

President's Report to the Board

For the period from May 1 - July 2, 2013

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 2013-2014. 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

As in 2012-13, over the coming year it will be crucial to demonstrate the University of Regina's value to its stakeholders through the quality of our work and the efficiency of our operations. Over the first reporting period of 2013-14, there has been a great deal of activity in this regard:

- The approval of a balanced budget in early May was extremely important, with the continuing implementation of that budget remaining a key priority.
- The Provincial Auditor's report on research-related policies and processes was tabled on June 19, making 26 recommendations which call for changes and closer oversight. The University will work to implement these recommendations over the next 18 months, and is engaging the services of two experts to help in the early stages – Dr. Martha Crago of Dalhousie University and Dr. Martin Kirk of the University of British Columbia.
- The process of renewing the University's set of policies is well underway, with the policy website in place and being populated with updated content prior to launch, which is expected in early fall 2013. Recently, it was agreed that a research policy platform would be added to accommodate the work that will be done as a result of the Audit on the University's research processes. A template for research-specific policies has also been done. Currently there are 140 enterprise-wide policies, of which 12 have been updated and approved, with 51 in development, 27 set for removal, and 50 yet to be looked at. Updating up to 80% of the existing content is required prior to launching the new website.
- Total research revenue received in the 2012-13 fiscal year was roughly on par with that received in 2011-2012. The total amount for 2012-13 (\$21.8 million)

was lower than in 2011-12 (\$24.3 million), in large part because the University received \$3.5 million in funding from SaskPower in 2011-12. Excluding the SaskPower funding, one can see that 2012-13 figures were consistent with the previous year, and actually saw a year-over-year funding increase from each of the Tri-Agencies – NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR.

- The 2013-2014 research year has started off well on a number of fronts. Two of the University’s Canada Research Chairs were renewed – Dr. Christine Chan in Energy and Environmental Informatics, and Dr. Christopher Yost in Microbes, the Environment and Food Safety. As well, between May 1 and July 2, the University received or was awarded a total of \$2.1 million in research funding from external sources. This funding will support the work of various researchers on campus, including graduate students.
- The reorganized and renamed University of Regina Press was officially launched at the 2013 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Victoria in early June. This marked an important step in the ongoing review of the research institutes at the University of Regina.
- The first book launched under the University of Regina Press name – Jim Daschuk’s *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life* – has been called a “tour de force” by distinguished American scholar Elizabeth Fenn. Sales of the book have been going well since its launch in mid-June.
- The review and reorganization of research institutes continues. Under the leadership of Steve Palmer, the Saskatchewan Justice Institute and the Centre for Public Safety and First Responders are working on a plan to co-ordinate their efforts to align with the Province’s strategy of establishing a Community Safety Centre of Excellence. It is expected that a proposal will be submitted in the fall.
- The University hosted a number of national conferences which highlighted the quality of work done here:
 - In early May, the Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering brought more than 200 participants from across Canada to campus. The conference included a keynote address by Chancellor Eric Grimson of MIT, a University of Regina alumnus.
 - In late May, the University hosted three concurrent computer-related conferences on artificial intelligence, graphic interfaces, and robotics. Cory Butz of Computer Science was Co-Chair of the conference.
 - In mid-June, CARL, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, held its Librarians’ Research Institute at the University of Regina. This brought 35 librarians from post-secondary institutions across Canada to Regina.
- Dave Button, Vice-President Administration, has been named President of CAUBO, the Canadian Association of University Business. This is an indication of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow university administrators in Canada.

- The Emergency Notification System has now been implemented to ensure that effective and timely warnings delivered to faculty, staff, students, and visitors on campus. This is a key part of the University's Emergency Preparedness Program.
- An RCE Saskatchewan Award was presented to Parking and Transportation Services to recognize its development and promotion of Alternative Transportation Initiatives. Carol Reyda and Gwen Evans accepted the award on behalf of the University in Nipawin on May 8. Additionally, Campion College received an award recognizing its efforts to improve energy efficiency through a lighting retrofit project.
- Work continues on the Document Management Project, which was approved for development last year. The roll-out of phase one is anticipated to take place this fall, allowing the University to move in the direction of paperless student records.
- Over the past year, natural gas consumption at Darke Hall has been reduced by 28% as a result of the maintenance team's having designed, procured and installed new building controls that allow monitoring and operation monitoring from the main campus' building automation system.

