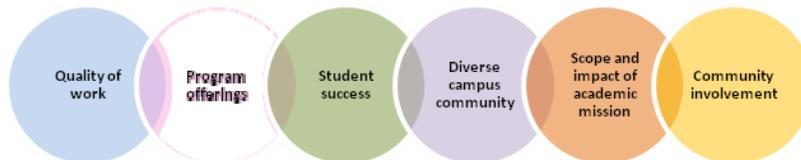


President's Report to the Board

For the period from July 5 – August 29, 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 and 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

A key priority for the year is to demonstrate the University's value to its stakeholders through the quality of our work and the efficiency of our operations. Over the past two months, quite a lot of progress has been made in this area:

- ✓ In July, the Board Chair and I were invited to present to the Regina caucus of the provincial government regarding the University of Regina's perspective on the government's short- and long-term objectives. This meeting provided an excellent opportunity to provide an overview of the work done at our University, and the investment required in areas such as Aboriginal education, international education, student housing and sustaining capital.
- ✓ At the ULT retreat in late August, Deputy Minister Greenberg gave a presentation, which provided the opportunity for further discussion regarding alignment of the University and government's priorities.
- ✓ Preparations are being made for the presentation of the Operations Forecast to government this fall.

- ✓ Two significant conferences related to university administration are taking place here this fall, providing an opportunity to showcase our campus as well as solidify our reputation nationally for high-quality administration, governance and academics. The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) is preparing to host NATVAC 2012, which in conjunction with CAUBO and the Conference Board of Canada will bring together for the first time Canadian university vice-presidents with academic, finance, administration, research and student affairs portfolios. In addition, the University Secretariat is co-hosting the Conference of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries.
- ✓ The Office of Research Services and the University-Industry Liaison Office have been amalgamated to improve support for research development and the management of intellectual property. Helen Yum will serve as the director of this newly-created Office for Research, Innovation and Partnership.
- ✓ A unit review of the Canadian Plains Research Centre was conducted in July by Dr. David Malloy, Associate Vice-President (Research) and external examiner Philip Cercone of the Association of American University Presses. The final report is forthcoming.
- ✓ A review of the University's administrative and academic policies has led to the retirement of 44 policies, and 36 will be consolidated with others to further streamline our policy set.
- ✓ The print optimization project, which is now more than 90% complete and which will save the University more than \$1 million over five years, was recently featured by IT World Canada.
- ✓ The UR Early program, which is being piloted this fall to optimize the use of our facilities in non-peak hours, has attracted 225 student enrolments in English, Kinesiology & Health Studies, Business Administration and Education.
- ✓ The project to enhance the University's profile through the work of the Awards Facilitator, Rebecca Berthiaume, is having positive results. She coordinated the nomination of Lance Morrison, a second-year student in Petroleum Systems Engineering, for a ConocoPhillips Canada Centennial Scholarship. Mr. Morrison was one of only two student across Canada to win this scholarship, which recognizes academic excellence and leadership. This award is recognized by Maclean's as part of its ranking system.
- ✓ Two other major provincial and national award nominations for faculty and staff have been submitted recently, and a number of nominations are in preparation for the early fall. In addition, a greater focus than ever before is being placed on identifying and working with students who would best represent the University in the annual Rhodes Scholarship competition.



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

Work has continued in the area of aligning our programs to ensure they meet and if possible anticipate the needs of our students – something that is of increasing importance given that overall undergraduate enrolments have been up a total of 9.6% over the past three years, and are on target to be up another 2% this year:

- ✓ The Academic Program Review has continued over the past two months. All nine line Faculties are examining their programming with a view to eliminating what is no longer viable and focusing on future students' needs.
- ✓ To date, the Faculties of Arts, Education and Fine Arts have identified approximately 10 programs and one concentration for possible deletion.
- ✓ All current programs in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science are well-subscribed, and the Faculty will undergo its accreditation process this year. The Faculty of Business Administration is preparing for Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation within the next three years.
- ✓ The Faculty of Nursing is contemplating several new programs, including a Licensed Practical Nursing program. It is of note that all 350 seats in Regina and Saskatoon are filled for fall 2012, and within a few years, Nursing will be one of our largest Faculties.
- ✓ The Faculty of Social Work is at capacity at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and programming will be adjusted in the period preceding its reaccreditation.
- ✓ Program discussions are active in the Faculties of Fine Arts (where a number of program deletions were approved earlier this year) and Science.
- ✓ The deadline for the completion of programming changes, including deletions, is March 31, 2013. The target date for revised department/faculty structures is April 1, 2014.
- ✓ Final revisions are being made to the Strategic Plan on Teaching and Learning based on feedback received from the University community. The deadline for the completion of the revised plan is the end of September. The plan will then

go through the academic approval process with a projected approval date of February 2013 at Senate.

