

## **President's Report to Senate April 2020**

### **Introduction**

As we head into our third Senate meeting in only four weeks, I would like to start my report this month by applauding the efforts of Senators in expeditiously prioritizing the needs of our students with the many recent decisions we have made.

Through sheer chance, Laurentian has had the opportunity to show leadership in the sector throughout this crisis. I believe that we have responded strongly and well to the challenges, and have worked consistently ahead of the curve in providing for the safety and security of our community, while offering the best prospects for our students to continue their studies.

### **Completion of Winter 2020 Term**

As a result of the swift decisions of Senate and the hard work of Faculty Members and Deans, the following updates outline the general state of each faculty with respect to completion of Winter 2020:

- i) Arts – students in all programs should complete their program on time
- ii) Education – Campus-based course work completed. Practica are suspended because of school closures. The Dean is in conversation with other Deans of Education in Ontario and with the College of Teachers to identify alternative means to accomplish the learning
- iii) Science, Engineering and Architecture – Virtual laboratories and alternative modalities for hands on learning, including for capstone projects are being implemented to allow for completion of term by 95+% of students. Co-op placement remains the primary limitation to full completion.
- iv) Management – Full potential for completion, except for some students in Sport Administration where internships have been cancelled by the employer.
- v) Health – The Dean of Health is in regular contact with Units, and the Units in regular contact with the accreditation bodies. Social Work, Nursing (including our college collaborations), Midwifery and Speech Pathology are working to determine if alternatives to placements will be permitted given the extraordinary circumstances. All other Health programs should complete their term on schedule.
- vi) Graduate Studies – all graduate courses have been moved to remote delivery with scheduled on-time completion. Programs with a field, lab or human experimentation component have all been put on hold and will experience delays. Students who have already collected their data can continue working remotely toward completion.

However, other students in thesis-based programs may expect delays to completion of their degrees if the interruptions continue. Thesis examinations are proceeding through remote mechanisms

Given all the supports put in place by faculty and Faculties, we expect that 90+% of Laurentian students have the opportunity to complete term on time, with alternatives continuing to be actively worked on for the remainder. It is important to highlight the very strong response that Laurentian has received from its professors and instructors. Their response and commitment has been outstanding, and the success of our students in completing their terms is wholly due to the way that the entire Laurentian community has rallied around our students.

### **Fiscal Stewardship**

As of January 2020, the 2019-20 fiscal year the university was projecting a small deficit of approx. \$0.7 million, after reliance on one-time funding from the Province under the Northern Tuition Sustainability (NTS) Funding. The shortfall in one-time funding from the NTS compared to our expectation in the budget was \$1.4 million and the Administration was working on solutions to bring the budget into balance and ensure the accumulated Laurentian operating deficit did not exceed the Board approved maximum of \$14.8 million as of April 30, 2020.

In late January, the University commenced its Infectious Disease Response Planning, and more recently, our efforts to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak has demanded unexpected resources and has required extraordinary effort of our faculty, staff and students. The Finance team has been working with the departments to estimate the financial implications resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In recognition of these additional costs and uncertainty placed on postsecondary education institutions, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is providing immediate emergency funding of \$25 million to be distributed among colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes. Laurentian University will receive \$793,008 in immediate funding, which will reduce the projected deficit.

At the time of writing this report, it is estimated that the operating deficit for the year ended April 30th, 2020 will grow from \$0.7 to approximately \$5 to 6 million, after consideration of potential savings and one-time MCU funding. The University has provided an update to the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors on April 14, 2020 and is exploring additional steps and actions to mitigate this deficit.

### **Community Engagement**

Laurentian, together with Cambrian College and College Boreal is an important part of the Greater Sudbury community and we are continuing to emphasize our community engagement and are working closely together as a regional post-secondary system during this challenging time. In

particular, we have ongoing discussions as to how we can best support our students in the community, and coordinate our overall community engagement responses. For example, we are working to mobilize our applied research expertise and facilities to support local health care and community needs, including the use of 3D printing in the manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE).

