



President's Report to Senate May 2022

As we reach the end of May, there is considerable reason for optimism about Laurentian, our students and graduates, as well as our emergence from CCAA and our future.

First and foremost, we look forward to a celebration of our students and their success, with convocation across the first week of June. This is a time to celebrate the achievements of the best of what Laurentian is - our students, their achievements through their hard work in the most challenging of times, and their potential for the future as they leave Laurentian, well prepared for their journeys.

This year's ceremonies will emphasize this focus by having a greater proportion of ceremony time dedicated to students, as opposed to speeches.

Convocation Spring 2022 is the first face-to-face convocation at Laurentian in almost three years. While certain health and safety protocols will remain in effect, We are planning for a positive and uplifting experience for all of our nearly 1,300 graduates. Students who have completed their degrees since the onset of the pandemic will be returning for a special convocation ceremony on May 30th, and we look forward to celebrating and focusing on their achievements.

Congratulations and best wishes to all graduating students and graduates.

Applications update

As of May 2nd, Laurentian's admissions data indicates that International undergraduate applications are showing appreciable gains, with a year-over-year increase of +8%. Domestic Graduate applications are up +16%, and International Graduate applications are up +150% . Domestic fully online degree programs overall also continue to show a year-over-year increase in applications at +22%. Meanwhile, domestic high school applications remain at -44% behind last year's pre-CCAA levels of applications. Transfer, Mature and Internal applications are improving weekly, however are at -29% behind for the same period last year.

At this point in the cycle, applicants are starting to confirm their intent to register with Laurentian next fall. The OUAC high school 101 earliest date required to confirm (June 1st) is a little less than a month away. Notably, the percentage of students accepting offers of admission is higher than in 2021 in many applicant categories (mature, online, international, graduate) when compared to the same time the previous year, which means that in these categories, a greater percentage of our applicants are saying "yes" to Laurentian. Confirmations and subsequently registrations will continue to be tracked closely throughout the summer.

Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Racism and Discrimination recommends Laurentian Support for the Scarborough Charter

The Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Racism and Discrimination is committed to amplifying issues of anti-racism and discrimination at Laurentian University. The committee has recommended that the University demonstrate its support of anti-racism initiatives by signing and endorsing the Scarborough Charter: On Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education. This Charter provides a concrete framework for guiding the development and implementation of policies, plans and actions for removing structural inequalities in and across academic settings. Laurentian will join more than 50 Universities that have signed the Scarborough Charter. The Charter is a core resource for policy creation and implementation in research, teaching, learning and community engagement. The Charter presents an important framework that aligns with Laurentian University's principles, as well as other EDI (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) initiatives across our University. Adding Laurentian's name to the Charter sends a strong message and affirmation to our BIPOC students, faculty, staff, and community members that we are committed to addressing anti-racism in our institute and respecting the historic significance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the power of its calls to action to elicit transformative reflection and action in societies generally, as well as universities and colleges.

Update on Laurentian's Response to COVID-19

I again wish to thank the Laurentian University campus community for their continued efforts to follow health and safety guidance in order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 . You will see that signage has been updated on campus to remind everyone that Laurentian's Policy on Face Covering is still in effect until at least June 12, 2022. The updated policy outlines when masks must be worn by persons attending campus including but not limited to, when indoors in public spaces including in classrooms, laboratories, when walking in a hallway or other public indoor space, and when in a private offices area or meeting room when other participants are present.

Although Laurentian has paused its Policy and Program on COVID-19 Vaccination effective May 1, 2022, the Laurentian community is strongly encouraged to keep up with their COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots. The Policy and Program on COVID-19 are not canceled and could be reinstated at a future date if guidance from federal, provincial or local public health authorities warrant it. Furthermore, the Health and Wellness Clinic on campus continues to provide access to COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots for all who are eligible. The secure Portal for Vaccination Status remains operational and Laurentian faculty, staff and students are encouraged to continue to update their vaccination status via the portal.

The University Health and Wellness Clinic also continues to operate the COVID-19 Assessment Centre on campus (SSR G-19) and remains available to provide rapid testing for COVID-19, guidance on what to do if you are feeling ill, and access to PCR testing for those who are eligible.

With the start of the Spring Term I encourage the community to continue to follow recommended health and safety practices including regular hand washing, physical distancing, and wearing a mask. I also encourage people to enjoy our beautiful campus and meet outside whenever possible.

CCAA Updates

Laurentian continues to make progress in all aspects of its CCAA restructuring, as it prepares for the final stretch towards a Plan of Arrangement to be presented to creditors. We have been actively engaged in discussions with key stakeholders around the terms of the Plan of Arrangement, and look forward to providing details on those terms in the near future.

