

## Report of the Senator on the Board of Governors

Senate Meeting #8-2014, December 1, 2014

On October 17, 2014 I was acclaimed as the Senator on the Board of Governors for the term commencing October 18, 2014 through the Annual Board of Governors' Meeting 2017. As the Senator on the Board, I was also automatically appointed to three standing committees of Board: Learning and Research Committee, External Relations Committee, and Finance and Operations Committee. Since my appointment in October I have attended a conference of Ontario university board members in Toronto, a meeting of each of the three committees to which I am appointed, board orientation, a board meeting and a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

The Conference of Ontario University Board Members was held November 7-8 at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Toronto. It was organized by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) to provide board members with a deeper understanding of the university sector and some of the major issues affecting Ontario universities today. Many different topics were taken up by a number of keynote speakers and panelists. A highlight for many board members was a keynote address by Harvey Weingarten, President and CEO of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) and author of a controversial paper on differentiation of Ontario universities. It was disturbing to see how persuasive Harvey can be in a room full of non-academics, and interesting to see how quickly he left the building after his address.

All board committee meetings are confidential to the board, but committee reports are made public at board meetings. Board of Governors' Meeting #14-273 was held in the Senate Chambers on November 13, 2014. Murray Walberg, the newly elected Board Chair, welcomed and introduced new Board members and thanked everyone for their commitment to Lakehead University and the Board. He addressed the board with a report discussing areas where he thinks the Board can assist the University, including international recruitment, community engagement, economic development and philanthropy. The President's report included a presentation by Barb Eccles on proposed timelines for progress reports on strategic plan implementation. The purpose of the revised timeline is to align implementation of the strategic plan with the budget process. Deb Comuzzi informed the board about plans for celebrating Lakehead's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; the celebration will kick off with a skating party and fireworks on Lake Tamblyn on January 16, 2015. Homecoming weekend in Thunder Bay is scheduled for October 2-4, 2015. The board approved committee reports, appointment of a Department Chair and an Adjunct professor, appointments to the Board, and acceptance of the Research Ethics Board Annual Report.

I am invited to meet with the Provost and another Board member later this month to plan another Senate/ Board of Governors gathering.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Louise Hill,

Senator on the Board of Governors for Lakehead University