At Laurentian, we have been a receiver as well as a provider of support. Most notable of the assistance that we have benefited from has been our community's support of our Student Emergency Support Fund, which received over \$95,000 in pledges. This fund is providing students with support for unexpected and additional expenses due to COVID-19. This includes underwriting unexpected travel, medical and housing expenses, but also includes support for broadband internet and additional costs they may be incurring in continuing their studies. As of this writing, I am pleased to report that all of the funds collected to date have been shared with students. However, additional need does remain so additional donations will still make an impact (<https://laurentian.ca/give/student-emergency-fund/>).

Laurentian faculty are leading and contributing to a number of community initiatives to promote safety and security. Laurentian experts are prominent in the media, explaining and reassuring Canadians about COVID-19. Others are making direct, on the ground, contributions. For example, a chemistry professor is using his laboratory to meet the needs of the Greater Sudbury Police Service for hand sanitizer, while the Dean of Arts has organized faculty to deliver necessities to students continuing in residence.

As an institution, we have been in conversations with Health Sciences North, the Greater Sudbury Police Service and regional long-term care facilities about how the University may be able to provide beds through our residences to meet some of the anticipated overflow needs of our local health care sector. We have also contributed beds and other resources to assist in transforming three floors of the Clarion Hotel into makeshift hospital space.

As this crisis continues, we are committed as an institution to support our community and the province through any means possible.

### **Support from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities**

On April 1st, 2020, I had the opportunity to speak at length with Ross Romano, Minister of Colleges and Universities, about the Government's view of the sector and the support that it could provide, and an update report on Laurentian University provided the day before. He expressed recognition for the overall current pressures on the postsecondary sector, and the specific pressures on Laurentian. He highlighted during the conversation that our allocation of almost \$800K from the \$25M COVID-19 University support fund meant to support all 65 institutions in the sector should be taken as overt recognition of our particular challenges.

The Minister went on to say that the recent allocation, which came from the ministries 2019-20 budget would be the only financial support that could be expected by universities in the short term, that he was looking to universities and colleges for sector-wide solutions that would increase efficiencies, and that he understood that universities would have to quickly implement measures

to realize efficiencies. As senators will know, the University has been responding rapidly to the challenges of COVID and shortly thereafter-issued financial stewardship and human resources memos to our community. These memos are providing the guidance needed for us to contain COVID-19 related financial impacts on Laurentian and to successfully chart a sustainable pathway forward through a blend of maximizing student opportunities and minimizing expenses to the extent possible.

### **SMA3**

Consultations with the University community and MCU with respect to SMA3 were completed in March. A final draft of SMA 3 has been submitted to the Ministry, together with a number of questions surrounding how the impacts of COVID-19 will factor into the metrics and potentially impact funding. This is particularly important for Laurentian around the enrollment corridor. On April 8th, universities were notified by MCU that the deadline for signing SMA3 agreements with the Ministry has been deferred until Ontario has “*reasonably moved past*” the current COVID-19 outbreak. We look forward to completing the conversation with the Ministry in the coming months to ensure that Laurentian is as strongly positioned as possible for provincial grant support covered under SMA3.

### **Looking Towards the Fall**

As approved by Senate at the special meeting of April 3rd, 2020, all offerings for the spring term will be delivered through alternative and online pedagogical modalities and registration is ongoing. While much chaos remains over predicting the future, it is now time to turn our attention toward the fall term. First and foremost, Laurentian is committed to having as full fall term of programming as possible - both academically and fiscally. We are also committed to beginning the fall term on time.

The major question with regard to fall is the form of course delivery that will be possible and the flexibility that will be needed to achieve our goals under circumstances are unlikely to have returned fully to normal. At this point, most in the Canadian University sector expect universities to function in a hybrid format that provides for some return to face-to-face activity for lower density activities, but continuing to require alternative modes of delivery for many activities. In particular, international travel is anticipated to continue to be restricted into the fall, resulting in a need for alternative delivery modalities for these students. Additionally, it is anticipated that at least some domestic students may be reluctant to return to campus at an early date. Further, it is not presently possible to predict when restrictions on large gatherings and social distancing will be sufficiently relaxed to allow for large classes or in person laboratory activities.

