

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

### **SMA3 Update**

The formal consultation tour with the community around the drafting of Laurentian's SMA3 agreement with the government is now complete and is informing the final SMA draft. This has been an engaged and positive conversation, with lots of input, questions and suggestions. I have been particularly impressed with the strong turnout and active participation at the two public consultation sessions open to the entire community. I believe that the community is now well informed about SMA3 and the strategic direction being taken in preparing our plan, through an engagement and consultation process that has been open and transparent and has exceeded processes employed at other institutions.

Due to delays in answering questions and providing required information on the ministerial end, it has not been possible to provide a final, complete draft of our SMA3 to Senate in both languages in time for the current meeting, as was the original plan. Given the importance of the SMA3 for the entire community, the advice of SENEX has been to bring a further update to February Senate and provide the full, translated draft document as soon as it is available

While our draft must be submitted to the ministry on February 18th, there is still another six weeks during which there may be additional conversations with the Ministry until the draft is signed on March 31st. Therefore, we are committed to bringing the complete fully translated draft for Senators and the community in advance of March Senate.

### **Faculty Council and Department Visits**

Over the past few months, I have been visiting departments and Faculty councils around the University to listen and learn about how I can best assist in enabling success around the community. As I have said in every meeting, I see these visits as the beginning of an ongoing conversation and I look forward to ongoing annual engagement as well as specific follow up conversations as needed.

The passion and dedication around these tables are clear, as is an element of weariness in some places over the cumulative effects of the pressures of the past few years. I also have found an openness to dialogue and recognition that we need to continuously evolve and change if we are going to be successful and sustainable as an institution over the long term. I am committed that these conversations will inform and empower us as we work together to build this institution and its academic programs.

### **LU Rendezvous**

I was pleased to attend and participate in my first LU Rendez-Vous on January 23rd, recognizing and celebrating our long serving staff and faculty members. It was so impressive to meet so many passionate people and to see the sense of pride and dedication in the room. This is such a great event and I can only express my sincerest appreciation for the efforts of all of those being

recognized. I would particularly like to highlight the recognition of 50 years of service by professors Dr. David Pearson and Dr. Cynthia Whissell.

### **Broader Community Engagement**

At the end of January, I had the opportunity to speak at the Rotary Club of Sudbury. Each of these opportunities I have for community engagement reinforces the pride and attachment for Laurentian that is present throughout the Sudbury community and how pleased our community is to learn about Laurentians activities and successes.

### **Enrolment Update**

As of January 31st, we have 6769.6 FTEs currently registered, both new and returning at all academic levels. This is a delta of +84.1 FTEs over winter term last year. As anticipated, a slightly lower enrolment in winter term compared to official Fall 2019 is seen with a decrease of -64 FTEs (-0.9%). Last year's drop from fall to winter term enrolment was in the order of -1.5%, this year we have experienced to date, a slightly smaller decrease in our traditional fall-to-winter term drop.

#### ***From 2019W to 2020W:***

- Domestic UG enrolment is up (+0.5%) with relatively the same intake (135.8FTE) of new incoming students as last year.
- Domestic Graduate enrolment is down (-1.4%) due entirely to a decrease of -11.3FTE fewer new incoming students when compared to our intake last year.
- International UG enrolment is ahead of last winter term (+6.1%) with increases in both new and returning students.
- International Graduate enrolment up (+39.4%) and higher than year over year due primarily to returning students from India, China and Iran.

### **Monthly Kudos**

- The Equity Diversity and Human Rights office and the Human Resources and Organizational Development office has done great work in organizing special training sessions regarding The Impact of Implicit Bias and Cultural Competence. The facilitator for this session is Moya Teklu, Special Advisor at Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. Moya has years of experience developing training, policies, and initiatives aimed at identifying and eliminating discrimination.
- CNFS
  - o During the book launch of *Les émotions: comment mieux les comprendre*, Mélanie Perron (LU) and Annie Roy-Charland (Moncton), in collaboration with facilitators from CSPGNO, presented sketches to show off – in an animated way – their new book based on their many research projects. Some 500 books were distributed in our communities (i.e., local libraries, school boards, daycares). Thanks to a funding commitment from CNFS-University of Moncton, CNFS-National Secretariat and

CNFS-Laurentian University, 1,000 extra copies will be printed in the coming weeks in response to the high demand.

