

President's Report to Senate May 2024

Aanii, Hello, Bonjour,

Thank you all for the continued warm welcome. I've been fortunate to meet many of you throughout the last 8 weeks on campus. I appreciate the time you've taken to introduce yourselves and to help me learn about your teaching and research. My focus has been on learning more from those within the university (staff, faculty, students) and I expect to continue meeting all of you throughout the summer, in addition to making new connections with external partners and potential collaborators. I have been genuinely impressed by the passion and dedication I have witnessed within the Laurentian community.

Leadership

As announced on May 8, our [new Provost & VP Academic, Dr. Malcolm M. Campbell](#), will join Laurentian on August 1, 2024. His appointment is significant as we will now have permanent leaders in place at the presidential and vice-presidential levels. Also advancing university leadership will be the new AVP Students, Mark W. Walma, who will join us on June 17, 2024. I would like to thank those of you who served on the search committees for these important roles.

We will continue to fill critical roles at the leadership level (deans) as well as at the faculty and staff levels (as indicated in the most recent budget).

Budget

The 2024-2025 annual budget was recently approved by the Board of Governors. The forecasted budget is focused on improving the student experience, investing in the University's transformation, and supporting the implementation of the newly approved 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

The budget places emphasis on supporting the student experience by funding new and vacant roles within faculty and staff, with an increase to full-time equivalent employees of 64.10. Of these new roles, nearly 80% of them are directly within either the academic or academic support categories (Academic 33.9, Academic Support 16.8, Administration 12.9, Ancillary 0.5). Of note, new faculty positions support growing and high demand programs as well as the University's strategic initiatives and mandates, including the integration of Indigenous knowledge and teachings into multiple disciplines and building capacity in French language programs.

Enrolment

As we look ahead to our incoming class of students for Fall 2024, we are seeing positive signs. Relative to last year, we see an increasing number of students are choosing Laurentian.

Domestically, we see a slight increase in the number of students coming directly from high schools confirming their choice to study at Laurentian (+11% or 33 students). At the graduate level, we are stable, with approximately the same number of students confirming their choice,

relative to last year.

Internationally, after last year's increases to the graduate level, we have planned to decrease the number of students entering these programs and we are on track with these projections. Interestingly enough, our undergraduate international student confirmants have risen by 6% (53 students) and are projected to be within the maximum number of international students based on the federal caps.

Congratulations

Graduate students in the Computational Science program have won 1st and 3rd place in the "Build with AI" competition organized by GDG (Google Developers Group) Sudbury on May 4, 2024. Please join me in congratulating the teams on this outstanding achievement. The 1st place team was led by Wenyu Luo and included Ziping Zhu, Wenyu Luo, Ruimi Jiang, and Qidan Zhu. The third-place team included Chintansinh Vadher, Rachana Kafle, and Nipuni Weerasinghe.

Dr. Andrew McDonald, Professor with the Harquail School of Earth Sciences, along with co-authors, Dr. Christopher Beckett-Brown (Laurentian Alumnus) and Beth McClenaghan, has been awarded the 2023 Hawley Medal for Best Paper in the Canadian Journal of Mineralogy and Petrology. The paper is entitled "Trace Element Characteristics of Tourmaline in Porphyry Cu systems: Development and Application to Discrimination." This is the fourth Hawley Medal awarded to Dr. McDonald has received.

The Laurentian Voyageurs gave out their annual awards and soccer players Hunter Jones and Timi Aliu were named the Female and Male Athlete of the Year, respectively. Long jumper and triple jumper, Shelley Hladin, was named the Female Rookie of the Year, while basketball wing, Ismael Konate, was named the Male Rookie of the Year. Head coach of the men's and women's curling teams, Ryan Lafraniere, was named the Voyageurs' Coach of the Year while Dr. Cole Giffin and John Sabourin were each honoured with the Special Voyageur Award.