Early decisions with respect to the fall term are important for both our students and faculty, and many universities have signaled their intent to inform their communities before the end of May with respect to the form and structure for the fall term. I look forward to the continuing collegial leadership and wisdom of the Vice-President Academic and Provost and of this Senate with respect to development and approval of curriculum delivery and evaluation modalities for the fall term.

Many thanks in advance for your ongoing hard work in this area. The administration also is committed to working transparently and openly with our labour partners with respect to the structure of work and related issues.

### Monthly Kudos

I would like to recognize the efforts of everyone in the Laurentian community that have contributed to our very strong response to COVID-19. In particular, I would like to recognize our front line people in student life, campus safety and security, cleaning and maintenance staff, all of whom have been at the front line of keeping our students and everyone on campus safe, secure and supported.

I also would like to highlight the work of the Emergency Management Team that coordinated our response to COVID-19 on campus and with the broader community. Beginning with 3 hour daily meetings from March 11th (including on the weekend), to what have now transitioned to weekly and as needed meetings as the situation has stabilized, this group has contributed highly laudable leadership to the community, provided support and fostered a sense of safety, security and optimism around campus. Chaired by Brad Parkes and supported by Christine Robinson, the group is made up of a wide variety of contributors from areas around the University including (alphabetically):

- Advancement and the Office of the CAO
- Business Development (notably including Residence Life)
- Centre for Academic Excellence and Office of the AVP Learning and Teaching
- Communications/Translation/Marketing/Government Relations
- Deans (Arts, Education, Graduate Studies, Health, Libraries, Management, Science/Engineering/Architecture)
- Facilities
- Federated Universities (Huntington, Thornloe, University of Sudbury)
- Finance
- Health and Wellness Services
- Human Resources and Organizational Development (HROD)
- Information Technology (IT)
- Offices of the AVPA Indigenous Programs, AVPA Francophone Affairs
- Offices of the President, VP Academic and Provost, VP Administration, VP Research
- Office of the University Secretary and General Counsel
- Procurement, Contract and Risk
- Research
- Registrar
- Security
- Student Life

I also would like to take some time to recognize other achievements that have taken place this Winter leading up to our current circumstances, as it is important not to lose sight of the great work that is possible in our community:

- International Day for Women and Girls in Science:
  - Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> was the International Day for Women and Girls in Science. Laurentian University held science demonstrations and presentations during the day for over 80 Grade 6 boys and girls. The evening included a panel discussion, at Dynamic Earth, held in partnership with Science North, which was attended by over 100 people from the Sudbury community.
  - This event was organized by a dedicated group of volunteers from Laurentian University including: Dr. Christine Kraus, Dr. Sandra Dorman, Dr. Roxanne Belanger, Andrée Noiseaux, Dr. Thomas Merritt, Dr. Joey-Lynn Wabie, and Rali Lakanen from Cambrian College. <https://laurentian.ca/news/2020-intl-day-w-g-sc>
- Thursday January 16th 2020 was the inauguration of Beppi's Forest and Therapy Trail. Officially named Beppi's Carbon Offset Forest is dedicated to former groundskeeper Guiseppe Corridor for his commitment to environmental restoration at Laurentian University. In the past 30 years, this forest has stored 30 tons of carbon in its trees and soils, aiding in the fight against climate change. The new forest therapy trail allows the Laurentian community to reconnect with nature and engage in various outdoor activities. Great work to all those involved. Well done to the core contributors: Jenna Thornber (SGA), Marie-Lynne Michaud (Marketing), Eric Chappell (SGA), Dr. John Gunn, Dr. Peter Beckett, our facilities team and Shaun Malley (communications).
- The Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Office (EDHRO) launched its campaign "Consent is Simple, #iask | Le consentement est simple #jedemande" on January 31, 2020. The campaign seeks to shift towards a culture of consent, in which it is normalized to ask for consent, wait for the answer, and respect whatever answer is given.
  - Community partners and service providers (such as the YWCA, le Centre Victoria pour femmes, Voices for Women, the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, Greater Sudbury Police Services and Sudbury and Area Victim Services) were available on campus in order to promote their services and provide information to the Laurentian University community. Great work to all involved.
- For the first time ever, Laurentian University and RBC proudly teamed up for Experiential Learning Day on campus. The initiative, a collaborative venture supported by RBC at institutions of higher learning across Canada, has one goal in mind: set the next generation of workers on the right path by giving them practical, real-world experience. To attain this goal, our students were given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with potential employers,

