted), more intuitive timing options for quiz settings/restrictions, a new option to embed/upload video to the content area, and enhanced self-help resources for students and instructors including several videos on a dedicated YouTube Channel.

Enrolment Services

Academic Advising, Records and Registration

Course registration continues until Friday, September 25, 2015 for fall and full-year classes.

Fast Pass 2015, which included nine scheduled sessions held on both campuses, had over 300 students attend.

Student Awards and Financial Aid

A Financial Literacy Plan is currently being developed. When implemented it will include a workshop series (e.g. budgeting, savings, credit card debt management), games and promotion of the ways we can support students.

The Work Study Program provided a total of 188 jobs for both the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter work-study program initiatives. The number of students applying for jobs has increased over the total number of applicants from the previous year.

Undergraduate Recruitment

The Recruitment Team is preparing for an active recruitment season. Approximately 750 schools will be visited over a 3-month period. In addition to in-school visits, the following large scale events are being planned:

- **Ontario Universities' Fair** – September 25, 26 & 27 (Toronto)
- **Preview Days** – November 7 (Orillia) & December 8 (Thunder Bay)
- **Lakehead Day in the GTA** – November 21 (GTA Location TBA)
- **Educator's Seminar** – October 28 (Orillia) & November 13 (Thunder Bay)
- **Campus Tour Day** – December 8 (Orillia)

Orillia Student Affairs

Orillia Student Affairs saw significant changes over the summer months, both physically and in terms of staffing. A realignment of reporting created direct ties for Orillia staff to functional departments, and Directors/Managers, in Thunder Bay. This change will allow for much improved flow of information and resources, increased collaboration, and ultimately, enhanced service delivery for students at the Orillia campus.

The new Director of Student Affairs-Orillia (DSA-O) will manage the following direct reports: Athletics (1), Wellness (1) and Student Central (2) as well as a dotted line reporting relationship with all other OSA staff, and will meet with functional managers regularly to

support all Orillia-based Student Affairs programming and events. The Director will report to the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs).

Faculty and staff mark your calendars and refer your 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.

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

The **Writing Centre** and **Math Assistance Centre** are moving into a larger space within the Chancellor Paterson Library (LI 2004). The move will allow for the expansion of writing and math support services for Lakehead's students. For more information, including new hours of operation, and to refer your students to these free services, please visit:

writingcentre.lakeheadu.ca

Student Health and Counselling Centre

The Centre closed the office in the University Centre on June 17th and opened in the new location in Prettie Residence on June 19th. Much positive feedback has been noted by returning students.

The Centre has secured the services of a second part-time psychiatrist who starts her weekly half-day clinics on September 17th.

At this time, the number of family physicians and 'regular' clinics has been decreased slightly due to physician's moving to full-time practice, practice changes and a move/leave. Recruitment for additional physicians will continue.

Web Development Services

The search for a new Manager is currently underway. In the meantime, Web Development Services is striving to provide necessary services to all areas.

Marks Report for Lakehead University

Attached is a summary of the undergraduate marks by department for Fall/Winter 2014-2015.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Attachment