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 is a key priority as the new school year begins. Since the last report, work has continued on a number of projects:

- ✓ The Registrar's Office has been developing a new process for creating the University's master timetable. This renewal process is on track, and when fully implemented, will enhance students' ability to take required courses, will improve their ability to plan their programs in advance, and will allow the University to make the best possible use of classroom space.
- ✓ The Aboriginal Student Centre, Career Centre and Student Success Centre have been brought together under the umbrella of the Student Employment & Engagement Unit in order to better co-ordinate their work with students. The UR Guarantee program will also be part of this consolidated unit.
- ✓ As of this fall, it is expected that 10% of undergraduate students will be UR Guarantee participants.
- ✓ A new process has been implemented for administering student awards, with a common application and deadline for all awards, as well as a common central collection point for applications. This will streamline the application process for students, and make it easier for the University to advertise and adjudicate awards. This year has seen a 5% year-over-year increase in the number of awards granted to students, and in the coming years, the new process will build on this recent success.
- ✓ A new Enhanced Orientation Experience is in place this year to help transition students to the University. This program included pre-orientation sessions over the summer, and also provides students who are living in residence or new to the city with the opportunity to meet their colleagues, engage in campus life and adjust to living in Regina.

- ✓ A new report is close to implementation that will allow the University to identify, analyze, and eventually predict enrolment by category such as year level, Faculty and program.
- ✓ In May, the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) worked with the Transitions Committee to host a workshop on Academic Success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. Following on this success, CTL is now re-engaging with the Transitions Committee to plan future workshops. CTL has also met with Maureen Johns on several occasions to develop a series of workshops in successful teaching and learning for Aboriginal students.



Objective: continue to develop a diverse campus community

Increasing the diversity of our complement of faculty, staff and students is another priority for the year. A great deal of work has taken place in this area:

- ✓ At the ULT retreat in late August, Maureen Johns, the new Executive Lead – Indigenization, gave a presentation on her vision and strategies going forward in the area of further indigenizing our campus.
- ✓ With the population of self-declared Aboriginal students on campus now at approximately 10%, work continued to double the amount of space devoted to the Aboriginal Student Centre. The present facility in College West will become a training and learning centre, and the permanent home of the omâ Aboriginal Student Success Program. Space on the main floor of the RIC building, currently under renovation, will become the new home to the ASC, providing a highly visible and greatly expanded space for our Aboriginal students.
- ✓ A new approach to recruiting northern Aboriginal students has been launched. With \$25,000 in funding from Cameco and Areva, Enrolment Services brought 24 students, elders and chaperones from Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Wollaston to the University for the Spring Open House and Science Rendezvous. To date we have received 8 applicants from these communities.
- ✓ UR International and the Faculties have been working to improve retention rates for international students. Retention rates in this area improved by 9.2% from 2011 to 2012.
- ✓ The University of Regina is becoming a post-secondary educator of choice for several Nigerian state governments, including Rivers State, Kano State, and the Niger Delta Region. We expect 100 new students to be arriving from

Nigeria for 2013, all of them fully government-sponsored. There are currently 195 Nigerian students enrolled at the University of Regina.

- ✓ Following on my visit to Brazil in April, this year the University will host the first cohort of 11 government-sponsored Brazilian undergraduate students through the Science without Borders program. These students, who will spend one year at the University of Regina, are already registered in the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Business. We expect 30 Brazilian students for the fall of 2013.
- ✓ The process of administering a self-declaration survey for existing faculty and staff is complete, providing the most accurate demographic snapshot to date of our faculty and staff complement: 2.03% Aboriginal employees; 1.71% persons with a declared disability; 5.61% persons from a visible minority group; and 55.12% women.
- ✓ The employee engagement survey, which was administered in February and March, showed statistically significant improvement in 9 of the 13 areas compared to 2010. Vice-Presidents, deans and other managers will be sharing results with their specific work areas, and members of ULT have formed working groups to begin considering campus-wide initiatives to address issues that have been identified.

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 is another key priority. The following work has taken place in this regard:

- ✓ A renewed focus on teaching and research activities with Chinese partners is having positive results. As a result of the mission to China in May, for example, UR International and the Faculty of Education hosted a group of 40 Chinese professors for a four-week course on TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages).
- ✓ In partnership with the UN Water for Life Decade in Canada and University of Texas in Austin, with additional support from North China Electric Power University, the University of Regina is hosting the conference "Storm Warning: Water, Energy, and Climate Security in a Changing World."

Preparations have been underway for several months for this conference, which will help promote the University's research in the area of energy and the environment. The conference will take place in Banff, Alberta.