as well as hear the knowledge of experienced professionals. Attendees had the chance to pitch their skills to companies through the RBC Backpack to Briefcase speed networking session. A few other great aspects of this day included:

- The launch of Ten Thousand Coffees at Laurentian. This online mentorship platform connects people for peer mentorship based on shared goals and interests. We thank the organization's founder, Dave Wilkin, for his kind words in celebrating the launch.
  - Laurentian marked a milestone in its ongoing collaboration with RBC. We celebrated the one-year anniversary of RBC's generous gift of \$300,000 towards the University's Career Development Plan program, while also grateful to see Ten Thousand Coffees. Special thanks to RBC Regional Vice-President Scott Simon for speaking about RBC Future Launch. And a special thanks to our Advancement teams for their great work.
- Social Work Week 2020
    - The School of Social Work, Office of Francophone Affairs, the Office of the Vice-President, Research, and the Consortium National de Formation en Santé, volet Laurentienne hosted social work week on campus from March 2nd to 6th. Workshops and activities ranged from a variety of workshops centered around social work and social work education as well as interesting discussions pertaining to the health of our communities. Well done.
  - On March 4, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Susan Manitowabi and the Centre for Academic Excellence will be celebrating the official textbook launch of "Historical and Contemporary Realities: Movement Towards Reconciliation The Traditional and Cultural Significance of the Lands Encompassing the District of Greater Sudbury and Area". The development of this textbook was funded by eCampus Ontario and was written as a resource for educators to teach students about the Indigenous historical significance of the lands encompassing the Robinson-Huron Treaty area and, more specifically, the Greater Sudbury and Manitoulin area. In addition, this textbook was created to help other educators create their own textbooks encompassing the history of their own treaty areas. This textbook is designed to be used at an introductory level to teach about social welfare issues within the Honours Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work program at Laurentian University. Congratulations to author: Dr. Susan Manitowabi, School of Indigenous Relations. Contributors to the book include:
    - Adam Babin, étudiant, HBISW student, School of Indigenous Relations, Laurentian University
    - Sarah Bouchard, Instructional Designer, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University



- Kelly Brennan, Instructional Technology Coordinator, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University
  - Bettina Bockerhoff-Macdonald, Director – Faculty Engagement, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University
  - Marthe Brown, Archivist, Library and Archives, Laurentian University
  - Daniel Côté, Assistant Professor, School of Indigenous Relations, Laurentian University
  - Christian Cyr, student, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University
  - Joël Dickinson, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Laurentian University
  - David Fortin, Director and Assistant Professor, McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University
  - Anissa Goupil, MSW student, School of Indigenous Relations, Laurentian University
  - Arlene Johnson, Access Manager, School of Indigenous Relations, Laurentian University
  - Moira Morrison, Manager, Instructional Design, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University
  - Art Petahtegoose, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Elder
  - Daniel Scott, Associate Librarian & Chair, Library and Archives, Laurentian University
  - Marissa Walinga, Assistant Archivist, Library and Archives, Laurentian University
- March 2-6, 2020: Open Education Week: The Teaching & Innovation team is hosting Open Education Week 2020, a global event that seeks to raise awareness of free and open sharing in education and the benefits they bring to teachers and learners. Workshops and Presenters included :
    - Open Education Resources (OERs) - Aaron Langille, Master Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Laurentian University
    - Finding and Using an Open Resource - Megan Houle, Manager, Teaching & Innovation, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University
    - Understanding Creative Commons - Sarah Bouchard, Instructional Designer, Centre for Academic Excellence, Laurentian University
    - LU|ZONE|UL- Daniel Scott, Associate Librarian, Library and Archives, Laurentian University
- Dr. Sylvie Larocque, Director of the School of Nursing was awarded the Governance Award for 2019 from the Faculty of Health with celebrations just happening this past Friday, March 13.



