

President's Report to Senate December 2019

With the fall 2019 semester wrapping up shortly, I wanted to start my December Report to Senate by acknowledging all students, staff and faculty for their hard work and dedication to higher education here at Laurentian University. I have been very impressed with the commitment and dedication of all through the fall term and commend everyone for their efforts in support of the success of our students and the campus. I wish everyone the best for the festive season and hope you will take time to slow down and enjoy family, friends and the world around you. Given the abbreviated time between Senate meetings, my report this month will focus on updates to ongoing files in key areas of importance to the community.

Projected Enrolment based on preliminary November 1, 2019 data

The November 1st unofficial enrolment report reflects enrolment data based on student credit registrants (all data reported in Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)). The projected final enrolments are based at the time of writing on the expected student enrolment trends between now and the official Ministry reporting date of December 1st.

With respect to our new student intake, we have increased enrolment from the budgeted volume in domestic undergraduate, international master and doctoral students, a decrease in international undergrad and domestic master students, and neutral in domestic doctoral students. The net impact is an increase of 105 students above budget.

The net expected change in net tuition revenue for the year is an increase of \$2 million over budget.

In SMA2, the University receives grant funding for domestic graduate growth. The budget for fall 2019 projected 602 domestic graduate students while the projected actual is 576 FTEs. Assuming that the total difference represents eligible graduate students, the impact would be a reduction of \$438k from budget for graduate growth.

The following table presents the projected November 1, 2019 enrolment by graduate level (UG, Master, PhD), Domestic vs International, and new vs returning students:

Data Table Fall 2019 Projection

			Registrants					
			Official 2018F	Enrolment	Budget	Oct. 31	Proj Final	Var Bud v Proj Final
UG	Dom	New	1,756	1,607	1,705	1,691	84	
		Ret	4,062	4,076	4,099	4,066	-10	
		Total	5,818	5,683	5,804	5,757	74	
	Visa	New	118	124	98	99	-25	
		Ret	149	194	221	216	22	
		Total	268	318	319	315	-3	
	Total		6,086	6,001	6,124	6,072	71	
	M	Dom	New	183	177	169	167	-10
			Ret	290	326	297	310	-16
Total			473	503	466	476	-26	
Visa		New	21	25	36	37	12	
		Ret	38	33	71	75	42	
		Total	59	58	107	112	53	
Total		532	561	573	588	27		
PhD	Dom	New	15	19	18	18	-2	
		Ret	82	80	81	82	2	
		Total	96	99	98	100	1	
	Visa	New	7	7	11	12	5	
		Ret	36	40	40	41	1	
		Total	43	47	51	53	6	
	Total		140	146	150	153	7	
Grand Total			6,758	6,708	6,846	6,813	105	

While the domestic numbers are encouraging, the new international undergraduate numbers represent a disappointment given the increased effort committed to attracting international students to Laurentian and the continuing increases in the number of graduate students that are choosing to study in Canada. Academically, a vibrant international student population provides a cultural enhancement to the overall experience of all students and exposes the broader community to a variety of important perspectives. For the Sudbury region, international students graduating from Laurentian with Canadian certification are important to the future economic success of the community. Lastly, given the current demographic challenges in the North and the increasing financial constraints to the University, international students help us build the critical mass that is needed to deliver the full depth and breadth of our programming.

As I am still relatively new to the community, I am not sure of the extent to which we have had a collegial conversation around the importance of international students to the overall academic environment of Laurentian and whether and how we can position ourselves with offerings that will increase our attractiveness as an international destination for education.

I believe this is an important conversation for the University and I look forward to engaging you early in the New Year with the objective of coming together on a new international strategy for Laurentian for the 21/22 application cycle.

In the meantime, I have initiated a review of our procedures to identify and overcome what existing barriers there might be to converting international undergraduate student interest into registrations for fall of 2020. This review is important to understand why that despite and increasing interest in Laurentian in terms of applications, our conversion rate for international students has actually declined.

SMA3 Update

Under the auspices of the Provost and Vice-President Academic and Vice-President Administration, a small team has been assembled to lead the drafting of our SMA3 agreement with the Province. The SMA is an administrative funding agreement between the Province and the University that lays out the expectations for Laurentian's enrolments and for SMA3, introduces the concept of performance metrics. The SMA3 process has been explained to Senate at our November meeting and a process for collegial consultation to inform the drafting of the SMA3 has been shared with the community. While much of the SMA3 is prepopulated, and the timeline is short, collegial conversation is important for the University to appropriately articulate its areas of strength within the expectations of the document and for the community to understand and appreciate the University's strategy in weighting individual metrics with a view to maximizing our funding.

