President’s Report to the Board

For the period from July 7 – September 2, 2011
Submitted to Paul McLellan, Chair of the Board of Governors
Submitted by Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor

In a separate document, I have submitted my 2011-2012 objectives to the Board of Governors for its consideration. Once these objectives have been approved, I will begin reporting on them as well as my academic research program for the December Board meeting.

In the meantime, I am providing an update which highlights recent faculty, staff and student successes as well as other key events and initiatives since my last report.

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Faculty and staff success

- In early August, Dr. Doyle Anderson began his term as President of First Nations University of Canada.

- Dr. Gordon Asmundson of the Faculty of Arts has been named the President’s Chair in Adult Mental health Research.

- Dr. Mary Hampton of Luther College has been named the President’s Chair for Academic Excellence in Scholarly Teaching and Community Outreach.

- Fourteen faculty members, five graduate students and one post-doctoral fellow received a total of $1.9 million in funding in the most recent NSERC competition.

- Dr. Kristi Wright (Faculty of Arts) and Dr. Rebecca Genoe (Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies) have been awarded funding through the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation’s New Investigator Establishment Grant program.

- On September 1, three faculty members – Dr. Hussameldin Ibrahim and Dr. Raphael Idem of Engineering and Dr. John Stavrinides of Biology – received a total of $196,000 in Canada Foundation for Innovation funding for their respective projects.
David J. Mitchell, President & CEO of the Public Policy Forum in Ottawa was on campus in July for meetings, at which time he was shown our strategic plan. In a recent letter, he indicated that he considers it a model plan and has reviewed it with executives from other universities. This endorsement speaks volumes about the direction of our University, and is a credit to all who contributed to the plan.

Jamie Brown of Financial Services completed her Certified Management Accountant entrance exam with the highest mark of any applicant in Saskatchewan.

As of August 23, enrolment numbers are up significantly compared to the same time last year. At the University of Regina campus (excluding the Federated Colleges), enrolment is up 11.3%.

Including the Federated Colleges, overall enrolment across campus is up 6.7%, which also takes into account enrolment in the new Faculty of Nursing.

Although enrolments are down somewhat at the Federated Colleges, teaching credits are up overall at the three institutions, which is a positive sign.

The number of students in the Faculty of Graduate studies has increased by 3.1%.

University of Regina Psychology graduate student Mathew Fetzner was awarded a prestigious $150,000 Vanier scholarship – the first time a University of Regina student has received one.

The University has committed an additional $50,000 annually to bursaries for Aboriginal students.

On August 29, Farm Credit Corporation committed $10,000 in one-time bursary funding for Aboriginal Students at the University of Regina through the Aboriginal Student Empowerment Fund.

A group of ESL students helped to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Regina as part of their “Language in Action” program.
The Academic Program Review has progressed steadily over the past couple of months. The Provost's Office received the final reports from Higher Education Strategy Associates in August, and coordinated their distribution to the Deans, Department Heads, Program Chairs and the Federated Colleges. The review process and timeline was presented to the Deans and has been published on the Academic Program Review website at http://www.uregina.ca/presoff/provost/AcademicProgramReview.shtml.

On July 18, the University of Regina signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kookmin University in Seoul, South Korea, which will provide opportunities for students from South Korea to attend the University of Regina, as well as for research collaborations.

A call has gone out for nominees and volunteers to serve on an Aboriginal Advisory Circle that will recommend initiatives to further indigenize the University of Regina campus in the coming months and years.

Planning continues for the University of Regina Alumni Homecoming to be held from September 29-October 1. More than 50 events are planned, and close to 150 people have registered so far.

At its last meeting, the Board of Governors approved our recommendation to start the process of dissolving the Crown Foundation. The request was accepted by the Minister, who has replied that he understands our rationale, and will get back to us regarding further consultations.

In late August, a two-day orientation session for first-year Aboriginal students took place, operated jointly by First Nations University and the University of Regina. It was the best-attended Aboriginal student orientation session yet.