- The University of Sudbury hosted a three-day celebration of the 45th year of the Indigenous Studies department and program. These celebrations included the awarding of Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Emily Faries and Dr. Jim Dumont: <https://usudbury.ca/en/news/current-news/1728-anishinaabe-maanjido-win-the-continued-spirit-of-indigenous-studies-a-great-success>
- For the third consecutive season, the OUA Men's Basketball MVP award was awarded to Kadre Gray. He is the first player in the OUA to receive this award three years in a row since 2014 and the third player in the history of the OUA to win this award in three consecutive seasons. Former Laurentian player, Ted Gonelmans, earned this honour from 1997 to 2000.
- Litha Ncanisa, also from our Men's Basketball team has been awarded the Ken Shields Award, an award given to the student-athlete who exhibits outstanding achievement in the areas of basketball, academics, and community involvement.
- Dr. Alain Doom was announced as this year's Laurentian University Research Excellence Award Recipient at Laurentian Research Week. He also launched a well-received play from his text entitled "Le club des éphémères" at the Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario.
- The Laurentian Men's and Women's Indoor Track Team competed at OUAs on February 21-22. Some great results included an upset 5th-place finish in the Men's 4 X 800m that surprised the field as the team battled in a tight lead pack with little time remaining in the race. This event is historically one of the most competitive at the championships. Also finishing in the top-10 were Erin Hansel, who placed 10th in the 1000m and Keon Wallingford who placed 10th in the 3000m with a personal best time of 8:37.40.
  - Wallingford, represented Canada at the Junior Pan American Cross-Country Championships in Victoria the weekend after, finishing an impressive 8th overall.
- Italian Studies put on another successful play: "Chi trova una nonna trova un tesoro". This is Le Maschere Laurenziane's 28th annual theatre production. The play was written by Italian Canadian-Canadian playwrights Christine Sansalone and Diana Luele-Colilli: [https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/sudburians-are-keeping-italiese-alive-through-living-theatre-2120624?utm\\_source=d1vr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/sudburians-are-keeping-italiese-alive-through-living-theatre-2120624?utm_source=d1vr.it&utm_medium=twitter)
- In celebration of the centennial anniversary of U-Sport (formerly CIS) women's basketball, eight former Laurentian athletes were named as top 100 all-time players:
  - Kathy Williams Shields, Laurentian, 1971-76
  - Sylvia Sweeney, McGill, Concordia, Laurentian, 1973-79

- Chris Critelli, Winnipeg, Laurentian, 1974-78
  - Carol Hamilton, Laurentian, 1984-87
  - Dianne Norman, Laurentian, 1989-95
  - Susan Stewart, Laurentian, 1989-95
  - Stephanie Harrison, Laurentian, 1995-2000
  - Cassandra Carpenter, Laurentian, 2003-2008
- Laurentian University is pleased to announce the creation of the Leo Gerard Legacy Fund, thanks to a generous financial contribution from United Steelworkers Canada and the Sudbury and District Labour Council. This \$33,500 pledge, adding to a donation of \$200,000 from last year will go towards two major new initiatives:
    - The biennial Leo Gerard Lecture on Workplace and Labour Studies, a series of presentations which will be free and open to the public
    - A scholarship for students enrolled in the Workplace and Labour Studies program
  - H el ena Lamoureux of our Women’s Basketball Team was also named OUA Rookie of the Year and a member of the All-Rookie Team. She was fifth in scoring in the OUA, averaging 16.8 points per game.
  - Following the agreement signed between Laurentian University and Hainan Normal University (China), the Faculty of Management welcomed two representatives of HNU: Dr. Din Kuangyi, Deputy Dean of Marxism School and Dr. Wang Cong, Professor, Elementary Education College. The purpose of the visit was to consolidate the relationship between both institutions and explore opportunities for exchange of students and professors and research cooperation.
  - A new exhibit at Dynamic Earth in Sudbury is digging into permanently frozen ground. The interactive exhibit was developed by a team from the US and mostly focuses on the Alaskan permafrost. The Dynamic Earth team as LU associate professor of Geography, Pascale Roy-L eveill e, to add a Canadian dimension (<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/jonction-11-17/segments/entrevue/155930/pergelisol-pascale-roy-leveillee-terre-dynamique?fbclid=IwAR3iIGxvsA1yKomY1zuJVqkbff9Dx6gm1p22afXMjfWLRWM8RlxcqJ4eRbk>)
  - Dr. Daniela Moisa of the University of Sudbury is launching her book called *La Maison de la r eussite: Dynamiques spatiales et mobilit es socio economique au village de Certeze, Roumaine*.