On November 22nd, I and our team had a productive initial bilateral discussion with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities surrounding SMA3. We had the opportunity to highlight Laurentian's unique characteristics, our strengths and our fiscal context. In discussions around metrics, we explained to the Ministry the trailing edge effects of the closure of the Barrie campus on our enrolment numbers. Additionally, we were able to explore the basis for all 10 metrics and their specific application to Laurentian, and achieved some mutual understanding on where adjustments may need to occur so that Laurentian is appropriately positioned and is fairly evaluated. A first discussion draft of Laurentian's SMA3 is due to the Ministry December 17th, with our final draft due February 18th, 2020.

I am committed to collegial engagement in the development of the plan and we have developed a multipronged approach to consultation. The Provost and Deans are seeking input from ACAPLAN on the draft and will be visiting with all Faculty Councils in January. A presentation allowing time for fulsome discussion will also be made to Senate in January. Lastly, to provide the opportunity for broader community engagement, there will be two open community engagement sessions, on January 27th and 29th.

Semi Annual Fiscal Review and Northern Sustainability Grant Update

The Administration provided an information update to the Finance Committee of Board of Governors on the semi-annual review of the budget variance and projections for the fiscal 2019-20.

The University has received confirmation of the One-Time Northern Tuition Sustainability Grant in the amount of \$4,344k to provide temporary relief funding to Laurentian and its Federated Universities, for the reduction in tuition rates. Unfortunately, this amount represents \$1.6 M less than required to offset the 13% cumulative decrease in tuition that we have experienced for 2019/20. Laurentian is working with the MCU, Northern Universities and COU on this file. Once additional information is received, Finance can assess the Federated Universities' share as well as the implications to the year-end projection for fiscal 2019-20.

During the first 6 months of 2019-20, Laurentian University closely monitored enrolment trends and progress towards achieving its goals for the Fall Term. In addition, the University is continuing its sustainability initiatives (efficiencies, additional revenues and savings) as outlined in the Growing Stronger Together budget document approved by the Board of Governors on April 26, 2019.

Overall, after consideration of the projected budget variances, the University is estimating a small operating deficit for the year ending April 30th, 2020 in the amount of \$878k or 0.5% of the operating budget. The Administration will continue efforts to adhere to the Board approved budget parameters, with the goal of a balanced operating budget by the end of fiscal 2019-20.

Alumni Engagement

On November 20th, I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with several Laurentian Alumni in Montreal. One of the outcomes of these meetings is the development of a plan to host a Laurentian Alumni event in Montreal in the New Year as part of our continuing efforts to build the Laurentian Alumni network.

In addition, on November 29th I attended a very enthusiastic dinner of the Laurentian University Alumni Association in advance of their full day strategic planning retreat on the 30th. I am so impressed with the dedication of the leadership of our Alumni Association who generously give so much of their time in support of Laurentian and their fellow alumni.

NOSM Board Retreat

I attended a NOSM Board retreat November 27-28th, with sessions meant to inform the new NOSM strategic plan that is up for discussion. A breadth of topics were touched on during the retreat, and I wish to highlight that one of the consistent themes was the desirability of building a closer relationship for NOSM within Laurentian and Lakehead Universities. I look forward to working with the NOSM leadership team and colleagues to building the relationship with Laurentian.

VPR and Provost

The job profile for the search for Vice-President Research is now complete and out to market. I would like to thank the members of the search committee and all members of the community that

commented on the final draft of the profile that was circulated recently. The committee and I look forward to a successful search for a dynamic individual that will lead our research, scholarship and associated creative activities to new heights over the coming years. The first meeting of the committee to consider candidates for short listing has been scheduled

For the position of Vice-President Academic and Provost, the community survey has been completed and the search committee will be meeting shortly to discuss the results and assemble the profile. Boyden Executive Search has been retained as a consultant for this search.

Festive Gathering

It was a great pleasure for my wife Johanne and me, to host so many members of our community this past weekend on Sunday December 8th. As I mentioned at the start of this report, I am very proud of the accomplishments and dedication I've seen from such a wide range of community members. I am humbled and proud to belong to such an outstanding community.

Monthly Kudos

- Gisele Roberts, Manager, Innovation and Commercialization, was elected for a three-year term to the Board of Directors of the Association of University Technology Managers, Inc. (AUTM). Gisele will be the only Canadian member of the Board. Fellow Board members from American universities include representatives from prestigious institutions such as Princeton, CalTech and MIT.
- Cool Kids Lead, one of our partners in EDUC 0190, was the recipient of the 2019 Initiatives award, presented by the Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association on October 4, in recognition of outstanding innovation that increases opportunities for participation in Sport, Recreation and Healthy Active Living. Three of our Faculty's students participated in the summer project that nominated Cool Kids Lead for the Award: Cassie Coutu, Megan Chaine (current students) and Ryan Gill (a new alumnus). Carolyn Crang, a master lecturer in the School of Education, is a member of the Active Sudbury research team.
- Following the Ontario College of Teachers' accreditation process, current programs of École des sciences de l'éducation received renewal without conditions on October 8, 2019 for a seven-year period. During the same process, which lasted more than 10 months, the Faculty applied for accreditation of two pilot projects: the hybrid delivery BEd (post-diploma) and the concurrent BEd/BA. Already approved by Senate and assessed favourably, these new pathways – not offered elsewhere in Ontario – will admit francophone students as of September 2020.
- The work of Carlie Stransky, an M.Sc. student in the Department of Biology, conducted under the supervision of Dr. Frank Mallory, won first place in the 'Beyond Business As Usual' Conference that was held at Guelph in November 2019. This academic conference brought together graduate students from all over Canada doing sustainability-related research:<https://www.netimpact.org/chapters/university-of-guelph-graduate/forum/beyond-business-as-usual-innovative-researcher-of-the>.