- ✓ Vice-President (Research) Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick and Bob Schad, Senior Advisor, Special Projects, are on the organizing committee of a forthcoming United Nations Development Program China water and environmental workshop. Dr. Gordon Huang and Dr. Chris Yost will be delivering keynote addresses at the workshop, which will be held in Xiamen.
- ✓ Bob Schad is leading the development of a China research and graduate studies plan. Plans are also being finalized for hosting a delegation from Xiamen University of Technology in October related to a joint research program, and NCEPU in October for the first Regina meeting of the China-Canada Institute for Energy, Environmental and Sustainability Research.
- ✓ Saskatchewan's Ministry of Energy and Resources has asked Dr. Gordon Huang to provide an environmental management course in November for senior staff of the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation.
- ✓ Dean Tontiwachwuthikul of the Faculty of Engineering has been invited to partner with Qatar University to establish a carbon capture and sequestration demonstration facility in the Middle East – a wonderful opportunity to showcase technology developed at the University of Regina.
- ✓ The University of Regina and SaskPower have agreed on a hiring plan for the new SaskPower Research Chairs.
- ✓ Also in partnership with SaskPower, the Faculty of Engineering has submitted a successful NSERC letter of intent for funding related to specialized graduate training in carbon capture technologies. This is the first time in five years that the University of Regina has been invited to submit a full application.
- ✓ The University is planning a proposal to NSERC for an e-governance research chair, with a funding commitment from CISCO Systems Inc. forming part of the proposal.
- ✓ In the first four months of this fiscal year, the University of Regina has already had 10 SSHRC awards, out of 21 applications. This 48% success rate is well above the national rate of approximately 20%, and is a testament to the Office of Research Services' SSHRC Cohort program that was developed two years ago to provide expert guidance to scholars submitting applications.
- ✓ Earlier this year, SSHRC announced a competition to explore the impact of social sciences and humanities research in Canada over the next 30 years. The University of Regina was successful in its bid to play a leadership role in the initiative, and is now overseeing the data collection and analysis from 11 universities in the prairie region.

- ✓ In partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment, the Prairie Adaptation Research collaborative at the University of Regina has created the www.saskadapt.ca website to make information regarding climate change available to individuals, businesses, communities and others who wish to know more about climate change. This is an excellent way to communicate the University's expertise in this area to a larger audience.
- ✓ I will be serving as a member of the Canada Foundation for Innovation for a five-year term.

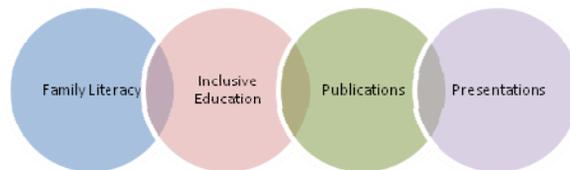


Objective: promote community involvement in and support of the University

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:

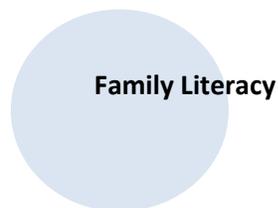
- ✓ The annual "Community Connections" tour is currently being planned, with destinations to include Nipawin, Estevan and Weyburn, among other locations.
- ✓ This year's President's Community Award is already in the planning stages, with an anticipated presentation date in the late fall.
- ✓ The College Avenue campus revitalization project is making considerable progress, with close to \$3 million raised toward the \$10 million fundraising goal. The Family Fundraising Campaign, designed to engage members of the University community, has raised approximately \$350,000 thus far.
- ✓ The second annual President's Gala is being planned for November 3. Net proceeds will be directed to the Conservatory as part of the College Avenue renewal project.
- ✓ The Senior Advisor of Government Relations, Ian Hanna, has been continuing his work to enhance the University's relationship with different levels of government.
- ✓ Five alumni have been selected for the University's Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards, which will be presented later this fall.

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



- ✓ HRSDC has informed me that my English as an Additional Language family literacy project has been accepted as having met all requirements and objectives. I have submitted the final report, together with the completed modules and facilitator guide, to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education for its use.
- ✓ I provided a copy of my Train-the-Trainer Aboriginal Family Literacy program to a First Nation community in Nova Scotia who had requested it for their use.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



- ✓ In mid-July, the 2012 IASSID World Congress, of which I was conference Chair, took place in Halifax. The conference brought more than 800 academics from around the world together for six days to share the latest research in the field of intellectual disabilities. This was a satisfying conclusion to nearly four years of planning.

- ✓ At the conference, members of my research team presented findings from a SSHRC-funded Community-University Research Alliance project on disability policy of which I am Education Team Lead.
- ✓ Also at the conference, I was installed as President of IASSID for a four-year term.

