

President's Report to the Board

For the period from August 30 – November 21, 2012

Submitted to the Board of Governors

Submitted by Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor



This report summarizes my progress to date on the six key areas of priority related to the Strategic Plan which the Board and I have identified for 2012-2013. It also includes an update on my own academic research program, as well as an overview of University highlights since the beginning of this reporting period.

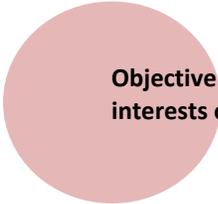
OUR WORK: Teaching, Research and Public Service

Objective: make the University widely known for its quality of work by promoting and rewarding the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, public service and administration

Demonstrating the University's value to its stakeholders through the quality of our work and the efficiency of our operations is a key objective for the year. Since my last report, a considerable amount of progress has been made in this respect:

- ✓ Significant efforts have been made to communicate the University's financial needs to the provincial government in anticipation of the 2013-2014 budget cycle. In September, the Operations Forecast was presented to government, and in mid-October, the annual presentation to Treasury Board took place. In addition, the current government's cabinet met on campus for the first time ever, providing another opportunity to highlight the University's successes, funding requirements, priorities, and challenges.
- ✓ Two recent conferences held on our campus allowed the University to strengthen our reputation national reputation for high-quality administration, governance and scholarship. In conjunction with CAUBO and the Conference Board of Canada, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) hosted NATVAC 2012 in October, which brought together Canadian university vice-presidents with portfolios related to academics, finance, administration, research and student affairs.

- ✓ Also that month, the University Secretariat, together with the University of Regina, hosted the 2012 Conference of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries.
- ✓ In the 2012 Maclean's overall university rankings, the University of Regina moved up one spot in our category. An analysis of the results is included in the Board package.
- ✓ It is significant that the University moved up one spot in the Maclean's rankings in an area that we formally began to target only last year – the number of national awards received by faculty members. With recent recognition such as Dr. Greg Marchildon's induction into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences – which was a result of this effort – we anticipate that trend to continue.
- ✓ In an effort to consider ways of improving our internal processes, the University has begun participating in "Lean" training offered by the provincial government. Managers from many areas of campus participated in an introductory session, and Ministry of Health Deputy Minister Dan Florizone provided his perspective on the process for members of the University Leadership Team. In addition, by the time of the next Board meeting, members of the University Executive Team will have undergone two days of training.
- ✓ The Print Optimization project now has our print device count down to 710 from the original 1185, a reduction of 40%. Based on this device count, the University will realize a cost reduction of \$1.3 million over five years, a reduction in print-associated CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions associated with print of 40%, and a reduction in related electricity consumption of 17%.



Objective: align our array of program offerings to respond to the needs and interests of current and prospective students

Given the increase in enrolment in recent years, it is becoming more and more important to ensure that our academic programs meet and when possible anticipate the needs of our students. Work in this area has continued on a number of fronts:

- ✓ A Town Hall Forum was held in late October to discuss with campus our collective progress on implementing the strategic plan. Some attendees expressed an interest in holding further discussions on topics such as the importance of liberal arts and sciences and academic freedom in the academy.

I will work with interested individuals to set up these and other discussion sessions.

- ✓ Two major fora on the Academic Program Review were held in November. The first, for the campus community as a whole, took place on November 14 with approximately 70 faculty, staff, and students present, and the second, organized by URSU, took place on November 19 with more than 100 people present. Media coverage focused on possible effects on first-year English classes and on possible department/faculty reorganization.
- ✓ On a related note, the first phase of the Centre for Continuing Education's Growth and Positioning for Service Excellence Project to improve efficiency and streamline service delivery is now complete. A notable point is the creation of the Flexible Learning Division (formerly Distance Learning), which partners with faculties and departments to allow University of Regina students to study in their own communities. As well, there has been a reorganization of administrative service units to improve services for students and instructors.
- ✓ Senate has approved a new Master of Health Administration program in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. The first intake of students is planned for Fall 2013.
- ✓ Representatives from Nunavut Arctic College were on campus at Convocation in October to formally recognize the continuation of a partnership agreement between their Nunavut Teacher Education Program (NTEP) and our Faculty of Education. At the same time, a new program was announced – the Middle Years Concentration, will be fully implemented in Fall of 2015.
- ✓ A special task force, chaired by Dr. Judith Woodsworth and comprised of University of Regina officials as well as key francophone community representatives, has been created to provide recommendations on future of the Institut francais at the University of Regina.
- ✓ The Strategic Plan on Teaching and Learning was presented to Executive of Council, and has been tabled until early in the new year for additional revisions.
- ✓ In September, CMA Canada announced that the Faculty of Business Administration was successful in the process of re-accreditation. This is a significant competitive advantage to our students who are completing their degrees with an accounting major.

