

President's Report to Senate April 16, 2024

Aanii, Hello, Bonjour,

As newly appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurentian University, assuming the role quite recently on April 1, 2024, I'd like to introduce myself to the Laurentian community. Since the announcement a few months ago, I've received many expressions of welcome and support, for which I am truly grateful. My initial focus in the role will be to learn more about what makes Laurentian University unique, both organizationally and culturally.

I'm very optimistic about what the future holds for Laurentian University and I'm enthusiastic about working with Senators to realize all that Laurentian can become.

Strategic Plan

It was a pleasure to be with you as we saw the [2024-2029 Strategic Plan](#) introduced a few weeks ago. I have been encouraged by reading through the newly developed Strategic Plan and I hope to deepen my understanding of the plan through discussions with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters. The implementation of the plan will be a focus for me as we are currently seeking a candidate to lead both it and the Operational Transformation.

Operational Transformation

The [transformative project](#) is still in its early stages, as we begin to build the team and gather the resources needed to be able to successfully resource the project. The key will be to enable this team to help operational departments both execute their necessary operations while building new processes and procedures to transform the way in which they support the organizational goals.

International Students

Laurentian is well positioned to continue to deliver high quality postsecondary education to international students based on the recent [criteria outlined by the Province](#). We are encouraged to see the province's outline, which emphasizes Francophone education as we are seeing strong demand in this area. Housing is an important piece of the student experience, we are well positioned to support international students with multiple residences on campus to support international students. Enrolment projections remain realistic, there are always adjustments to be made throughout the year and we expect to see international student levels consistent with this previous year.

Update on senior administrative searches

Searches continue for key roles such as the Provost, Dean of Education & Health, Dean of Management. Our Interim Provost, Dr. Brenda Brouwer can provide further details within the decanal searches. We recently announced the appointments of Nicole Piquette as Associate Vice-President, Financial Services beginning on April 22, 2024 and of Danielle Dennie, as the new University Librarian commencing July 1, 2024.

Budget Process

The 2024-2025 budget will soon be reviewed at the April 26 Board of Governors meeting. I'm told the process has been lengthy, with budget meetings dating back to November of 2023, including many

campus leaders. I'll look forward to participating in the budget process for the next financial year. Laurentian University's fiscal year ends April 30, 2024.

Former President's Residence

The sale of the former residence of Laurentian University presidents was completed in March, 2024. The buyer of the home will take possession at the end of May and at that point the transaction will be complete. Once completed, we will be able to provide more information about the sale price and proceeds of the sale.

Events

Registration for the Universities Canada annual conference, National Building Reconciliation Forum, which will be held here at Laurentian in June is now open. We would welcome you to view the draft program, sponsorship opportunities, and to learn more about the conference on their website: <https://laurentian.ca/nbrf>

Congratulations

Tammy Eger has been selected as the recipient of the 2024 Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada (SWAAC) **Angela Hildyard Recognition Award – Influential Leader**, given to a SWAAC member who has continually demonstrated innovative leadership in advancing the mission of, and making outstanding contributions to, their institution. A \$1,000 donation will be made on to an institution of Dr. Eger's choice, in the form of a contribution to an endowment or fund that supports students, or to a registered charitable organization supporting educational initiatives.

A group of 25 Laurentian students enrolled in our Biology programs attended the 2024 Ontario Biology Days (OBD) conference, held at Toronto Metropolitan University. Laurentian's Hayden Reaume (Biomedical Biology), ranked in the top 5 out of 105 oral presentations. Hayden's talk was entitled Phase-I Trial of a Target Dietary Supplement: Investigating Effects on Physical and Mental Well-being using the SF36 Wellness Survey.

Marianka Cantin, fourth-year student in Biomedical Biology took home a third-place medal (within Individual Oral Communication) at the 31st "journée des sciences et savoirs de l'ACFAS Nouvel-Ontario". Her presentation focused on trout reproduction performance and her studies are supervised by Dr. Mery Martinez Garcia of the School of Natural Sciences at Laurentian University.