

Dean's Report – Summer 2020

Before I dive into the report and update, I want to apologize that I have not been able to get a report together since mid March - just at the very beginning of the COVID measures being put into place in the province and for the University campus. In my mid-March update, I noted that the situation we were in was very fluid. That has not changed. We still find ourselves in a place where our circumstances are ever changing - this is particularly true as we reopen, or get ready to reopen some of our various activities.

While there is a tendency to look at our current experience/situation as primarily negative (what we have lost), there is no doubt that we have gained and benefited from this as well. We have had experiences, gained expertise, and discovered insights into alternative ways of doing things and delivering programming that will allow us to be better at what we do when the current restrictions final end.

So with that, here we go...

1. I anticipate many of you have been participating in the town halls that the University has been having over the last month, but I thought it worthwhile to provide a mini summary of decisions that have been made or what we can expect to come in the next few months.

- The fall semester (202030) will be **delivered remotely** with a limited number of small courses or labs/seminars ($n < 15$) occurring face to face. In our own case, the Faculty had proposed that labs in 4 particular B.Kin courses to be delivered face to face. However, after further consultation between the instructors, the Associate Dean – Undergraduate, and the committee charged to make recommendations as to which courses might actually be offered, three of the courses have been withdrawn from the proposal. Discussions concerning the remaining course are still ongoing.
- The fall semester will also bring the availability of **remote proctoring/invigilation software** for University of Regina faculty and instructors to employ as they deliver final exams. Decisions about availability of the software for use with midterms have yet to be made. The committee charged with selecting a vendor/software should come to a final decision later this month. The plan is to pilot the use of the preferred software during the final exam period in August. The availability of such software will not only provide assistance during this remote delivery situation, but post COVID it will allow for students taking online courses to take their finals online (rather than having to come to campus, or go to another location, to be invigilated in person). I am a member of the committee and the sophistication of the software is quite something.
- The decision was made by **Canada West** (and most of the other U Sport conferences) to cancel the fall sports. For us, that directly impacts cross country,

football and soccer. The competitive seasons for the winter sports of hockey, volleyball, and basketball have been shortened and the start date postponed until January 1, 2021. A final decision on those winter team sports is still pending. What will happen with swimming and track/field seasons is also still to be determined.

- **Research labs in the Faculty remain closed** at this time. We have not received any indication when research activity that typically takes place in those spaces might resume.
- The **FLC and outdoor facilities remain closed** for public/student use at this time.
- The Faculty has made fitness **equipment available for rent**. This began near the end of April.
- The Faculty has received **permission to resume/begin face to face delivery** - with very specific restrictions and protocols (to ensure we are following provincial and university health and safety guidelines) - the following:
 - Occupational testing (e.g., POPAT, PARE, Firefighter, Conservation Officers, Border Security, etc.). (June 1 start)
 - POPAT training/preparation courses to be delivered (July 6 start)
 - Small group training for varsity athletes on campus - strength and conditioning and sport specific training. (July 6 start)
 - First Aid/CPR courses to be provided. (These are beginning soon.)
 - In person health services for our student athletes. (Slated for September start.)
 - Allied health services (massage therapy, athletic therapy, traditional chinese medicine, physiotherapy, chiropractic medicine). (These will resume in September.)
- The University will continue to have **limited access** (three entrances only) through the end of the summer.
- Face to Face Summer **camp programming has been cancelled** (includes Summer Sport School, the various Sport Camps)

2. In addition to academic classes moving to remote delivery, we saw a **transition to remote delivery** for most of our traditional face to face activities. For example, Zoom-based delivery of our L2L Cardiac and Chronic disease, and Rock Steady, programming. Our FLC Student Trainers met with students virtually to prescribe programming. Our annual Awards evening for our varsity athletes was delivered virtually. The same is true for the Club Sport team awards that typically take place in a formal event at the end of the winter semester. A great deal of other programming was also delivered and made available through our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube).

A big thank you to the work Ben, Braden, and Andrew (Communications and Marketing team) did and continue to do to connect with our constituents virtually. The experience of

the last few months has made me extremely grateful for the work that has been done to consolidate our social media presence (i.e., the creation of **@URAllKinected**).

3. One of the casualties of the current pandemic response has been **convocation**, and all the related activities. This has been unfortunate and sad for those students who had planned to attend and celebrate with their family and friends. We have been working on recognizing our graduates virtually over the course of the summer months.

I would also like to thank those individuals (staff and faculty) who took the time to write a personal note of congratulations to one or more of our graduating students. I know this has been appreciated.

Finally, we have determined to give each of our convoking students a gift (in addition to the traditional pin) thanking them for choosing to complete their undergraduate degree or diploma studies at the University of Regina, and with the Faculty of Kinesiology & Health Studies.

For those who are interested, the gift will be an item of Faculty/University branded Under Armour clothing (see the note later in the update concerning our new clothing supplier).

4. Many of you will have met and worked with **Ben Berger** during this last year. As our first BSRS paid internship student, and the first intern we have hosted in our Faculty, Ben has been a real trailblazer. This past year he has worked as a member of our Communications and Marketing team and he has made many important contributions that will be of great benefit to the Faculty in the coming years.

Ben has finished his degree and continued to work for the Faculty this summer while taking a few additional courses to augment his degree. He will be finishing his time with us in August. On behalf of the Faculty, I want to thank him for his many and varied contributions and for being patient with us as worked through our first internship experience. I have personally really enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with Ben and appreciated his commitment to the Faculty and University. I want to wish him the very best with his plans for the future.