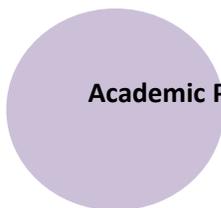
ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS



Academic Publications

- ✓ Several months ago, I submitted an article entitled “Aboriginal Students’ Perceptions of Post-secondary Success Initiatives” to the *Canadian Journal of Native Studies*.
- ✓ I am currently exploring possible publications based on my Train-the-Trainer and English as an Additional Language research projects.

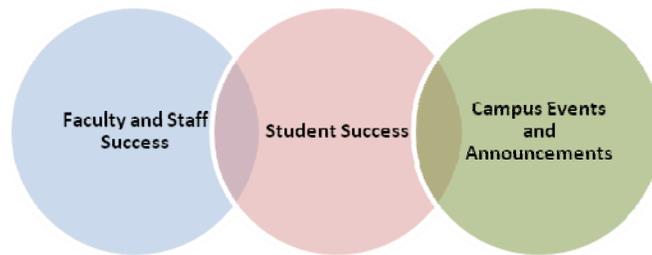
ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS



Academic Presentations

- ✓ It will be a busy fall in which I will be delivering a number of keynote addresses about my academic research in the areas of family literacy and inclusive education. Audiences will include teachers, superannuated teachers, and a number of community groups.

CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS



This report highlights faculty, staff and student successes as well as campus events worthy of mention since the last Board report.

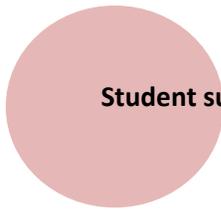
FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS



- ✓ In July, Dave Button, Vice-President (Administration), was honoured with a significant international award in the area of facilities management. At its annual general meeting in July, the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers (APPA) gave him its President's Award, recognizing both his exceptional achievement in the field of facilities management and his outstanding contributions to APPA itself.
- ✓ Dr. Yasser Morgan of Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science has been awarded more than \$500,000 to work with Volvo Group North America on ways to improve safety in collisions involving semi tractor trailers and smaller vehicles.
- ✓ In mid-August, Dr. Andrew Gaudes began his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration.
- ✓ In late August, Dr. Sheila Petty began her appointment as Acting Director of the Institut français.
- ✓ Recruitments have been initiated for the following positions: Dean of Engineering and Applied Science; Director of the Institut français; and Executive Director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

- ✓ The Institute of Public Administration of Canada awarded Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Associate Director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the 2012 Pierre De Celle Award for excellence in teaching public administration.
- ✓ Dr. David Gerhard and Dr. Charity Marsh participated in the popular TEDx series in May at the University of Regina, and video discussions of their work were featured in July on the University of Regina website.

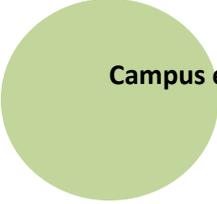
STUDENT SUCCESS



Student success

- ✓ Computer Science Ph.D. student Kazi Mamun has received a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for research into combating online auction fraud. This is the first time a University of Regina Ph.D. student has received a Vanier Scholarship through NSERC.
- ✓ Students from the Paul J. School of Business were successful in their bid to host the JDC West business competition at the University of Regina in January, 2014. This competition will bring approximately 600 students to our campus.
- ✓ The Arts Co-op program had 29 placements for Summer 2012, which was a record number. For Fall 2012, all 13 students in the program who were seeking work terms have been placed.
- ✓ The first group of five University of Regina students left for Mexico in late August as part of a three-week course on indigenous culture offered by the Intercultural University of the State of Mexico.
- ✓ The UR Investing Program, which is a new experiential learning component of the finance curriculum in the Paul J. Hill School of Business, has 20 students participating by managing funds in the stock and bond markets. The group's portfolio is currently performing at 2% above its benchmark.
- ✓ The Cougar Motorsports Team, which is run through the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, finished in second place out of 114 teams from around the world in a competition in which they designed and build their own all-terrain vehicle.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Campus events and announcements

- ✓ The Institut français held its annual immersion summer program early in July, with 39 participants.
- ✓ Parkland College and FNUUniv launched a four-year Bachelor of Indigenous Education program that will take place at Parkland College's campus in Fort Qu'Appelle.
- ✓ Campion College has announced that Kenneth MacKay, Dr. Blair Stonechild and Dr. June Zimmer will receive the College's Alumni of Distinction Awards for 2012.
- ✓ Several summer camps for children have taken place at the University over the summer, bringing hundreds of youth to our campus to learn about a variety of disciplines.
- ✓ A delegation from Rivers State in Nigeria was on campus in July to discuss ways of increasing the number of Nigerian students enrolled here.