This report summarizes my progress on the six key areas of priority related to the Strategic Plan that the Board and I have identified for 2011-2012. It also includes an update on my own academic research program, and a short summary of some of the University’s highlights since the last Board report.

**OUR WORK: Teaching, Research and Public Service**

Objective: make sustainability a core part of the University’s operations

Focusing on initiatives that will promote environmental, physical, and fiscal sustainability for the future is a key focus for this academic year. Since my last report, there has been considerable progress on this objective:

- The President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability, comprised of faculty, staff and students and chaired by the Provost, has begun work. It takes a broad view of sustainability (from specific environmental initiatives through to broader questions of institutional sustainability), and will be making its initial recommendations to the President in the first quarter of 2012.

- The print optimization project was recently one of five finalists for the Info-Tech Research Group’s second annual “Quest for Canada’s Greenest IT Department” competition. This is a testament to the impact this program is having on our campus, with 44 out of 47 departments already assessed or implemented, and five-year cost savings projected to be $2.3 million, with significant energy and carbon emission reductions as well.
In October, the name was announced for the College Avenue fundraising initiative: “Building Knowledge: The College Avenue Campus Renewal Project.” This is an important step forward as we work to raise funds for this important capital project that will play such an important role in guiding the future use of our historic campus.

Another objective is to continue refining our programs to ensure that they remain relevant for our students and the community beyond campus. To that end, quite a bit of work has taken place since the last report:

- The Operations Forecast contains specific requests for funding targeted to new program development in areas of Saskatchewan labour market need, including mining engineering. As well, budget allocation criteria for the 2012-13 year have been refined to focus on areas of high demand and the efficient use of teaching resources, and the 2012-13 budget process will provide one-time funding to as an incentive for academic program innovation in response to student demand.

- A detailed update on the Academic program review is part of the Board package.

- A review of research institutes on campus continues to ensure that they align with the strategic research plan and emerging opportunities for research and graduate education. Three institutes have been taken to the Board thus far this year: the Clean Energy Technologies Institute, the Centre for Public Safety and Policing, and the Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Communities.

- Progress continues to expand the Campus for All program on campus. A coordinator for the program has been hired, a job has been posted for a facilitator to work directly with participants, and the Campus for All centre on campus is being prepared. It is expected that nine students will be enrolled by the Winter term. In addition, the India Canada Association has donated more than $30,000 to the program, and another donor is in the process of finalizing a long-term contribution.
Another priority objective for the year is to increase the degree of diversity among students, faculty and staff. A considerable amount of progress is being made in that regard:

- International enrolments at the University now total approximately 1,700, and self-declared Aboriginal students make up approximately 10% of the student body. With more than one in five students now belonging to visible minorities, the University of Regina is a more diverse campus than at any time in its history.

- Deans and unit managers are working systematically to identify qualified Aboriginal candidates for faculty and staff positions, an Aboriginal Advisory Circle has been created, and the University is planning to expand dedicated space for Aboriginal students. Plans are also being made to provide appropriate facilities for Muslim employees and students.

- Our existing e-recruitment system automatically provides an opportunity for individuals to self-declare when they apply for a position at the University. In the next month, a process will begin to encourage all staff to update their self-declaration in the event that they were hired before this opportunity existed.

Fostering a high degree of student and employee engagement is crucial to our success, and a number of initiatives are contributing to that objective:

- In terms of student engagement, enrolment in the UR Guarantee Program now totals 618 students – something which is expected to help student retention rates in future. In addition, the Office of Resource Planning is undertaking a student retention analysis that will provide further insight into how the University can improve retention rates.
Several initiatives are in progress regarding employee engagement. Preparations are underway to negotiate a new collective agreement with the Faculty Association, and planning is taking place for the administration and follow-up of the 2012 employee engagement survey. In addition, the annual “Celebrate” event was held in mid-November to honour employees who have received awards from other organizations over the past year, and the recipients of the President’s Awards for Service Excellence.

OUR COMMUNITIES: Presence and Partnerships

Objective: build the University’s reputation for teaching, research and service to the community at the local, provincial, national and international levels

Another commitment is to build the reputation of our University as well as our employees and students. To that end, several initiatives are underway:

- An awards facilitator has been hired on a one-year term to help students and faculty members apply for provincial, national and international awards such as those considered by Maclean’s in its rankings.

- The University has been awarded the 2012 conference of the National Association of Vice-Presidents Academic (NATVAC). We are in discussion with the Conference Board of Canada to include the fall 2012 meeting of the Quality Network for Universities as part of the NATVAC conference, as well as the Canadian Association of University Business Officers. This is the first time NATVAC will have been held in Regina. As well, the Council of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries will be held at the University in October 2012.

- In early November, I presented to members of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on the subject of pre-budget consultation. A brief was then prepared and submitted to the Federal Government. In addition, a submission was made to the National Task Force on Aboriginal K-12 Education, and the University has been invited to present to the National Task Force on Internationalization of Universities in December.

- As part of the CBIE national conference, I chaired an Arab/Canada summit in Ottawa, which had significant representation from the Middle East and the Canadian government.
A number of events and initiatives took place to bring the University into the provincial community:

- The centennial Alumni Homecoming took place at the end of September and beginning of October, with more than 50 events, and more than 200 alumni attending. The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards were held as part of the Homecoming weekend.

- The annual United Way campaign at the University surpassed its target, totalling more than $100,000 in contributions from the University community.

- The annual “Community Connections” tour is in the final stages of organization, with planned events in Humboldt, Melfort, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. The President’s Community Award will be presented as part of the tour to Prince Albert Mayor Jim Scarrow.

