

Provost's Report to Senate

October 2014

Aboriginal Initiatives

Community Relations

Aboriginal Initiatives has received an MTCU Targeted Initiatives Fund Proposal grant for \$300,000.00 over two years. The project being funded is the Northwestern Ontario Coordinated Learning Access Network, which will include training for 50 participants in the On Course (student retention) program and support for three Aboriginal Mentorship Programs: Science, Business and Engineering over two years.

Lakehead University will be hosting an Indspire "SOARING: Indigenous Youth Career Conference" on October 21, 2014 at the Valhalla Inn.

Academic

The Lunch and Learns on Aboriginal Issues have been re-launched. The October 8 session on "The Walk A Mile Film Project" had a turnout of 33 people including staff, faculty and the students. The next one is scheduled for November 19, 2014.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services

Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives welcomed well over a hundred individuals to its annual Fall Harvest held on Saturday, September 20. The event saw students, staff, faculty and off-campus community members come together to celebrate the change of seasons while learning about traditional Aboriginal activities. A total of 36 Lakehead University student volunteers helped to make the event a success. The following members of Lakehead University's Elders Council played an integral role throughout the day's event: Elder, Senator Bob McKay, Elder Gerry Martin, Elder Marjorie Lyons, Elder Gene Nowegejick, Elder Ella Gagnon, Elder Sara Sabouri, Elder Mark Saul, and the youth members of the Battle Nation Drum Group who were on hand with their traditional drum. Staff from Fort William Historical Park also attended Fall Harvest and did artisan demonstrations with an interactive booth.

At this year's Fall Harvest a community tipi painting session was hosted. Aboriginal Transitions Advisor, Victoria Bolduc created images of wolves and a thunderbird for community members to paint. Everyone enjoyed being a part of this community endeavour.

Ms. Helen Pelletier, Coordinator, Aboriginal Awareness Centre also participated at the Fall Harvest by hosting a Community Bead-In as part of the *Walking With Our Sisters* community project. Beaded hearts are being created and will be used in a community wall-hanging art project once the installation has moved on from Thunder Bay.

Faculty of Engineering

Several faculty members were awarded NSERC funding for research projects beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year. The principle investigators are Dr. Baoqiang Liao (Anaerobic Membrane Bioreactor for Bioenergy), Dr. Amir Azimi (Experimental and numerical investigations of multiphase jets), Dr. Sam Salem (Structural Fire Performance of Engineered-Wood Building Systems), Dr. Salama Ikki (High Spectral and Energy Efficient Multi-User Large MIMO (MU-MIMO) Wireless Systems), Dr. Mohammad Uddin (Control Strategies for Wind Energy Systems and Motor Drives with Efficient Electric Machines), and Dr. Rachid Benlamri (Semantic Web-Based Medical Documentation Processing for Healthcare Collaboration).

The Faculty of Engineering summer transition program enrolled over 240 students from colleges across Canada during the months of July and August. The Faculty is a recognized leader in offering pathways for technology diploma graduates to expeditiously complete their B.Eng. degree in two years plus the summer transition program.

The Faculty of Engineering received final approval from MTCU for the Faculty's first PhD program, the PhD program in Electrical and Computer Engineering. The MSc in Civil Engineering is currently awaiting final MTCU approval having successfully completed Lakehead University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process and received approval from Quality Council.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

On October 10, 2014 the Faculty of Graduate Studies, with Lakehead International, hosted a Professional Development Day for all Graduate Coordinators. The day featured presentations on the role of the Office of Graduate Studies (Ms. Laurie Hill), the Application and Admissions Process (Ms. Charisse Clark) and Funding (Ms. Trish Sokoloski). Mr. Tony Williams, Acting Vice Provost (International) with Ms. Leigh-Ellen Keating, Director of International, lead a discussion on recruiting international students. Recruitment will be a focus of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council in the 2014-15 academic year. Thank you to all of the coordinators who attended.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

The Natural Resources Management Faculty started the 2014 fall session with successful field school activities for all undergraduate students. These included a two-week journey for third year students to Croatia and the Czech Republic. The fourth year students either went to Utah or Pennsylvania to participate in national, professional meetings.

In anticipation of an expansion of the Faculty's in-Canada field excursions for students, a site visit to the oil sands in Alberta was conducted including site remediation and 3-d mapping of Syncrude and CNRL mining activities.

Dr. Qing-Ling Dang recently travelled to China with Dr. Brian Stevenson where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Beihua University for a cohort 2 + 2 student transfer. There is also a plan to send third year students to Beihua for the September 2015 field school.

Third and fourth year students recently participated in a symposium in Duluth, Minnesota. The topic was on preparations for the soon to occur infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer – an invasive insect steadily moving towards NW Ontario.

Student Affairs

Student Accessibility Services

In collaboration with Risk Management, Security and Student Health and Counselling, a protocol to deal with students' severe allergic reactions is being developed.

In conjunction with the Paterson Library, an Assistive Technology Open House was hosted on September 9, 2014.

Web Development Services

The following web sites were migrated to the new platform in September:

- Native Nurses Entry Program
- Privacy and Risk Management

In addition to the training sessions held on October 2 and 3, Web Development Services is exploring producing a Video tutorial which will provide faculty with the necessary training for managing faculty profiles that can be accessed at their convenience.

Two conference websites have been launched:

- Aboriginal Law Student Conference
- Early Learning and Development

Conference registration forms have been developed for:

- CERAH Palliative Care Conference
- COUS Conference - Scheduled Launch Early October

The support includes, but is not limited to, configuration of navigation structure, graphics, and registration form with online payment option.

Web Development Services has worked closely with Recruitment to enhance its capabilities and to provide more timely and consistent communications. Enhancements include Prospective Student activity tracking, Faculty email templates, automated email distribution of Faculty emails to prospective students, and two new reports; *International Prospects* and *Prospects by Faculty*.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)