

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

### **Happy New Year**

As we enter a new decade, I wish to communicate my excitement for where Laurentian University can be and what we can achieve together by 2030. As I have learned and confirmed over the past six months, Laurentian is a special place, with truly dedicated and committed people and a wonderfully engaged student body. Moreover, the great pride in and great hope for the institution is not just internal - it resonates across our community, Northeastern Ontario and amongst prospective students and alumni around the world.

I note as we begin the year, the broadly positive response to the question of whether we should begin to highlight more actively the comprehensive, research intensive university that we have become in our external communications and branding. There has been seemingly broad agreement with all I have spoken to around the community that the last 10-15 years of collective effort have indeed achieved a transition in the institution - and that it has now become time to announce ourselves to the world and to reap the benefits of all the hard work. It would seem to be particularly fitting to make this declaration as we begin a new decade - propelling us forward to achieve our full potential. I look forward to working with Senate and all community members as we move this conversation forward.

Of course, challenges do still exist for the institution, with one more year of tuition freeze and the additional challenge of having to cover off the 10% tuition fee reduction, which represents approximately \$7 million loss compared to the 20-21 financial plan. While enrollment trends this year have been positive despite challenging demographic shifts, and our 2019-20 budget continues to project a small deficit, we are working on solutions for 2020-21. Budget conversations are ongoing and I am committed to a transparent conversation with the community in March as the budget plans are finalized in working towards a balanced 2020-21 budget.

Thereafter however, if we can maintain our recent enrollment trends and current levels of provincial funding, we will be better placed to set goals for sustainability. This sustainability will support envisioning a successful decade of strengthened programs and outcomes, increasing our attractiveness to students and growing their experience and success, and working together to build a vibrant academic culture that makes working and studying at Laurentian a richly rewarding academic experience. We impact lives and communities as we strive together to build an internationally recognized university, while having a strong national and regional impact and providing leadership in building the north.

## Registration Update Fall 2019 Official

FTE			Year over Year Analysis Official Enrolment				Budget Deck 2019-02-28	Official Enrolment 2019F 2019-11-01	Δ Budget	Δ % Diff
			2018-11-01	2019-11-01	Δ Year over Year	Δ % Diff				
Domestic	Undergraduate	New	1,756.1	1,694.7	-61.4	-3.5%	1,607.3	1,694.7	87.4	5.4%
		Returning	4,062.0	4,074.9	12.9	0.3%	4,075.7	4,074.9	-0.8	0.0%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>5,818.0</b>	<b>5,769.6</b>	<b>-48.4</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>5,683.0</b>	<b>5,769.6</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
	Graduate	New	198.0	186.5	-11.5	-5.8%	195.9	186.5	-9.4	-4.8%
		Returning	371.8	403.9	32.1	8.6%	406.0	403.9	-2.1	-0.5%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>569.8</b>	<b>590.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>590.4</b>	<b>-11.5</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,387.8</b>	<b>6,360.0</b>	<b>-27.8</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>6,284.9</b>	<b>6,360.0</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
International	Undergraduate	New	118.1	96.6	-21.5	-18.2%	124.1	96.6	-27.5	-22.2%
		Returning	149.4	216.4	67.0	44.8%	193.9	216.4	22.5	11.6%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>267.5</b>	<b>313.0</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>318.0</b>	<b>313.0</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
	Graduate	New	28.0	48.3	20.3	72.5%	32.3	48.3	16.0	49.5%
		Returning	74.3	112.2	37.9	51.0%	73.0	112.2	39.2	53.7%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>102.3</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>56.9%</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>52.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>369.8</b>	<b>473.5</b>	<b>103.7</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>423.3</b>	<b>473.5</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>11.9%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>6,757.6</b>	<b>6,833.6</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>6,708.2</b>	<b>6,833.6</b>	<b>125.4</b>	<b>1.9%</b>



Fall enrolment remained on track since the updates following the first day of class. Overall, we are 125FTE ahead of our projected budget numbers and 76 FTE ahead of our 2018FTE official enrolment. This positive outcome is the product of hard work and dedication from our faculty and staff, who have committed themselves to supporting our students, you should all be proud.

The table above provides information that is more detailed. International graduate enrolment has exceeded our expectations planned in our 2019/20 budget and is higher year over year. International undergraduate enrolment and domestic graduate enrolment are ahead of last year, but just slightly below our planned budget. Finally, domestic undergraduate enrolment is less than Fall 2018, but higher than our planned budget for 2019/20. Winter enrollment numbers will be available shortly.

### Upcoming SMA3 Consultations

The leadership team is committed to collegial engagement in the development of the plan and we have developed a multipronged approach to consultation. The Provost is seeking input from ACAPLAN on the draft and will be visiting with all Faculty Councils in January. Further, to provide an opportunity for broader community engagement including our Federated Partners, two open community engagement/feedback sessions are scheduled on January 27th and 29th. The mature SMA3 draft will be included on the Agenda of Senate for February.