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

In light of four consecutive years of growing enrolments, it is increasingly 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:

- All of the programs except one in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science have been reaccredited for the maximum possible period, six years. The Software Systems engineering program has been reaccredited for three years, and will be reviewed then.
- A full cohort is expected for the Fall 2013 launch of the new and largely online Master's Degree in Health Administration.
- The Faculty of Business Administration has thoroughly revised its MBA curriculum to meet emerging student demand. It has been designed to consist of a four-course core plus a choice of specializations, and an international study tour is also part of the program.
- Senate has approved the Master of Nursing program for nurse practitioners, which is the first-ever collaboration between University of Regina and SIAST at the graduate level.
- Beginning in September, students in Swift Current will be able to complete all aspects of the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in their home community. Instruction will take place at Great Plains College, and students will complete their practicum at the Cypress Regional Hospital.

- Additional support for international students in areas such life skills and language is being delivered via the Global Learning Centre.
- The Timetable Renewal Project is in the partial-implementation phase. The Fall 2013 simulated timetable is under construction and will be distributed campus-wide in July for review. The data entry for the Winter 2014 semester is currently underway across campus. When complete, the project will improve the course scheduling process and allow students better access to required courses as they plan their programs of study.

OUR PEOPLE: Engagement, Diversity, Success, Esteem

Objective: foster positive and open employee relations, providing freedom and opportunity for faculty, staff and students to be recognized, heard, and positively engaged in the operations of the University

Ensuring that openness, trust and a sense of positive engagement exist among faculty, staff and students remained a focus during this reporting period:

- Tentative agreements have been reached with URFA-academic staff members and URFA-APT members for three-year collective agreements covering the period from July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014. These tentative agreements are now subject to ratification by both the Board and URFA's membership, and are included in the Board package.
- The Agenda Committee of University Council met in late June, and selected October 29 for the next meeting of Council. All members of Council have been informed of the meeting date, and the call for agenda items will go out in early fall.
- The Special Committee of Council responsible for updating the existing Council Rules and Regulations and manage recommendations on the committee structure of Council has met once and is scheduled to meet again in mid-July.

Objective: ensure that we recruit, retain and foster the success of a growing and diverse student body

Increasing and supporting diversity amongst our faculty, staff and students remained a focus, with a number of items to report regarding ongoing efforts to make our campus as accessible, welcoming and supportive as possible for all:

- Overall enrolment for the Spring/Summer 2013 semester at the University and the federated colleges was up 6% compared to last year. It is of note that there are

approximately 100 more international students on campus this summer than last, which is helping to drive enrolment upward.

- Fall 2013 enrolment numbers, although preliminary, indicate an increase in student numbers for the coming year. Overall, there are 3.9% more undergraduate students registered than at the same time last year, and 4.1% more graduate students. Applications from the Calgary area have doubled over last year, and applications from the Edmonton area are up 50%.
- Another 350 Nursing students will be on campus this fall, bringing the Faculty to more than 1,000 students.
- Most Faculties have now removed the mandatory advising-before-registration requirement, lessening barriers for new students and increasing the conversion rate from applicant to registered student.
- In early May, the University of Regina's annual Open House was the largest ever, with more than 1,200 people registered. This is a strong indication of the interest prospective student have in our University and its programs.
- During 2012-2013, the Co-op program saw 778 career-related student placements, with students earning \$8.9 million to help pay for their education. By comparison, in 2011-12, there were 718 placements, and participating students earned \$8.2 million. Overall, the program has grown by 37% since 2005, when there were 568 student placements.
- More than \$5.8 million in student support was awarded during the 2012-13 academic year. In addition, student participation in the UR Guarantee program was at an all-time high, and is expected to increase substantially in 2013-14.
- By August, Student Recruitment and UR International expect to jointly launch EZ Recruit, a web-based system that will streamline their processes, and allow them to track recruitment prospects better and enhance service to them. EZ Recruit will allow the departments to communicate with prospective students, applicants, and counsellors, and will help to schedule activities such as campus tours and enrolment counselling.
- Construction of the new residence and child care facilities is well underway.

