

## **President's Report to Senate March 2023**

The clocks have changed, there's the annual debate about whether we should abolish clock changes entirely, the days are definitely getting longer... After Reading Week, it always feels like a mad dash to the end of term, compounded by the extra work of budget year-end and budgeting for the next year, this year under a newer, more open process. I hope everybody is coping!

### **Transformation**

I won't repeat any history here, just give updates where they exist. The Operational Transformation Consultant has been chosen by our evaluating team, has been approved at a special Board meeting and by MCU (Ministry of Colleges and Universities), and now we are proceeding to negotiate the contract, and when that is done, the successful vendor will be announced publicly, and the work will begin. For the Strategic Plan Consultant, shortlisting has happened, the interviews followed by decision meeting will take place next week, a Board meeting has been scheduled for April 11, after which will follow MCU approval and contract negotiation.

### **Update on searches**

Searches continue for various permanent positions: University Secretary, Associate University Secretary, General Counsel, Legal Counsel, VP Finance & Administration, and Associate VP Human Resources. There are also the searches for President (awaiting its final two members, see later in the agenda today) and Provost, decanal searches (Arts, Education & Health), and shortly for the Associate VP Francophone Affairs. A number of the 10 faculty hires authorized in January are proceeding well. More faculty searches and staff searches will proceed after the 2023-24 budgeting process is complete and the budget is passed by the Board of Governors in late April.

### **Budget and planning**

The third budget planning forum was held on February 27. Again, it was useful for all the planning units to hear from all the other planning units about their requests. The executive group and those administering the budget have now had several meetings to put this all together; unsurprisingly total requests far outstrip our ability to fund, so difficult decisions are being made on prioritization. This work will continue over the weekend and during next week, all with a deadline of reaching the Board Finance Committee in early April and the full Board meeting in late April.

### **PDAC**

PDAC 2023 (Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada) was held March 5-8 at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto. This annual premier event in Toronto is known for attracting up to 30,000 attendees from over 130+ countries, over 1100 exhibitors and 2500

investors, for its educational programming, outstanding business opportunities and networking events. If you are in the mining industry, this is the place to be.

David Harquail, Chair of Franco-Nevada Corporation, Chair our Board's Finance Committee, and the major donor behind the Harquail School of Earth Sciences, MC'd a Laurentian breakfast event for about 100 alumni and friends, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase our numerous accomplishments and to reconnect with partners and collaborators, community leaders, donors and alumni. The overarching message was "Laurentian is Back!" I also spoke at this event, also attended by Governors Jeff Bangs and Don Duval. The PDAC-SEG Student Minerals Colloquium, organized annually by our graduate students, was held March 7, and the Metal Earth Research Meetings, coordinated by MERC March 2-3, were two additional successes at PDAC. The Laurentian booth where HES, MERC, Metal Earth, and the Goodman School of Mines had a presence, was very much visited by alumni, industry leaders and potential students and partners. MIRARCO hosted a booth at the Northern Ontario Mining Showcase and held a successful press conference announcing a new Research Chair position and partnership with Vale to advance the recovery of critical minerals from mine waste. Vale has committed \$875,000 over five years to support this new Industrial Research Chair program in biomining and bioremediation as part of efforts to reduce mine waste and capture additional value from mined material. The Government of Ontario will also contribute \$750,000 through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. to support this industrial research chair program. The industrial research chair program led by Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk will develop, pilot and work towards commercializing bioleaching and bioremediation processes including efforts to recover nickel and cobalt from low-grade pyrrhotite tailings and other wastes.

Laurentian students were again very successful at the Canadian Mining Games, hosted in Vancouver by UBC and BCIT, with two first place finishes (Underground Mine Design and Sustainable Development) as well as two third place finishes (Health & Safety and Tailings & Closure Management) in the 2023 competition. Next year, Laurentian will host the 34th Canadian Mining Games here in Sudbury.

### **Francophone Affairs**

The French language programs in the School of Education have successfully renewed their accreditation with the Ontario College of Teachers / Ordre des enseignantes et des enseignants de l'Ontario (one concurrent program and two consecutive programs). The Professional Continuing Teacher Education unit, led by the Micro-credential and non-credit programming department in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and Health, has been re-accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers for 12 additional qualification and additional basic qualification courses this year.

The Centre for Continuing Learning, directed by Bettina Brockerhoff-Macdonald, in collaboration with the School of Education and the School of Liberal Arts, received funding from the *Ontario French as a Second Language (FLS) Teacher Supply Challenge Fund* to "support the provision of flexible and targeted programming or services that will re-balance the pool of FSL

teachers to increase the number eligible to teach at the elementary level”. The \$360,945 for 2022-23 and 2023-24 allows the Professional Continuing Teacher Education unit of the Micro-credential and Non-credit programming department to create and offer workshops and preparatory courses along with FSL and Teaching in a French Immersion Setting additional qualification courses to new teacher graduates and current teachers. It also allows Laurentian Online to develop 5 new FREN asynchronous online courses to provide learners with the opportunity to attain the necessary ability in FSL to be able to pursue the FLS teaching designation. Also, Laurentian Online, working in collaboration with the School of Liberal Arts, is now able to offer a mineure en histoire, starting with the Spring 2023 session.

\$2,976,854 of additional base federal funding for French as a Second Language (FSL) was confirmed by MCU. This has considerable scope and is very promising in terms of elevating the quality of our francophone programs, the quality of the student experience and enhancing access to services. Additionally, FSL projects were funded in the amount of \$527,071 over two years for three projects designed to improve the recruitment and retention of FSL teachers. UBCO, UBC and SFU also received funds to support French teacher training. As the federal government works with the provinces to push the funds out, we might expect an Ontario-centric story soon, so there might be more announcements coming. I will be attending the annual meeting of the 22-member ACUFC in Ottawa next week, L'Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne / the Association of Colleges and Universities of the Canadian Francophonie.