OUR PEOPLE: Engagement, Diversity, Success, Esteem



Objective: expand early-awareness and transitional programming for new students to help ensure their success

Enhancing transitional programming and academic support for students continues to be a focus. Progress since the last report includes the following:

- ✓ Deans' Council has endorsed changes to the way we register first-time undergraduate students. With the exception of Nursing (where we have 3 applicants for every available seat), first-time undergraduates will be able to register for courses as soon as they have been admitted to the University. In the past, an advising "hold" has been placed on these students, preventing them from registering until they had an advising appointment. But for many first-time students, the initial semester is one in which basic distribution requirements such as English 100 or an introductory math or science course are met. First-time students are free to request advising appointments if they wish them. We are optimistic that the new protocol will increase our first-time enrolments and free up advising capacity for those who require specialized advice.
- ✓ Enrolment Services has fully disbursed our allotment of the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship (SIOS) funding. \$304,849.25 was disbursed to undergraduate students. \$86,265.01 was matched from donations received via External Relations. \$218,584.24 was matched from foreign government donations.
- ✓ The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research was allocated the remaining \$348,000 for graduate students. FGSR was able to pay out \$320,887.86 by end of October 2012 under the 2011-2012 SIOS Program. Eligible PhD students were provided \$8,000, and master's students \$6,000. Individual, donated scholarships that External Relations had identified as direct matches were paid out as well, ranging from \$500 to \$22,500.
- ✓ The Registrar's Office continues work on a new process for creating the University's master timetable – something that will enhance students' ability to plan their programs and have better access to required courses.
- ✓ The Annual UR Connected event took place from October 19-20, bringing hundreds of prospective students and their families to campus.



Objective: continue to develop a diverse campus community

Another priority for the year is to increase and support the diversity of our complement of faculty, staff and students. To that end, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken:

- ✓ UR International's Global Showcase, which took place on September 7, was an important means of highlighting and celebrating diversity on campus to begin the new academic year.
- ✓ Maureen Johns, the newly hired Executive Lead – Indigenization, has been working on a number of fronts. For example, she has been meeting with faculties and departments to strengthen understanding of Indigenization and to identify an inventory of initiatives currently in place. She has also facilitated meetings of the Aboriginal Advisory Circle, worked with Student Affairs to develop culturally responsive procedures in support of traditional Indigenous activities and recruitment practices, and consulted with Human Resources to develop Phase II Aboriginal awareness training.
- ✓ In mid-November, the Aboriginal Student Centre moved into its expanded space in RIC 108.
- ✓ A four-person team from UR International and Financial Services, together with two faculty members, went to Rivers State in Nigeria in September to process admission documents, visa documents and negotiate a contract for additional students in the future. While the contract has not yet been finalized, it looks promising for an increase in the number of students from Rivers State for 2013.
- ✓ At the request of some of the attendees at the strategic plan Town Hall Forum, a working group will be formed early in the new year to examine the possibility of establishing a University-wide internationalization strategy.

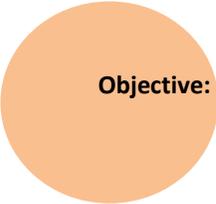
OUR COMMUNITIES: Presence and Partnerships



Objective: increase the scope and impact of the University's teaching, research and service to community

Increasing the scope and impact of our work within the province and beyond has remained a key focus:

- ✓ In September, representatives from the University of Regina met with Heilongjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences (HAAS) and Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG) to discuss the Shen Kuo Internships Program on Sustainability – a pilot program in conjunction with United Nations Development Programme and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges.
- ✓ In September, a United Nations Development Program China water and environmental workshop took place in Xiamen, with Vice-President (Research) Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick and Bob Schad, Senior Advisor, Special Projects serving on the organizing committee. Dr. Gordon Huang and Dr. Chris Yost were featured speakers, and the event helped solidify the University's relationship with the China International Centre for Economic and Technological Exchange.
- ✓ In October, the University of Regina and the University of Texas at Austin, in association with the North China Electric Power University and the United Nations Water for Life Decade in Canada, hosted a major international conference organized around the theme of "Storm Warning: Water, Energy, and Climate Security in a Changing World."
- ✓ Following an extensive external review by Mr. Philip Cercone (President of the University Presses of America) the Canadian Plains Research Center press has been renamed "The University of Regina Press." Many of the other recommendations from the review have already been instituted, with further structural changes to staff and the Board to come. In addition, the search will commence soon to find a Director to replace the Acting Director, Associate Vice-President (Research) Dr. Malloy.
- ✓ On November 20, CISCO Canada announced that it is providing \$2 million over two years to establish a research chair in e-governance at the University of Regina. The Chair will examine ways in which the public sector can use technology to communicate more effectively with citizens, business, and different levels of government. This is a significant investment in and expression of confidence in the research being done at our University.