OUR COMMUNITIES: Presence and Partnerships

Objective: promote community involvement in and support of the University

Over the past few months, it has remained a priority to ensure that the campus community and the larger community remain engaged with our University and interested in its programs and operations:

- To date, \$3.6 million has been raised in private donations for the College Avenue Campus renewal project. Recently, a \$100,000 donation was received, and close contact is being maintained with individuals and organizations who are considering supporting the project. Formal proposals have been presented to a number of them, and a public awareness campaign will be fully launched in the fall.
- Community Connections outreach activities extended to Prince Albert in late May, with Vice-President (Research) Dr. David Malloy, Dean of Nursing Dr. David Gregory, and Dean of Education Dr. James McNinch joining me there. Activities included a meeting with the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division, Prince Albert Catholic School Division and Gabriel Dumont Institute, as well as a meeting with the new Mayor and a city councillor. I also spoke to the Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce, met with FNUniv faculty and staff, and met with the Prince Albert Grand Council.
- The fall 2013 Community Connections schedule is currently in development, with possible locations including Swift Current, Lloydminster, North Battleford, and Meadow Lake. External Relations is also in the planning stage for the next tour of Saskatchewan's northern communities, with La Ronge, Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids and Uranium City under consideration.
- The wayfinding and signage project, intended in part to enhance the accessibility of campus for the larger community, is well underway. The first phase calls for new signage at the major entrances to the campus, and in particular the Kramer Boulevard entrance. It is anticipated that this first-phase gateway signage will be completed by the fall, with other phases of the project to be implemented in the coming months
- Planning is well underway for the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards, which will take place in September. The recipients for this year will be:
 - Ken Sunquist
 - Amber Fletcher
 - Sue Barber
 - Marty Klyne
 - Mark Stefan
- In early May, more than 1,000 people from off-campus participated in the Faculty of Science's third annual Science Rendezvous on campus, which is geared toward elementary and high school students.
- For National Aboriginal Day on June 21, the Aboriginal Student Centre partnered with the City of Regina to hold a joint celebration.

Objective: Enhance collaboration with and among First Nations University of Canada, Campion and Luther Colleges, and the Institut français

Maintaining these historic relationships to strengthen the campus community remains a priority, with several items to report:

- Early discussions are taking place regarding extending the Administrative Services Contract with FNUniv. A separate information item on that matter is included in the Board package.
- The Executive Director, University Governance is working closely with the Board of Governors of FNUniv to develop a presidential search process. An RFP has been issued for a consultant to oversee the search, and it is anticipated that a decision regarding the consultant will be made in the next few weeks.
- The President's Task Force on the Institut français provided 35 recommendations regarding the future of the Institut. These have been endorsed in principle, and a working group is being established this summer to look at how to implement the recommendations. One of the recommendations was that a search for a permanent Director take place as soon as possible. This is being undertaken, and in the meantime, Dr. Sheila Petty has accepted an extension of her appointment as Acting Director of the Institut until June 30, 2014, or until the appointment of a permanent Director takes place.
- At this year's Saskatchewan Book Awards, Campion College and the Faculty of Education co-sponsored the *Publishing in Education Award*.
- Luther College's centennial celebration will take place in October, providing a good opportunity for the College to strengthen the relationship it shares with the University and the larger community.

REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC RESEARCH

This report outlines developments in my academic research program since the last Board report.

FAMILY LITERACY

- The Calgary Learning Village Collaborative, a partnership of 14 agencies including the United Way of Calgary, has inquired about implementing the English as an Additional Language family literacy program I developed and piloted in Regina. I have sent them the complete program and offered to help them begin implementing it.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- The SSHRC-CURA project of which I am Education Team Lead continues to progress. The detailed research ethics approval for the “Voices of the Community” study of inclusive school and work settings in Saskatchewan was approved, and invitations to participate were sent to different school divisions and agencies in the province. We are now beginning to hear back from interested organizations, and are working on the literature review that will be a key part of the study.
- I completed a study of the history of the IASSIDD organization’s knowledge translation practices from the perspective of past presidents. This entailed designing an interview protocol, submitting a research ethics application, interviewing past presidents, and writing a paper. I will be presenting the work at a conference this summer.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- I have approved the final proofs of journal article I wrote entitled “IASSIDD: Are We Practising Knowledge Translation Effectively?” The article will be published this summer in the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*.
- I am awaiting print publication of the book entitled *Health Promotion for People with Intellectual Disabilities*, for which I and a colleague wrote the foreword.
- My article entitled “Aboriginal Students’ Perceptions of Post-Secondary Success Initiatives,” which is based on a study I conducted on barriers to Aboriginal student retention at universities in Atlantic Canada, is in the final stages of publication for the *Canadian Journal of Native Studies*.