We have **two new scholarships for Indigenous architecture students**, part of the Perkins & Will studio's commitment to reconciliation, matched by Indspire, Canada's national, Indigenous registered charity. The recipients will be awarded up to \$5,000 for each scholarship and be granted an internship at Perkins & Will's studio in either Vancouver or Calgary. There are two winners for 2021-22 (Mackenzie Pitawanakwat (undergraduate) and Bohdana Chiupka Innes (graduate)) and two winners for 2022-23 (Mackenzie Pitawanakwat (undergraduate) and Kyara Wendling (graduate)).

The **U Sports – CCAA (Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association) Curling Championships** were held in Sudbury last week, with Laurentian as the host University. Although the teams were not playing on our campus, we hosted a reception in the Atrium for all 32 participating college and university teams on March 15. Laurentian teams were playing in both the men's and women's U Sports championships.

Building from a successful single-day Career Expo during Fall term, the Career team were pleased to triple expo days and more than double the list of employers on campus between February 14th and 16th. The Career Hub Team introduced to Campus a winter term **Career Week** with 3 Faculty Themed Days: Health Day (Health Students), Business & Government (Arts & Management Students), and Mining Science & Technology (SEA Students). Students and over 50 Employers alike were pleased with the number of networking opportunities, level of

engagement, and energy everyone brought to the week organized to raise career skills and awareness throughout the student body. Career Week included a Work Study info session, an on-campus part-time job meet and greet for Staff to meet with motivated students. There were workshops throughout the week on topics like resume building, cover letter writing, job search, networking, and interviewing, each delivered in French and English. There were more than 50 School boards from across the country organized into a virtual Education Career Fair for Students.

The Laurentian University community welcomed many future students, parents and other guests at the March 11th **Open House**, from 10 am. to 3 pm. 220 prospective students, the highest number ever, and roughly 750 guests visited campus. This is another crucial milestone on our way to a healthy enrolment next September.

Laurentian University launched a unique, comprehensive, and accessible online **Master of Health Administration**, the result of a partnership between the graduate Nursing and Master of Business Administration programs. This new program is designed to cover all essential knowledge for health administrators and maintains a strong rural, northern, and Indigenous focus.

On March 10 and 11, **Laurentian Relay for Life** hosted its eighth annual event, raising awareness and funds in support of the battle against cancer. Funds are donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. The campaign has raised \$284,493.61 since 2016, with a further over \$35,000 raised this year. A big thank you to the twenty student volunteers who planned this year's Relay event, with special shout outs to student executive leaders, Ann VanDerAa, Caitlyn Brannon, and Cameron Hourtovenko as well as all who participated. The Laurentian Residence Life team presented the annual Airbandz for Cancer event on Saturday, March 11th. This year's winning student team was Team Percy Jackson. The proceeds, \$1680, were donated to the Northern Cancer Foundation.

During a Fridays for Future event, **Mayor Paul Lefebvre** announced that the city would create a Senior climate resilience officer to promote greater stakeholder engagement and the implementation of best environmental practices. City Council also resolved to create a 30x30 panel, which aims to protect 30% of the city's water and land by 2030. Laurentian students were active in the lobby that obtained this.

Laurentian University's Indigenous Student Affairs office presented **Moose Hide Campaign Day** on March 2nd. This campaign brought awareness to violence against women and children, and the pledge from men and boys to hold each other accountable and end this violence in our society.

**International Women's Day** is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. A gender equal world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination is one that we all collectively strive towards. Though International Women's Day is annually

celebrated on March 8th, Laurentian recognized women and their achievements all week long, March 6th - March 10th. On March 4th, EDHRO collaborated with Black Lives Matter Sudbury to present the Black Futures keynote address, *Trust Black Women*. University Advancement highlighted 5 Laurentian Alumnae on social media to celebrate their personal and professional achievements: Bo Wang-Frape, Christina Visser, Ra'anaa Ekundayo, Jen McKerral, and Giovanna Verrilli. They graduated from a variety of programs including Business Administration, Commerce, Architecture, and Communication Studies.

The Peer Programs Office hosted a **Long Night Against Procrastination** from 7 p.m. to midnight. Supports: Exam Prep, Research and Citation Help, Test-taking Strategies, Tutoring Support, Wellness Support, and Writing Support. Feature activities: Tips and Tricks to Beat Procrastination, and Discussion Panel - Peers Discuss: Study Habits, Learning Skills and Time Management.

I reported orally on this at the last Senate meeting but I do want to have it in the written record. Since the 2010 inception of Métis artist Jaime Black's ongoing art series, The REDress Project, heightened awareness has been brought to the staggering number of murdered and missing Indigenous women across Canada. The **Red Dress campaign** that stems from Black's art series has been honoured by Laurentian University since 2016. Laurentian's Indigenous Student Affairs office recognized the campaign with an event held in the Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre's Round Room.

**Health Measures for Winter 2023** remain unchanged. As a reminder, you can contact [vaccineclinic@laurentian.ca](mailto:vaccineclinic@laurentian.ca) to book an appointment for a COVID vaccine every Wednesday or walk in daily for a flu shot. Testing is available on campus. Community members should stay home if they are not well. It is still recommended to wear a mask in indoor public settings, especially if 2 m distance cannot be maintained. The mask dispensers remain stocked and Safety Ambassadors supply masks in the classrooms.