Objective: promote community involvement in and support of the University

Ensuring that the campus community and the larger community remain and become increasingly engaged with our University is another key priority. Much has been done in this regard:

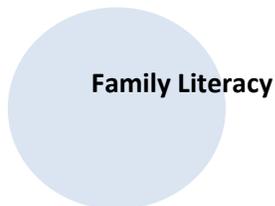
- ✓ Members of ULT have been meeting in their sub-groups to examine the employee engagement survey results and begin making recommendations for initiatives that can be implemented campus-wide to address concerns raised in the survey results. At the same time, they have been sharing results with their work areas and discussing measures that may be taken at the unit level.
- ✓ On the annual “Community Connections” tour, visits have been made to Moose Jaw, Nipawin and Saskatoon, with a major focus being the Conference Board of Canada’s report on the University of Regina’s impact in the province. I also spoke about the report to the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce, and it was part of my remarks at a keynote speech I delivered to the Canadian International Council.
- ✓ Planning is complete for this year’s President’s Community Award, which will be presented to former Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco on November 28.
- ✓ More than \$3 million of the \$10 million target has now been raised for the College Avenue campus revitalization project. This includes approximately \$400,000 through the University’s Family Campaign, and the first corporate leadership donation of \$250,000, which was announced in November by Great-West Life.
- ✓ The second annual President’s Gala took place on November 3, with Ben Mulroney as emcee. It was well-attended by 220 members of the larger community, and once the final fundraising totals are confirmed, the proceeds will be directed toward the Conservatory as part of the College Avenue renewal project.
- ✓ The annual United Way Campaign raised more than \$101,000 for the United Way of Regina, surpassing our goal of \$100,000. This was a great display of our employees’ involvement in the larger community.
- ✓ The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards were presented to five deserving alumni at a sold-out dinner in late September, and in October, Campion College presented its three Distinguished Alumni Awards.

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



- ✓ There has been interest in both Yorkton and New Brunswick in the results and implementation of my Aboriginal family literacy program, and how the programs might be adapted for use in those locations.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



- ✓ In October, I worked with two members of the Faculty of Education as a group consisting of researchers from several universities prepared a proposal to SSHRC for a multi-year partnership grant in the area of inclusive education. The proposal was led and submitted by Western University.

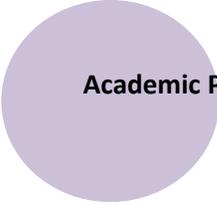
ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS



Academic Publications

- ✓ I provided a commentary on the work of a former colleague, Dr. Judy Lupart, for publication in the next edition of the journal *Exceptionality Education Canada*..
- ✓ Now that my ESL Family Literacy report has been accepted by HRSDC, I have met with one of the research team members to discuss the possibility of collaborating on academic articles based on the research.

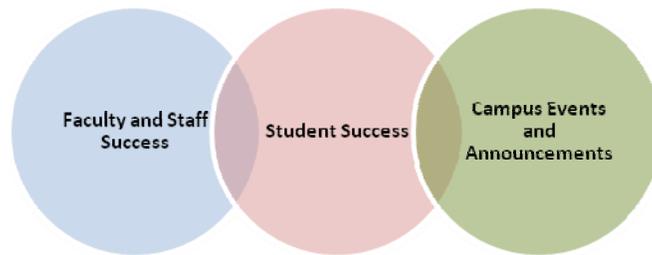
ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS



Academic Presentations

- ✓ Since my last report, I have spoken to several groups about my inclusive education and family literacy research. This has included two keynote addresses at the Chinook School Division's annual conference and a presentation to the Regina Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. I also spoke at the annual fundraiser of the Children's Justice Foundation, and the western Canadian conference of Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers.

CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS



This report highlights faculty, staff and student successes as well as some notable campus events since the last Board report.