The Monitor and Laurentian are continuing to address the claims of creditors filed in the CCAA process and having them resolved or determined by the Claims Officers appointed by the Court. This is an important part of the CCAA process, to ensure that creditors with proven claims have an opportunity to vote on the Plan of Arrangement and receive a recovery under it.

The current stay period in the CCAA proceeding expires on May 31. A further extension will be sought as previously advised, to allow the process to proceed through the next steps including the presentation of a Plan of Arrangement to creditors and a vote by creditors, which is a condition to successful emergence. Motion materials which provide details on the status of Laurentian's restructuring will be presented to the court and made available on or about May 23, 2022.

Kudos

1. Congratulations to Dr. Stéphane Perrouty, who is the Geological Association of Canada (GAC) Mineral Deposits Division (MADD) 2022 William Harvey Gross Award winner. This prestigious accolade is bestowed annually by the MDD to a geoscientist who is less than 40 years of age (as of December 31 of the nomination year) who has made a significant contribution to the field of economic geology in a Canadian context. Dr. Perrouty will be honoured with this award at the GAC-MAC Halifax conference on May 18. Well-deserved, Stéphane!
2. In April, MSc student Ian Campos and PhD student Derek Leung were each awarded a Society of Economic Geologists Foundation (SEG) Student Research Grant in the amount of \$4,000 USD. These are prestigious prizes that assist students with important research in economic geology. Congratulations, Ian and Derek!
3. With the recent completion of our Winter Semester, many students have now completed their graduation requirements and are set to receive their degrees on stage in the upcoming convocation ceremonies. During this time, we also are proud to celebrate those who graduated during the pandemic and were not able to attend an in-person convocation ceremony. We will hold a unique ceremony to recognize these graduates on May 30th.

Congratulations as well to all faculty who continue to tirelessly support Laurentian students and their academic pursuits. We are equally grateful to the many staff members who also contribute to the success of our students and institution. Thank you to all.

4. I would also like to congratulate all those within the Science Communication program who collaborated so successfully with Science North, Health Sciences North and Eastlink to offer Northern MedTalks 2022. This fast-paced speakers event featured ten presentations by Northern Ontario healthcare providers. Each ten minute talk was co-produced by healthcare providers and Master's students of the Science Communication program whose curriculum is co-delivered by Laurentian and Science North. Co-producing this event is a capstone project for Science Communication students, and MedTalks2022 showcased our students' extensive knowledge and skills. Kudos!
5. Well done also to all those who organized and participated in this year's Earth Day Climate March: a United Nations Decade of Restoration Event. A special shoutout to

Laurentian's Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Indigenous Student Circle, the Students' General Association. This event offered the opportunity for us to truly appreciate and reflect on the fact that Laurentian is situated on the land of the Anishnaabe people. On this front, I am very proud that we have recently developed the Dibendaagziwin Committee (We Belong to the Land Committee) - a university wide land and water caring committee led by Anishnaabe people and supported by university allies. This Committee, established on Earth Day, April 22, 2022, has the full support of Laurentian University and the Executive Team. This committee is established to action recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force Report. We look forward to working with community partners and allies to address climate change through land and water teaching, restoration and care.

6. Congratulations are also in order for incoming 2022-2023 student leaders of the Students' General Association and the Association des étudiants et étudiantes francophones. Both associations recently elected new student leaders, with Avery Morin taking on the role of SGA President, and Hemliss Konan, the role of AEF President. Other elected leaders of the AEF's incoming team include Nawfal Sbaa, Vice-President of Politics, and El Hadji Baye Dame Diop, Vice President of Sociocultural Affairs and Services. Other elected leaders of the SGA's incoming team include Ana Tremblay as Vice President Education, Emma Lelievre as Vice President Finance, and Olivia Broomer as Vice President Student Life. Notably, I'd like to equally congratulate outgoing student leaders of the SGA and AEF. This includes Eric Chappell of the SGA, and Simon Paquette of the AEF. I look forward to continuing prosperous relations with student leaders of both associations, as well as with the Graduate Student Association, who hold by-elections in the Fall.
7. I am also very pleased to congratulate Voyageurs men's basketball head coach, Shawn Swords, selected by Canada Basketball to serve as an assistant coach at the upcoming FIBA U18 Americas Championship from June 6th-12th. The team will be led by McMaster Marauders head coach, Patrick Tatham, while two more U SPORTS head coaches will serve alongside Swords as assistant coaches; Wilfrid Laurier's Justin Serresse, who played under Swords at Laurentian from 2008-2010, and Laval's Nathan Grant.