- Congratulations to Kadre Gray as he became the Voyageur's all-time leading scorer in Men's Basketball. He surpassed Norm Hann's record of 1722 points, which was established in 1993. Kadre has earned many awards in his time as a Voyageur, including being named Canada's USPORTS Athlete of the Year, two-time USPORTS Basketball Player of the Year and multiple OUA Player of the Year awards.
- Hailey Chase, OUA Singles Rowing Champion, won a Bronze Medal at Canadian University Rowing Championships. Haley was named Canadian University Rowing Athlete of the Year.
- Charles Alexander won gold for OUA Singles Rowing.
- Men's Cross Country Running - 6th at OUA Championships (qualified for USport National Championship) and came 12th at USport National Championships going from 12th in the province just a few years ago to 12th in the country this year.
- Men's Soccer: Augustus Oku named Laurentian 2nd Team OUA East All-Star, Nick Esperanca named Laurentian 2nd Team OUA East All-Star.
- The efforts of our Sports Administration students were once again lauded by US-based professional sports teams as a group of our 4th year students visited Washington, DC to complete consulting projects with the Washington Wizards, Washington Capitals and other teams. The teams were very impressed with the group, which was led by faculty members Dr. Anthony Church and Dr. Claude Vincent.
- International Education Week - Laurentian celebrated International Education Week (IEW) from November 18-22, 2019 to showcase the impact of international education and engagement. Mayor Brian Bigger was on campus along with students, faculty, staff who welcomed the community to celebrate campus cultural diversity and learn about ways to participate in international activities. Great work to Valerie Michelutti and her student transitions and engagement and international student services teams.
- Long Night Against Procrastination - Tuesday, November 5th was Laurentian's semi-annual Long Night Against Procrastination, an event co-hosted by the Library and CAE teams, where the library is open until midnight and students can catch up on assignments or get ahead on their end of term projects. Students participated in traditional events, such as a Zotero workshop, free tutoring, and study snacks, but new events this year included Magical Paws Pet Therapy (which drew over 100 students) organized by Jennifer Ross, a workshop entitled, "So You Want to Get Published" hosted by Librarian, Ashley Thomson, and a graduate student-writing circle hosted by Librarian, Dan Scott. Next semester's event will be held on March 3rd.
- The Laurentian Philosophy and Physics Department came together to plan a successful Philosophy and Cosmology Lecture Series. Thank you to Paolo Biondi, Ubi Wichoski, Gennady Chitov, and Janae Sholtz (Alvernia University) from Physics as well

as Alain Beaulieu, Lucien Pelletier and Denis Hortubise from Philosophy for giving lectures.

- Laurentian Concert Band put on ‘The Winds of November’ concert.
- Much to the joy of students, Véronique Sylvain, poet and former protégée of the Department of French Studies, returned to Laurentian to contribute to our programming and present at le Salon du Livre in Sudbury.
- Several alumni and current students from the Psychology Masters program presented at the International Psychonomics Conference in Montreal.
- Sault College and Laurentian University came together to sign another academic agreement in support of enhanced student learning. Through this expanded partnership, eligible graduates of Sault College’s two year Social Service Worker – Indigenous Specialization (SSW-IS) program can move on to complete a Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work at Laurentian University in an additional two years.
- Professor Tammy Eger headed to Antarctica on Friday, November 15 to participate in the Homeward Bound project. Eger, a full professor of Human Kinetics and research chair at the Centre for Research in Occupational Safety and Health, is among only four Canadians selected for this fourth cohort of the program.
- Backpack 2 Briefcase - Funded by RBC Future Launch, the Backpack to Briefcase Professional Development Learning Series provides students with foundational career building skills and information about opportunities for professional development. Two workshops were offered in November - one conducted by Tammie McLoughlin, Manager of Language Institute, called "Taking Your Degree Around the World", and another by David Lesbarrères, Dean of Graduate Studies, about how to apply and succeed in graduate school. Great work.
- Looking back, it has already been a full month since my installation, I want to again acknowledge the hard work of those who organized events, specifically including Sara Kunto, Marie-Lynn Michaud, Julie Ceming, Diane Roy, Shelly Moore-Frappier and Stephen Roberge, and their respective teams.