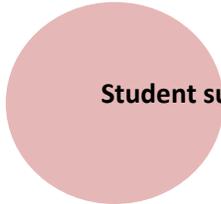
FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS



- ✓ At Fall Convocation, Andy Glavacevic, former Manager of Mechanical Services, was posthumously recognized with the Distinguished Service Award. Andy was a 38-year employee of the University community who passed away last year. His sons accepted the award on his behalf at the ceremony.
- ✓ Dr. Sarah Abbott of Media and Production Studies received the Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Arts and Learning.
- ✓ The annual "Celebrate!" event in early November recognized approximately two dozen faculty and staff members who have been honoured by other organizations over the past year. At the ceremony, the President's Awards for Service Excellence were also presented.
- ✓ A new exhibit at the University Club features the photography of Don Hall of the Photography Department, Dr. Philip Charrier of the English Department, and Dr. Michael Trussler of the English Department. It is a wonderful demonstration of the some of the interdisciplinary talent we have on campus.
- ✓ Miranda Pearson of the Office of Resource Planning has been elected to the Board of CIRPA as Secretary.
- ✓ Congratulations to Registrar John Metcalfe, who has been appointed Registrar of Queen's University beginning early in 2013. The search for a new registrar will begin shortly.

- ✓ Recruitments are under way for an Executive Director, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. Other searches, including the Director of the Institut français, will be underway in the new year.

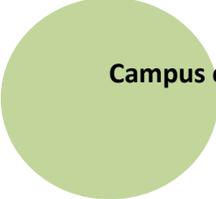
STUDENT SUCCESS



- ✓ This year, the University had its largest-ever group of graduates at Fall Convocation – more than 600. In particular, I would like to mention two graduates who received major awards:
 - Ashley Major (graduate in Human Justice) was awarded the President’s Medal for academic excellence and community leadership, as well as the University Prize in Arts; and
 - Adam Dube (graduate in Psychology) was the recipient of the President’s Distinguished Graduate Student Award.
- ✓ 28 students from the Paul J. Hill School of Business were recognized at a banquet on October 17 as the newest members of the Accounting Fellowship Program. This program recognizes students for their academic achievement and is seen as an important accomplishment by the professional accounting community.
- ✓ The UR Investing program has been a great experiential learning experience both for students and for faculty members. Dr. Zhou Zhang of Business Admin reported, “Since we initially started investing in April 2011, both our students and our faculty members have been learning in a significant way through this hands-on learning experience.” Students currently meet each Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. – a strong indication of their engagement with the program.
- ✓ A record number of students joined the University of Regina Ambassador program this year. We now have 475 student ambassadors who share their experiences with prospective and new students. It is wonderful to see such positive student engagement in university life.

- ✓ University of Regina student-athletes have had a great deal of success so far this year. Some of the many examples are:
 - Kelly Wiebe won CIS Nationals in the 10-kilometre cross-country race;
 - The women's softball team hosted the national championship, at which they finished sixth. Coach Mike Smith was named national coach of the year;
 - The women's soccer team advanced to the Canada West Final Four for the first time in its history; and
 - The Rams football team advanced to the Hardy Cup for the first time since 2007.
- ✓ Larry Hesterman and his family donated \$60,000 in scholarship funding to the track and field program. This donation was doubled through the U of R's Matching Gift Program, and as a result, scholarships totalling \$5,400 are to be distributed to track and field student-athletes for the 2012-13 season.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Campus events and announcements

- ✓ The third annual President's Breakfast for Athletics took place on September 11, with former NHL player and coach Pat Quinn as keynote speaker. The event raised more than \$100,000 for our athletics programs.
- ✓ Dr Francesco Fredollini – a new Art History professor at Luther College – gave the first instalment of Faculty of Fine Arts Presentation Series on September 14. It was wonderful to see a new faculty member getting involved in the life of the University so quickly.
- ✓ Paul and Carol Hill, strong supporters of the University, were on campus on September 14 to unveil new sections of the commemorative wall at the Paul J. Hill School of Business.
- ✓ A number of high-profile speakers from off-campus were at the University to deliver public lectures over the past couple of months – a strong indication of the role the University plays in facilitating academic discourse in the community:
 - Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign correspondent Chris Hedges spoke at the invitation of the Faculty of Social Work's Social Policy Research Unit;
 - The 37th annual Luther Lecture featured Bishop Michael Ingham;

- The Faculty of Business Administration hosted Dr. Roger Bowden, a member of the nominating panel for the Swedish Royal Academy/Bank of Sweden Nobel Prize in Economics;
 - Chief Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, spoke at a one-day symposium organized by the Saskatchewan Justice Institute at the University of Regina;
 - Dr. Jacques Levesque delivered the first-ever Royal Society of Canada Governor General Lecture to be hosted at the University;
 - Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Federal NDP and Leader of the Official Opposition, spoke on campus about the importance of youth engagement;
 - Honorary degree recipient Hayley Wickenheiser hosted a public dialogue about media's perceptions of women in sport; and
 - Norwegian anthropologist and media contributor Thomas H. Eriksen spoke about academics in the public sphere.
- ✓ Luther College and University of Regina alumni Dr. Ross King, who received an honorary degree from the University in June, was awarded his second Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction.