

Provost's Report to Senate

May 2015

Decanal Review

I am pleased to announce that the decanal review of Dr. Bahram Dadgostar has been completed. Dr. Dadgostar received strong support from his faculty, colleagues and the University Community. He has been renewed as Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration for a further four year term. Thank you to everyone who participated in this review.

Academic Plan Review and Refresh

The Committee to Review and Refresh the 2012-2017 Academic Plan held its inaugural meeting on April 24, 2015. We reviewed the original context for the Plan, including the key drivers and challenges that set the stage for the development of the Plan. Goals for the committee were discussed and the process and timeline were established. The Committee will be meeting regularly in May and June, holding focused consultation sessions in June, and preparing the report over the summer and early fall for submission to the Senate Academic Committee and Senate. The Committee includes faculty, staff, and student representation from both campuses, and includes members from the original planning committee.

Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis

In August, 2015, a longstanding and valued member of the University, Ms. Kerrie-Lee Clarke, will be retiring from her position as Vice-Provost Institutional Analysis. I will sincerely miss her knowledge, wisdom, and unwavering commitment and dedication to Lakehead. We are in the process of planning an event to celebrate her many contributions and to wish her well in her retirement, and we will announce these plans shortly.

We have recently advertised the position description for the Vice-Provost of Institutional Planning and Analysis. The Vice-Provost will serve as the senior administrator responsible for a reconfigured Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis, and will advise on and support institutional planning, decision-making, policy formation, accountability reporting, and the development and tracking of key performance indicators (KPIs) and institutional metrics. A primary purpose of this role is to facilitate informed decision-making regarding Lakehead's plans and priorities by providing research and analytical capacity in support of an integrated, multi-year planning and budgeting framework. In addition, the role is responsible for guiding processes for the planning, implementation, and assessment portions of integrated planning. The position description is available on our website.

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

The Provost's Task Force on Excellence and Innovation in Teaching, Learning and Technology has tabled its Interim Report. The report includes 5 principles and a set of recommendations based on the Task Force's terms of reference and mandate. The Task Force's 18 members representing units from across the University began meeting in October 2014. The Interim Report reflects seven months of in-depth research and discussion by members of the Task Force. Following review and consultation on specific recommendations, a final report will be

prepared and submitted. Recommendations and next steps will be shared for discussion in the early fall.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

The Faculty hosted a multi-day visit in April by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah of University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Sunyani, Ghana. Dr. Awuah was also accompanied by Dr. Amos Kabo-Bah who is the Head of the GEONETCast Centre at UENR. The objectives of the visit were to illustrate NRM's geomatics capacity to establish a UAV (drone) training centre in Ghana this year, to demonstrate NRM's ability to deliver modular training in geomatics, advanced wood technology and biometrics to Ghana as well as to finalize a multi-year joint proposal to IDRC for a community-based food security project in the same areas of Ghana the Faculty was previously engaged from 1993 to 2007.

In April the NRM Faculty celebrated the achievements of the graduating class by holding the 14th Annual Undergraduate Thesis Symposium – 40 students presented their theses to external judges who provided evaluations and selected “winners” at the end of the event. Examples of the wide scope of thesis topics covering all aspects of sustainable management will be posted on the Faculty's web page in June.

The NRM Faculty participated in the successful two-day Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) Forestry Expo held at the Valhalla Inn on April 22 and 23. This well attended Expo included exhibitors from forest products companies, businesses, industry suppliers, and education and training institutes. The NRM Faculty were involved with multiple presentations and also ran two major exhibitor booths with two themes: bio-fuels research and capacity for remote communities and the utilization of drones (UAVs) for better decision making on resource evaluation and utilization.

Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law is pleased to announce that a Student Legal Services Centre located at the law school will be opening shortly. The Centre will serve clients in need of legal representation provided by law students under the supervision of review counsel. The Student Legal Services Centre is an important part of the Faculty of Law's skill program and is made possible by the generous support of Legal Aid Ontario.

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services

Undergraduate Recruitment

As part of conversion efforts, over 300 high schools throughout Ontario had follow-up visits to meet with students that have applied to Lakehead for September 2015. In addition, 18 Applicant Receptions were hosted throughout the province to provide applicants and families with pertinent information regarding next steps to becoming a Lakehead student.

A new online webinar series “Discover Lakehead” was launched in April for applicants featuring high interest topics such as Financing Your Education, Planning Your Future Career, and Life On Campus.

Recruitment and conversion initiatives continue to take place throughout the spring. Your continued participation and support in these efforts can make a positive difference in our recruitment efforts.

Academic Advising, Records & Registration

The Course Timetable for Fall 2015/Winter 2016 is being finalized. The Timetable will be posted in June 2015.

The Academic Calendar has been aligned with the new website. The navigation menu and organization of content has been improved. Any feedback or suggestions are welcome. Please contact Cathie O'Connor, Associate Registrar at coconnor@lakeheadu.ca Registration will open in mid-June.

Student Accessibility Services

Over the past academic year Student Accessibility Services provided support and/or facilitated academic accommodations for 618 registered students (487 Thunder Bay, 131 Orillia) with an additional ~201+ potential students and general office inquiries.

Student Accessibility Services continues to see an increase in the number of students registering (550 students in 2014/2015) coupled with an increasing complexity of the required accommodations. Challenges continue to be experienced in identifying appropriate, available space for accommodated tests at the Thunder Bay campus as well a need to increase staffing for invigilation.

Student Accessibility Services held a number of events/displays this past year which highlighted Assistive Technology, including the provision of resources for creating accessible documents.

Student Success Centre

Mark Your Calendars! The **2015 Fall Orientation** will take place from **September 10 - 13, 2015** at the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. The core academic transition and orientation events coordinated by the Student Success Centre and Orillia Student Affairs will take place on **Thursday, September 10 & Friday, September 11**. Please watch for additional details to be released in the coming weeks.

- If you'd like to discuss how your Faculty can enhance its presence and be further involved in Fall Orientation:
 - for the Thunder Bay campus, please contact Robert Perrier, x 8674, reperrie@lakeheadu.ca
 - for the Orillia campus, please contact Kelli MacCulloch, x 2112, kmacculloch@lakeheadu.ca

The Student Success Centre has interviewed and welcomed 33 students to the re-launched **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.

- The Student Success Centre continues to seek out students to join the Student Ambassador Program! Students may be referred by faculty and staff to join the program by contacting Joy Himmelman, x 8981, jhimmelm@lakeheadu.ca

Student Health and Counselling

Counselling appointments in April were up ~40% from last year (*the term ran approximately a week longer*); medical appointments were up ~5%. The Centre's meditation sessions have concluded for the academic year – there was an increased participation noted.

Renovations to the Prettie Residence space are moving forward with an anticipated move in August.

Web Development Services

The migration of the Department of Mathematical Sciences has been completed. Migration is continuing in a number of departments and Faculties.

Web Development Services continues to support the development of online registration forms and conference websites for conferences hosted by Lakehead Faculties.

Web Development Service is working hard to reduce the number of accessibility errors reported on lakeheadu.ca in order to ensure compliance with AODA. Errors are both system wide and user generated. Web Development Services is addressing system wide errors by changing themes and rules in the content management system. For user generated errors testing is currently underway for a new training module to be offered to site administrators.

Respectively submitted,

Maira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)