5. In a related note, we are currently **posting for another intern/coop student** to join us for the coming year as a member of our Communications and Marketing team. Once that individual is in place, we will make certain to introduce that individual to everyone.

6. Family News

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Cooper** and **Julia Totosy** - both have received Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Establishment Grants. Elizabeth's grant is entitled *Nurturing Warriors: Understanding Mental Wellness and Health Risk Behaviours among Young Indigenous Men* and Julia's work relates to *Nutrition and Exercise on Cardiometabolic Health and Food Intake Regulation in Type 2 Diabetes*. The announcement can be found here:

https://www.shrf.ca/post/shrf-supports-new-investigators-tackle-sk-health-challenges?utm_campaign=f31d8319-7b60-4d30-9e1f-a8f90e9c6a69&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=60cdd212-6d70-4b51-9001-6f5e42f5a49e

Congratulations to **Patrick Neary** for his successful COVID related funding grant application.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Genoe** for her recent promotion to Professor and being named editor of *Leisure*.

Congratulations to **Roz Kelsey** for her recent promotion to Assistant Professor.

Congratulations to **Rob “Sharky” Jamont** (PAS Sport & Rec Admin Alumni) who will be receiving the Alumni Crowning Achievement Award for Outstanding Service. Thanks to Tanya Reynoldson for her work on pulling together the nomination.

7. Although not nearly as exciting as the previous announcements, the Faculty has finalized its revision work of our **Facility policy 2.0 (completed** at the end of June – policy goes into effect September 1). Version 2.0 is a more comprehensive document and has been updated based on the experiences we have had with Version 1.0. The revision also updates booking procedures for space currently stewarded by the Faculty on behalf of the University.

A copy has been made available to all of our faculty and staff. If you do not have it, it is also stored on the t-drive. Thanks to all the members of our senior leadership team (SLT) who put in considerable time and effort into finishing this document.

8. This is exciting. Following a tendering process, **Under Armour** has been selected as the official supplier of clothing for Varsity & Club Sport, and the Faculty of KHS operations generally. Thanks to the group that worked on the RFP and participated in the vendor presentations.

9. **A quick renovation update.** Our main office renovation (CK 170) is still on time – currently estimating it will be ready for us by the second week in September. Drywall is almost all up and ready for painting.

The project involving CK 222, CK 219, and parts of CK 225 – along with CK 164.16 and CK 173 should be going to tender this week – with construction slated to begin once the tender is closed. That project will result in some very useful multipurpose spaces **being** created (teaching, activity, research, allied health service delivery). Although this involves more spaces, the renovation is far simpler than the main office project and should be finished by September as well.

Finally, the new Accessible Washroom is getting close to completion (located in what was previously the small taping room near the main staircase).

10. **Fall registration update.** As of the Monday, a total of 820 students have registered for the fall – which is fairly consistent with where we were at last year at this time.

Where there is some cause for concern is in our new student registration numbers. This past year saw a decrease in applications (about 7%) (year over year as of July 2). As a result, offers made, those who have accepted, and those who have registered are all down as well.

In the next week or so, we will be following up with those students who have accepted their offer of admission, but have not yet registered. Our goal is to increase our conversion rate.

11. Another casualty of COVID will be the annual **new student orientation**. This year's orientation will also take place virtually in UR Courses.

As part of our strategy to build engagement with our new students (and future alumni), we are planning on welcoming them to the University and thanking them for choosing the Faculty by presenting them with a piece of Faculty branded clothing.

12. As many of you are aware, a working group has been engaging in a **review of our B.Kin curriculum**. The team is wrapping up its work with the goal of presenting their recommendations in September. The goal is to have a larger conversation about the recommendations and use the review as a basis for program changes and modifications.

Beginning this fall, we will begin to go through a similar process for the Therapeutic Recreation and the Sport and Recreation Management majors of the BSRS degree.

13. **Development Pilot Update** – Our 2-page case for support has been finished and is going to publication in the next week or so. The case focuses on Health Research that has Impact and highlights our advancement priorities: Brain Health (broadly defined) and Student Success (includes AHPI, Student Awards, Equipment Endowment). Nicky's goal is to also have a couple of single page documents, based on the case, created by the end of August. (Note, for the time being, we will not be printing these since many of our meetings will tend to be virtual in nature).

Andrew has been working on updating our Alumni database and preparing to create a quarterly Faculty newsletter that we can share with alumni, stakeholders, current (and even prospective) students.

Finally, Tanya has been focused on building Alumni engagement on the Varsity Sport side. Much of her work has revolved around preparing for an annual giving campaign to support Varsity Sport in this coming year.

14. As you are aware, our **retreat plans** were scuttled due to COVID. We will look to do some form of Faculty retreat early this fall. We will also need to begin planning for updating our Strategic Plan since the University has finalized it's plan.

Concluding comments:

As always, I am likely to have missed including something – this seems to have gotten worse as I get older. Any oversights were not intentional. Please let me know.

Second, I had planned on taking some extended vacation time in June, but that too became a casualty of COVID. I was able to make some alternate plans for August and will be away from Regina (and the internet) on vacation from August 10 through the August 25. I hope you too will have had the opportunity to take some time away.

Third, I want to thank all of our faculty, staff, and students for your willingness to flex during this unprecedented (in my lifetime anyway) and unusual time. I am, however, looking forward to when we will be able to interact and work face to face again (albiet in a socially distanced manner!).

Finally, July 1 officially marked the start of my second term as dean. I have very much appreciated my time in this role during the past seven years and I look forward working and serving together with you in the years ahead.

Please have a great rest of the summer.

Harold