

President's Report to Senate January 2023

This is my first Senate meeting at Laurentian. Both I, as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Brenda Brouwer, as Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, are very pleased to be here, and to be working with the rest of the leadership team, fellow Senators, and the entire Laurentian community to bring stability and to move the University forward. Laurentian needs to regain its reputation and important position in the higher education landscape, not just in Ontario but across the country.

The University's bilingual and tricultural mandate is certainly unique, but also fundamental to the future of northern Ontario, the province, and the country.

There is much work ahead, as we all know, and I see the path to success as collective and collaborative, to be undertaken by all of us working together as a community, in a spirit of openness and transparency. Finally, I would like to thank all those who I have met for the extremely warm welcome, from so many faculty, staff, students, and administrators, with a special thanks to Tammy Eger for her work as "interim interim" President and Vice-Chancellor and all her patient onboarding of both Brenda and me. Much of our first two weeks has been focused on listening and learning, and that of course will continue, and in that spirit I encourage each of you to bring your thoughts and suggestions forward. A strong, sustainable and successful future for Laurentian will be attained only through our collective effort, with all of us working together.

Frost Week

To welcome new and returning students to campus, the Orientation team planned Frost Week for the week of January 9. This programming was designed to help students stay positive, healthy, and connected. Campus tours, course registration clinics, and social gatherings such as a trivia night and winter crafts with peers are but some of the many planned activities. A welcome booth staffed by knowledgeable front-line personnel was available all week long in the R.D.-Parker building Atrium. Thanks to all the staff, faculty, and students involved.

Health Measures for Winter 2023

As we return to our daily activities, it continues to be important that we keep our campus community safe and healthy, so please stay home when you are unwell. Flu shots or COVID-19 boosters are available by visiting Health & Wellness Services in SSR- G23. You may book your appointment via vaccineclinic@laurentian.ca. When gathering, or where physical distancing cannot be maintained, we strongly recommend you wear a mask. The University's [Face Covering policy](#) has been revised; please familiarize yourself with it. Wearing a mask is a choice — one that benefits both you and those around you. Stay home if you're not well and please consider wearing a mask when in groups.

Transformation

There are many tasks, deliverables, obligations, etc. placed on Laurentian at the moment, all with deadlines.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Operational Transformation Consultant was issued on January 4th, 2023.

The President, VPs, and representatives from LUFA, LUSU, and LUAPS met on January 10th and will meet again on January 18th in order to draft Terms of Reference for the Transformation Consultant Group. The Group will be broadly representative, and there will be many additional ways in which input and consultation will be sought. In accordance with the requirements outlined in the Plan of Compromise and Arrangement, the Terms of Reference for the Transformation Consultant Group, which includes information on membership, will be submitted to MCU by no later than January 27th. Significant work has also been completed on the development of the RFP for the Strategic Plan Consultant who will assist Laurentian in the development of a new Strategic Plan. Representatives from LUFA, LUSU, and LUAPS are working with Laurentian management to finalize the draft RFP that will be sent to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) for review with the aim to post on January 17. As will be the case with many items during the transformation process, we need to start early to make sure there is sufficient time for thorough consultation before we hit deadlines.

Our regular biweekly meetings with MCU continue, and the first for this calendar year was held on January 5th, and the second will be later this week, on January 19th.

There is also governance renewal ongoing with the Board of Governors, with a broader and more diverse set of members, and plans for onboarding and governance training. Soon, the University will request MCU to alter our governing Act to include members from our labour partners.

A second very successful Planning Forum was held on January 11th (the first was on December 7th, 2022).

In addition, a number of senior searches are underway (or will be shortly) to replace interim holders of various positions (e.g. I participated in a search committee meeting for the next University Secretary this past week). Led by the Provost, in consultation with the Vice-President Research and I, announcements with respect to faculty searches will be forthcoming as soon as possible. The timing in the annual academic hiring cycle is unfortunate, but with a combination of limited term and tenure-track positions, an exact number as yet unknown, we should soon be able to announce some academic positions, with more to come in the next cycle. Please know that this is an extremely high priority for not only the Provost and myself, but also the vice-presidents and deans.

Kudos from the Office of the President

1. I would like to congratulate Dr. John Gunn, Vale Living With Lakes Director and Canada Research Chair, and student delegates, Avery Morin (Students General Association President) and Anastacia Chartrand (Environmental Sustainability Committee Chair), who attended the United Nations Biodiversity Convention, COP15, in Montreal to share Sudbury's regreening story. Sudbury's community-led regreening project won the Local Honours Award from the UN when the Convention on Biological Diversity was first established and signed by 150 nations at the 1992 Earth Summit. Now and thirty years later, we are proud to have been invited to share updates on the project to inspire other communities worldwide to learn and benefit from Sudbury's history and ongoing research. Dr. Gunn provided me with a link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mR0XCV2TUfE>) to the presentation, and it's inspirational, and of course a great learning experience for me. I encourage you to watch it – a well-spent 40 minutes!
2. Next, I congratulate first year Master of Architecture students from Professor Shannon Bassett's Graduate Architecture Studio class who presented their architecture and urban design proposals for the Old Walled City of Delhi at the McEwen School of Architecture on December 17th. To develop these architecture and urban design proposals, graduate students had the opportunity to travel to India this fall to collaborate with faculty and students from the renowned Delhi School of Planning and Architecture. They met with elected officials, stakeholders and members of the community who informed ongoing designs. This is part of a larger Insight Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.
3. I also thank a new member of our Board of Governors, Tammy Manitowabi, for her volunteer commitment to Laurentian. I welcome her recent appointment to a three-year term on the Board. This is perhaps a good time to remind the community that all Board members are volunteers, giving freely of their time to Laurentian University.
4. Congratulations are also in order for Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk, interim president and CEO of MIRARCO [Mining Innovation Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation], who is the 2022 winner of the Northern Ontario Business Award for Innovation. Dr. Mykytczuk has been at the cutting edge of innovation for her work in mine waste microbiology, and we are proud of her efforts.
5. I congratulate Wahnapiitae First Nation member Taylor Nicholls who began her Master's in Science in Biology at Laurentian this fall. She is a recent recipient of the Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation's first-ever aquaculture scholarship. Nicholls' thesis, *Chemical Ecology of Contaminants in Subsistence Fish from the Traditional Territory of an*

Indigenous Community in Canada, will directly contribute to Indigenous communities, but also far beyond.

6. Finally, there are some teams that should be recognized. The IT team has been stretched very thin for the last several months due to vacancies (approximately one third) and yet has maintained their operations and handled a few emergencies as well. Obviously this has involved people pinch hitting for a number of months in this crucial service. Also, there is a newly formed Health & Wellness Promotion Committee, and you may have seen some of their initiatives, started since December, mentioned in e-mails from Health and Wellness. Members are: Céline Beaupré (Facility Services), Emily Carriere (Health and Wellness), Heather Dufour (Jim Fielding Innovation and Commercialization Space), Gail Cowper Benoit (Co-chair, Occupational Health and Safety), Sylvia Hunt (School of Liberal Arts), Christina Larocque (Office of Student Success), Amanda McTiernan (Faculty of Management), Jordan Pellow (Facility Services), Dorothy Robb (Library and Archives), Kristine St-Jean (Human Resources and Organizational Development), Deb Sullivan (Co-Chair, Human Resources and Organizational Development), and Maxine Vincent (Financial Services).