- In the coming weeks, I will be providing input to two of my colleagues whose article has recently been accepted for publication in the "International Journal of Inclusive Education. This article is based on our work on the SSHRC-CURA disability policy project.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- In recognition of the fact that I received the Carol Crealock Award at the 2012 conference of the Canadian Association of Educational Psychology, I was asked to present the keynote address at the 2013 conference. At the conference, which took place in early June, I delivered an address that outlined the challenges I have faced and successes I have had working and researching in the field of inclusive education for those with disabilities.
- Also in early June, I facilitated a professional development workshop on active learning and community engagement for the Northern Teacher Education Program at Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit.
- At the Community-University Expo in Corner Brook in mid-June, I presented a keynote address on the necessity of meaningful community-university engagement.
- In late June, I participated in the Canada-Mexico Round Table on Aboriginal/Indigenous Higher Education, which was held at the University of Lethbridge. I was part of a round-table discussion on successful models for Aboriginal post-secondary education.
- I am currently preparing a presentation based on my article about knowledge translation in the IASSIDD organization. I will deliver this address at an IASSIDD regional conference in Japan in August.

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

- As they finish their terms, I would like to thank the following colleagues for their past contributions as members the University Leadership Team:
 - Dr. Craig Chamberlin, Dean of Kinesiology and Health Studies and Acting Dean of Social Work;
 - Dr. Benjamin Fiore, President of Champion College;
 - Dr. Rod Kelln, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research;
 - Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Associate Director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy; and
 - Dr. Paitoon Tontiwachwuthikul, Dean of Engineering and Applied Science
- I would like to welcome the following University of Regina employees to their new positions:
 - James D'arcy, Registrar;
 - Dr. Armin Eberlein, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research;
 - Dr. Esam Hussein, Dean of Engineering;
 - Dr. John Meehan, President of Champion College;
 - Dr. David Malloy, Vice-President (Research);
 - Dr. Harold Riemer, Dean of Kinesiology and Health Studies; and
 - Dr. Judy White, Dean of Social Work
- I would like to thank Dr. James McNinch for accepting a one-year extension of his term as Dean of Education. It is also of note that Dr. McNinch recently received the Arbos Award for Distinguished Support of Education and Teaching from the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation.
- Dr. Carol Fulton, professor in the Faculty of Education, received the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Education and Mentorship.
- Among the faculty members who recently retired was Dr. Gary Tompkins of the Economics department. Dr. Tompkins served the University well in many capacities over the past three decades, including through his service to URFA.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- The Spring 2013 Convocation was the largest in the University's history, with 1,875 students receiving degrees, diplomas and certificates. This follows upon the largest-ever Fall Convocation, where 602 students graduated. Among those honoured at the Spring 2013 ceremonies were:

- Jenel Markwart of the Faculty of Education, who received the President's Award for best combining academics, leadership and extra-curricular activities;
 - Laurie Berglund of the Faculty of Education, who received the Governor General's Silver Medal;
 - Cassidy McFadzean of the Faculty of Arts, who received the Governor General's Gold Medal;
 - Chris Gbekorbu, who received his fifth degree from the University; and
 - Honorary degree recipients Art Opseth, Frank Flaman, and Linda Rankin.
- Several students have been recognized nationally and even internationally for their work in recent months:
 - Amber Fletcher, a doctoral student in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, received the Graduate Student Award of Merit from SWAAC (Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada);
 - Cassandra Opikokew, also a doctoral student in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, received a CIHR Doctoral Research Award totalling \$108,000 over three years, to further her work on Indigenous health and education policy;
 - Nuno Ribeiro, a post-doctoral fellow with the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, received \$92,000 over two years for his work on Aboriginal youth health;
 - Matt Yim, fourth-year student in Film, received a CCE Student Merit Award from the Canadian Cinema Editors in recognition of his editing work on his film *April Doesn't Hurt Here*; and
 - Second-year clinical psychology doctoral student Michel Thibodeau was one of only 13 students worldwide to receive a scholarship to study at the world-renowned Beck Institute for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy in Philadelphia.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In early May, the third annual Regina Royal Road Race took place, raising \$8,000 for a scholarship fund at the University.
- Also in May, the annual Rainbow Walk, organized by the Dr. Paul Schwann Centre and its clients, raised more than \$20,000 for new equipment for the Centre.
- Dr. Lloyd Barber Summit on Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education took place on May 22-23, with more than 150 people attending. Keynote speakers included Chief Sean Atleo, Chief Perry Bellegarde and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy.
- Dr. Lloyd Axworthy received the 2013 Distinguished Canadian Award on May 28, in recognition of his service to Canada, to international affairs, and to education.
- In late May, Consul General Choi of the Republic of Korea delivered a lecture on campus in honour of 50 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

- The recently published *Architecture of Saskatchewan* book – the last book published under the Canadian Plains Research Center name – features FNUiv and six other University of Regina buildings, including the Heating and Cooling Plant (on the cover) and the Lab and Classroom buildings.