

# Provost's Report to Senate

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September 2014

## Major Capacity Expansion Proposal

The Ministry released its Major Capacity Expansion Policy Framework on December 20, 2013 and posted a call for full proposals due September 26, 2014. Successful proposals will meet the MTCU's goals for increased capacity at the undergraduate degree level; greater affordability for students, institutions, and the province; improved institutional differentiation; and regional economic benefits. MTCU has stated that this long-term initiative will help ensure that our postsecondary education system will have the right spaces in the right places for Ontario students.

Lakehead and Georgian have joined forces to deliver a capacity expansion strategy that is at the same time innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable. In addition to minimizing duplication of programming, this collaborative model draws on shared services to lower operating expenses and uses existing capacity to reduce infrastructure investment requirements. With this approach, the Lakehead-Georgian collaboration circumvents the need for unwarranted duplicate of infrastructure and services that already exist in the region, focuses on enhancements that fill existing gaps, and ensures a strategy that adds value to the region with its potential for innovation and economic development.

## Provost 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 (including Aboriginal 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.

I have recently 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 will be charged with making recommendations for institutional changes to organizational structure and infrastructure, policy, and resource requirements that will initiate the development of an **Advanced Teaching, Technology, and Learning Centre**. Over the fall term, the Task Force will be reaching out to various groups across campus and will provide updates on their discussions and progress.

## New Faculty Orientation

Orientation for new members of faculty and teaching staff was held on 26-27, August 2014. Dr. Nancy Luckai, Acting Deputy Provost, coordinated a series of excellent sessions that were held in

our new Tele-Presence Classrooms. Especially well received was a full morning session delivered by Dr. Jane Nicholas, Director – Instructional Development Centre. 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**

### **Community Relations**

Aboriginal Initiatives, in collaboration with the Faculty of Sciences & Environmental Studies, will once again be participating in the Science Aboriginal Mentorship Program. Details are available at: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/ai/aboriginal-mentorship-program>

### **Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services and Aboriginal Student Recruitment**

The Native Access Program has 35 registered students – larger than in any other previous year.

*Maadaadizi 2014* (he/she begins a journey) held in Marina Park on Saturday, September 6 attracted several hundred students and families. This joint post-secondary Aboriginal Student Orientation was in collaboration with Confederation College, Eabametoong First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Matawa Post Secondary program, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win and 7 Generations Education Institute. Wab Kinew, CBC host and Canadian musician, was the keynote speaker. Planning for 2015 is already underway as part of the Northwest Coordinated Learning Access Network!

## **Faculty of Business Administration**

In collaboration with Confederation College, the Faculty of Business Administration recently received \$200,00 in funding from the Ontario Center of Excellence (OCE) to establish On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activity.

## **Faculty of Education**

Applications are now being accepted for the New Master of Education Field of Study in Education for Change. Areas of specialization within Education for Change are: Environmental and Sustainability Education, Indigenous Education and Social Justice Education.

## **Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**

Congratulations to Dr. Vicki Kristman, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Sciences who has received the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award.

## **Faculty of Law**

In September 2014, the Faculty of Law welcomed its second cohort of 60 students. Fifty-eight second year students have returned to continue their studies.

## Faculty of Natural Resources Management

The NRM Faculty has had a busy summer session with a focus on research, transfer student upgrades and outreach – both internationally and regionally. Eight Brazilian interns were hosted by NRM faculty to study in areas of soil science, geomatics and wood technology. Senior undergraduate students were exposed to various aspects of research and were also involved with academic courses and field trips throughout the NWO.

The first intern arrived from Stellenbosch University in South Africa for two-months. The Faculty of NRM has had a long-standing collaboration with this University.

The Faculty's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) initiative is rapidly expanding with numerous test flights throughout Northwestern Ontario as well as the addition of more drones with improved camera systems.

A review of the management of the University's off-campus properties has been initiated by the Faculty with the aim of improving its utilization in both teaching and research. The Faculty has also spent considerable time over the summer with various entities in southern Ontario (including Simcoe County) dealing with woodlot management and invasive species (primarily Emerald Ash Borer).

## Student Affairs Enrolment Services

### Undergraduate Recruitment

The Recruitment Team has started its Fall 2015 recruitment season. Recruiters will be visiting high schools, colleges, universities and various community organizations to meet with prospective students over the coming months. A series of recruitment events are also being planned to provide prospective students with the opportunity to visit the campus, meet with faculty and staff, as well as experience Lakehead. The participation of the university community is paramount to our success.

Please mark your calendars for these two important recruitment events:

- **October 25, 2014 Preview Day (Orillia Campus)**
- **December 2, 2014 Preview Day (Thunder Bay Campus)**

A warm welcome is extended to Ms. Emily Shandruk who started this summer in the position of Manager of Undergraduate Recruitment.

### Academic Advising, Records and Registration

Registration for new and returning students has been a priority in this area. The Fast Pass campaign (summer registration programming) was launched for new students as well as "call campaigns" to assist students with registration.

All faculty and staff are invited to come by and network with the new students at the First Year Student Open House on:

- **Tuesday, September 16 in UC 1004.**

## **Student Accessibility Services**

As of September 8, 152 students who require accommodations for the 2014/2015 academic year have registered with Student Accessibility Services. A total of 79 students registered for and required academic accommodations during the Spring/Summer term.

## **Student Success Centre**

A successful orientation was hosted September 4 – 10 on both campuses of Lakehead University. The main day of Orientation saw a record number of students as well as family and friends attending a wide variety of activities and workshops. New this year were sessions for students addressing Stress and Mental Health, Alcohol and Sexual Misconduct. The latter session was developed in response to the Sexual Assault Task Force and its various recommendations.

Sincere appreciation goes out to all those faculty and staff who were part of Orientation and helped to make the event so successful.

## **Student Health and Counselling Centre**

Student Health and Counselling services have been well-utilized as of the first week of classes with almost all available appointments booked. Additional physician clinics have been added in September. The Centre implemented an electronic health record system on July 18 with the system used mainly by the medical/health section.

Wellness activities in 2014/2015 will be focused on presenting a number of health fairs and activities to provide general health information and to raise awareness of the Centre's services, community health resources and health issues pertinent to all students.

Work to relocate the Student Health and Counselling Centre to the first floor of the Prettie Residence is beginning this fall. The relocation will enable the Centre to better serve the needs of students and staff and provide for much-needed additional space to operate the Centre. At the same time, work is being done to identify a more permanent location for the Centre given that the Prettie residence has been identified as the location for the Kendaasiwin Centre.

## **Web Development Services**

Beta-Testing has been launched for the Online Student ID Order form for Library. This will be open to all students at the Thunder Bay campus and distance learners on September 15.

The following web sites were migrated to the new platform in June and July: Music, Chemistry, Biology and Anthropology. Migration is in process for the following: Native Nursing Entry Program, Engineering, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Privacy and Risk Management.

## **New Services**

Personal Profile pages will be hosted at <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/users>. User access and configuration to be provided by Web Development Services. An email with instructions and information on training is forthcoming in early October.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson  
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)