- o A new initiative “Étudiant un jour” (Student for a day) was launched, bringing francophone high school students to campus as “students,” to take part in a course while accompanied by a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year university student mentor (orthophonie/sciences infirmières). Since positive feedback was received, the event will be held again in February.
  - o With travel support from CNFS, 17 students in French-language health programs (orthophonie, sciences infirmières, sage-femmes, service social) had the opportunity, since June 2019, to do practicum placements in seven different regions, including two in Yukon and one in the North-West Territories. During their placements, the students also gave presentations on LaurentianU to local high school students.
- Office of Francophone Affairs
    - o During two recruitment events, some 1,015 francophone high school students from northern and central-south-western Ontario learned about our university’s program offerings. These students came from 31 schools in eight different school boards.
    - o Nearly 30 community partnership and collaboration agreements were signed both locally and provincially to reiterate our institutional commitment to the development of Ontario’s francophonie, and to give Laurentian an opportunity for outreach in as many networks as possible.
    - o Several funding proposals have been submitted to provincial and federal government agencies, which may open access to some \$1,673,000 for francophone initiatives on campus. The outcomes of these proposals will be known over the next few months.
  - A job well done to our Laurentian University African Caribbean Student Association on the organization of several events in celebration of Black History Month.
  - Men’s Basketball continues to be ranked in the top 10 in USport.
  - The Laurentian indoor track team competed at the York Open Indoor Track Meet on February 1, 2020, returning with two gold, two silver and one bronze medal plus two new OUA qualifiers and 11 personal-best performances. They also competed in Ottawa in January and came home with two medals, 13 Top-10 finishes and nine OUA Championship qualifying marks.
  - Rower, Charles Alexander, broke the 6-minute barrier over 2km in Japan, the first time any person ever breaks this mark on Japanese soil.
  - The Laurentian Nordic Ski team competed in North Bay at the Ontario Cup #3 in January, having several athletes finish within the top 10 in a number of categories. The full story can be found at the following link: <https://www.luvoyageurs.com/sports/mnordicski/2019-20/releases/20200122hdywdd>

- Dr. Stefan Siemann (LUL, Chemistry-Biochemistry) and his colleague Dr. Dmitrienko (U. Waterloo) have just been awarded a \$670 000, 3-year CIHR grant for their proposal entitled, "Carbapenemase inhibitors for use as adjuvants in treating carbapenem-resistant bacterial infections."
- Since The Conversation Canada launched in mid-2017, we have published about 2,500 articles and featured the work of more than 2,000 authors. This week, we passed an impressive milestone: the collective works of one of our authors has attracted more than one million readers. Dr. Thomas Merritt is a geneticist and a professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Laurentian University. Since writing his first article for us in the summer of 2017 about the dangers of male bias in science labs, Dr. Merritt has helped explain the wonders of fruit flies, why some people are born left-handed, the importance of scientific curiosity and, most recently, the biology of coffee. His work has been translated into French, Spanish and other languages -- meaning his knowledge of science has spread across the world via the global network of The Conversation.
- Laurentian has been awarded the hosting of the Ontario 3MT Final for 2021, welcoming on campus delegations from each Ontario institution.
- More than 40 international students had a chance to learn to skate with members of the Voyageurs Hockey teams. The event, hosted by the Centre for Academic Excellence, in partnership with the Public Health Unit, City of Greater Sudbury, and Skaters Edge, provided international students with proper equipment, guided instruction, and a taste of Canadian culture through skating. Due to popular demand, another event is being planned for March 2020.
- Congratulations to Dr. Amanda Schweinbenz on being named Ontario's Canada Summer Games Coach for 2021.
- At the International Exposition of the CASPQ in Abbaye de Foutdouce in France, Carole Bennet of the Faculty of Education was awarded the silver metal for her painting entitled "Plaisir" for its authenticity and for the artist's contribution to the art of their country.