- In October, I travelled with other representatives of the University to La Ronge and Nipawin to meet with community representatives, including First Nations leaders. In November, the Mayor and some Council members from Nipawin paid a reciprocal visit to the University, and are very receptive to partnering with on a number of educational and research initiatives.
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH

This report summarizes the progress I have made on my academic research projects since the last Board report.

FAMILY LITERACY

✓ I have submitted the final report for my Train-the-Trainer Aboriginal family literacy project to the funding agency, HRSDC.

✓ The needs assessment report for my HRSDC-funded ESL family literacy project has been completed, and the modules for the project have been revised based on the pilot program. The next round of the project was completed with a new set of families, and the pre- and post-assessment results are being compiled.

✓ The multi-university research team of which I am a part was asked to refine an existing SSHRC grant application for the next phase of consideration. The grant proposal is for a project designed to improve the literacy levels of children in grades one to three.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

✓ Dr. Scott Thompson, one of the members of my research team, travelled to Ottawa to collect data for the SSHRC-funded Community-University
Research Alliance (CURA) project on disability policy of which I am Education team lead.

- Planning for the 2012 Halifax IASSID World Congress, of which I am conference chair, is continuing. In October, some of the members of the organizing committee met in Halifax to finalize the conference facilities. The organizing committee also completed the call for and collection of abstracts, began the registration process, and started seeking sponsorships. In addition, three grant applications have also been submitted to potential funding agencies. The program is taking shape, with most of the plenary speakers confirmed.

- I am a co-applicant to support Dr. Kerri Staples’ SSHRC funding application for a project designed to research evidence-based best practices for inclusive physical education programs for students with autism spectrum disorders.

**ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

- A book of which I was one of the contributors, entitled *Exploring Inclusive Teaching Practices through Professional Inquiry*, has now been published.

- I am still awaiting publication of “The Power of Narrative in Program Evaluation,” an article I co-wrote with two other academics for the *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*.

- I have submitted an article entitled “Aboriginal Students’ Perceptions of Post-secondary Success Initiatives” to the Canadian Journal of Native Studies.

**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

- I have given several keynote addresses since September which have dealt with aspects of my academic research. I spoke at the annual Peacemakers
Breakfast, for example, on the subject of “Educating our Children for a Just World” – something which covered both my literacy and inclusive education research. I also discussed my work in talks to students at Campbell Collegiate, a conference of western Canadian business managers, the CAUT Western Regional Conference, and a Regina and District Chamber of Commerce panel discussion that focuses heavily on Aboriginal education.
This report highlights faculty, staff and student successes as well as campus events worthy of mention since the last Board report.

**FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS**

- In October, Dr. Joseph Piwowar’s Canada Research Chair in Geomatics and Sustainability was renewed.
- Dr. Doyle Anderson was formally installed as President of First Nations University of Canada.
- Dr. Lynn Wells has been seconded for a two-year term as Vice-President (Academic) at First Nations University of Canada.
- Dr. Mark Anderson of Luther and Dr. Carmen Robertson of University of Regina launched their book: *Seeing Red: A History of Natives in Canadian Newspapers*.
- I have been named honorary Consul General in Saskatchewan for the Republic of Korea.
**STUDENT SUCCESS**

- The annual Careers Day on September 26 hosted more than 150 employers, with close to 5,000 students attending. This is a great indicator of how employable our graduates are.
- The Global Learning Centre opened on campus in September. It will be a support centre for all international undergraduate, graduate and ESL students on campus.
- The estate of Sylvia Aumuller is providing three annual scholarships of $5,000 each for business students.
- At Fall Convocation, 518 students graduated from the University of Regina.
- The Business Students’ Society hosted its 38th annual fundraising dinner in mid-November.

**CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A service was held in late September for former President Dr. Lloyd Barber to honour his life and legacy of service to the University.
- The second Annual President’s Breakfast for Athletics took place in mid-September, with CFL Commissioner Mark Cohon as speaker.
- In September, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Pontificio University in Peru. This will provide a new opportunity for teaching and research partnerships.
- In response to URSU’s request, I held a campus open forum on parking in late September to get input from the University community on the issue.
Facilities Management is exploring and where feasible implementing a number of recommendations that came from the forum.

✓ An event was held in October to recognize the gift of more than $300,000 made to the library since 2004 by the late employee Walter Raff.

✓ An event was held on October 24 to launch the University of Regina centennial photo book, entitled *Honouring Our Past, Embracing Our Future: A Century of Excellence in Education at the University of Regina Campus*.

✓ October 25 – exactly 100 years to the day that the cornerstone was laid at the College Building – was declared “University of Regina Day” by the City of Regina. A flag-raising ceremony was held at City Hall.

✓ Saskatchewan Blue Cross announced a $100,000 donation in support of the Dr. Paul Schwann Applied Health and Research Centre’s *Love2Live* program.

✓ FNUniv launched its community-based health research labs on October 31. In these labs, work will be done in a number of inter-related fields, such as social work, nursing, indigenous health, and science.

✓ Campion College honoured its Alumni of Distinction on November 4 – Harvey Fox and Madame Justice Georgina R. Jackson

✓ The Dean of Business Search Advisory Committee is preparing a short list from the application pool of candidates from Canada, the United States and Europe. The target date for an appointment is July 1, 2012.

✓ The review of the Director, Centre for Continuing Education, is complete, and a recommendation is forthcoming from the Provost. Reviews of a number of other positions are scheduled for early in the new year.