It is important for the community to know that the leadership team has been in close contact with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities throughout this process, including a face to face meeting with Deputy Minister of MCU just last week. We look forward to finalizing an SMA that will

align with our Strategic Plan and position us optimally for success in the new performance based funding environment.

## **Kudos**

It seems that holiday break has served its intent and together with the short interval between the December and January senate meetings, we have received fewer communications of Kudos than in most months. Nonetheless, it is important to recognize and celebrate the success of our colleagues:

- The Faculty of Management recently submitted the institution's Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) report to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) Secretariat, an initiative of the United Nations Global Compact. The report can now be publicly viewed from our institution's PRME page. Our institution is now listed as an Advanced PRME signatory. Advanced signatories are entitled to access numerous benefits and leadership opportunities across the PRME initiative, including use of the PRME logo, participation in the PRME SDG Student Engagement Platform, hosting Regional Meetings, and a chance to be featured in PRME communications.
- Thank you to Laurentian University and University of Sudbury Volunteers who hosted a holiday dinner for over 60 international students that remained in Sudbury over the break a few weeks ago. Specifically, Gisèle Raymond (University of Sudbury) and Erika Kadar (Transitions & Engagement) who led the event, and Pierre Brideau, Amelia Bow, Jennifer Bow, Gennady Chitov, Laurentian Residences, and the many family members who came to support international students and share in the festivities.
- Cool Kids Lead, our community outreach program that visits schools and fosters leadership, self-esteem, and combating bullying, through physical activity is being offered in 20+ Elementary Schools, in French and English and was honored by NEORA (North Eastern Ontario Recreation Association) for their work.
- Dr. Michel Delorme, Dean of the Faculty of Management, participated as a keynote speaker for the Global Corporate Sustainability Forum 2019 in Taiwan. His presentation was entitled: "Creating Positive Impacts on Sustainability: a Shared Responsibility between Academics and Practitioners".
- Congratulations to Jennifer Kaltiainen, Communications and Special Events Coordinator in the Centre for Academic Excellence, who recently received her Certified Event Designer certification in Montreal this past Fall and was recently recognized in December's issue of Ignite magazine
- The Faculty of Management has a new doctor: Rana Haq has been awarded a Philosophy Doctorate (PhD) degree from the University of Bradford (UK). Rana's viva examination for her thesis entitled "Managing workforce diversity in Canada" was held on August 16, 2019.

- The Faculty of Management Venture Initiation Award Ceremony took place in December.
  - 1st place: The Justin Arnold Memorial First Place Award \$3,000 presented by Marissa Arnold (Justin's Sister) to: "Res Box"—a residence move-in supply box, which was created by students: Mitch Churchill, Bailey Isenor, Benjamin MacKenzie, Sahir Nagi, Henry Njemanze, Cameron Perdue, Guneet Singh Sahni
  - 2nd place: Desjardins Award in Business Administration \$1,500 presented by Josée Préseault, Director, Business Development, Desjardins to: "Covr"—an aftermarket, digitally controlled, window darkening film, created by students: El-Hajj, Malek, Adelchi Fenos, Zackary Ireland, William Lindner, Sydney Medina
  - 3rd place Desjardins Award in Business Administration \$500 presented by Dr. Michel Delorme, Dean, Faculty of Management to: "Kiddo Box"—a children's clothing and toy monthly subscription box, created by students: Curtis Carpino, Sierra Charbonneau, Caitlyn Cross, Gabriella Modesto
- Dr. Abukari recently published a paper with external colleagues: Otchere, I. and Abukari, K. Are Super Stock Exchange Mergers Motivated by Efficiency or Market Power Gains? *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money*, (ABDC list, cat. A).
- Dr. Zéphyr also published a paper with external colleagues: Morillo, J.L., Zéphyr, L., Pérez, J.F., Anderson, C.L. and Cadena, Á., 2020. Risk-averse stochastic dual dynamic programming approach for the operation of a hydro-dominated power system in the presence of wind uncertainty. *International Journal of Electrical Power & Energy Systems*, 115, p.105469.
- Dr. Dia took part in the first Days of Research on Financial Inclusion organized by the CESAG in Dakar, November 20-21, 2019. The title of his presentation was "*Les méthodes quantitatives de recherche en sciences de gestion et économie appliquée : méthode DEA et ses applications.*"
- Dr. Assaidi presented a paper at the Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Association (APMAA) in Doha, Qatar. The paper co-written with D. Abukari was entitled: Corporate Sustainability and Firm Financial Performance in Canada.
- The Research Centre for Operations and Decision Sciences (RCODS) organized its first research seminar on Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) and its applications. This seminar introduced the DEA methodology and presented five of its applications in retailing, mining, finance, forestry and banking. A broad discussion on the research conducted on this topic has been conducted and avenues for potential applications outlined. The speakers of the seminar were Dr. Mohamed Dia, Dr. Matthias Takouda, Dr. Amirmohsen Golmohammadi, Dr. Abdelouahid Assaidi and Dr. Shashi Shahi.