- Marc Pilon, CPA, CA, PhD, was the 18th recipient of the title Chartered Professional Accountant of Ontario Doctoral Fellow. Marc obtained his PhD from the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University and is an assistant professor at Laurentian University, where he teaches financial accounting and assurance courses in both English and French.
- A play produced by Patricia Tedford (Department of Theatre and Motion Picture Arts at Thornloe University), “The Shape of Things” (Straight up), opens March 5 and also runs March 6 and 7. "The Shape of Things" (Pansexual Perspective) opens March 12 and also run March 13 and 14. [https://www.sudbury.com/lifestyle/new-thorneloe-show-has-both-straight-and-pansexual-versions-2112586?utm\\_source=divr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook&fbclid=IwAR2Rq9UeL23i\\_TYF\\_ejdURKux8eGm2IQTh9zH6x7MXjCJtf5ZVUV648aWRaw](https://www.sudbury.com/lifestyle/new-thorneloe-show-has-both-straight-and-pansexual-versions-2112586?utm_source=divr.it&utm_medium=facebook&fbclid=IwAR2Rq9UeL23i_TYF_ejdURKux8eGm2IQTh9zH6x7MXjCJtf5ZVUV648aWRaw)
- Two ZUFE students, Yiwei Wang and Chen Chen, who graduated from Laurentian in 2018 passed the CPA Common Final Examination (CFE) recently. So far, Laurentian University has a total of four ZUFE students who passed the CPA.
- Dr. Bernadette Schell, Associate Dean, published an article entitled “How U.S. and Canadian Universities and Colleges Dealt with Malware and Ransomware Attacks in 2016-2017” in the Journal of Information System Security (ABDC list of journals).
- On Saturday March 1st, 2020, four business students from Laurentian University participated in the Alberta Not-for-Profit Association Case Competition (ANPA), hosted by the University of Alberta (Edmonton). The competition encourages students to take into consideration the social component of their solution, as financial plans may not necessarily be the end goal. The team consisted of Kyle Manifold, Deryek Sandhu, Elisa Kurkimaki, and Maxime Papineau, students from the BBA and BAA business programs. They succeeded in becoming finalists after completing the preliminary round of presentations. In the final round, they faced McMaster University, the University of Alberta and Mount Royal University; they finished 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Faculty of Education’s Dr. Jeffrey Wood, co-applicant together with Canadian and international colleagues and Indigenous communities, is a key member of the team that has received a SSHRC Partnership Grant for the Northern Oral language and Writing through Play (NOW Play) research project.
  - Addressing the question: *How can young Indigenous children’s literacy and Indigenous culture and language learning be supported through playful learning activities that are collaboratively developed, and in which Indigenous language teachers, family and community members take the lead?*, this research project is

also a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (2015) calls for the improvement of Indigenous children's educational achievement and success.

- The partnership brings together researchers and Indigenous communities from central and western Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, and the United States and is funded through the next 7 years.