In keeping with the commitment to Indigenization that is contained within the University of Regina’s recently approved strategic plan, I would like to begin this report by acknowledging that the University is located on Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 lands – something which has been an important part of our history, and which will be equally significant for our future.

This report summarizes my progress over the past two months on the five areas of priority that the Board and I identified for the January-July 2015 timeframe. It also includes updates on my academic research, University events and accomplishments, and other matters that may be of interest to the Board.

In a separate document, I have provided the Board with a set of my strategic objectives for the 2015-2016 academic year. Once these are considered and if necessary amended by the Board, for the September Board meeting I will begin reporting on progress toward their fulfilment.

Objective: Develop reports on student retention data, current initiatives, and potential future initiatives

The compilation and analysis of retention data and best practices continued throughout the reporting period, as did the implementation of initiatives designed to enhance retention rates, particularly among first-year students:

- The Office of Resource Planning has nearly completed its update of a previous report on best practices in retention at some other universities. The original report identified institutions that were implementing innovative retention initiatives approximately five years ago, and the updated report will evaluate the success these institutions have since in the area of student retention since that time, and provide some recommendations for the University of Regina. The report will be taken to Deans’ Council for consideration and action in early fall 2015.

- As noted in the May report, the University has been working to increase the accuracy of retention and completion data among first-time students. Data that was provided to the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) now includes students who have taken University of Regina courses as part of an accelerated program while still in high school. The updated CSRDE data will be
provided to the University in the coming weeks, and will help with the completion of the above-mentioned updated retention report.

- The University also expects to receive results from the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) data exchange to which it made a submission in May. When the data arrives (anticipated to be the third week in August), it will provide detailed institutional and comparator retention information in STEM areas that will be helpful in identifying and addressing areas that should be of particular concern.

- On June 19, the University received its results from the Canadian University Survey Consortium’s 2015 Graduating Student Survey. They are now being analyzed from a number of perspectives, including that of student retention.

- The Office of Resource Planning (ORP) has been developing slide presentations on “threshold courses” in which the rate of failure is higher than average, as well as presentations on enrolment and retention by faculty. These reports will help identify specific areas where retention is an issue and targeted action can be taken.

- Work continued on a number of other retention-related initiatives during the reporting period:
  - Additional consultations were held with student advisors to consider the feasibility of a central advising service with an emphasis on “early intervention” for at-risk students. A further meeting about this possibility will take place in July;
  - The University is evaluating degree audit software that might increase the efficiency of advising services;
  - Residence Services is now taking applications for Living Learning Communities this fall. The first of these communities will be for Health and Wellness, Global, Campion, Engineering, and potentially la Cité for francophone students. They will foster a sense of inclusion and belonging for students, especially those who have come from remote communities and from outside the province.
  - The University’s 2015-16 operating budget provided more than $500,000 in additional graduate student support, largely at the PhD level; and
  - The budget also provided further support matched by Universities Canada for new Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships that will allow graduate students to spend time studying and researching abroad.

- Applications, admissions, acceptances, and registrations for Fall 2015 continued to track ahead of last year’s levels. As of June 15, the University was 169 domestic students or 10% ahead in registrations compared to the same time a year ago. Combining domestic and international registrations, the University is 180 students or 12% ahead of 2014.
It is important to note that these Fall 2015 figures are early and fluid, and that more accurate enrolment figures for the Fall 2015 term will be available by late September. That being said, these increases in registered students are promising given that the two areas of greatest growth in recent years – Engineering and Nursing – are now effectively at capacity.

A calling campaign in Alberta has been completed, and its results will be known by early September.

Objective: Develop reports on institutional research support and external research application success rates

Work continued to evaluate the University’s internal research support as well as its external funding application success rates:

- As noted in the May report, the Office of Resource Planning completed a first draft of a review of the University’s support of the research enterprise. The review is currently being refined to create an extended time series for the analysis for the years 2010-2011 through 2014-15. This is expected to be complete in August.

- In addition, Resource Planning has been in early discussions with Laval University regarding the potential use of CUBC, an advanced bibliometric tool that is being developed to allow universities, particularly those outside the U15, to access inter-university comparisons for research funding, publications, citations, and graduate funding. A great deal of work remains, however, before CUBC is operational and fees for membership in the consortium are negotiated.

- The comprehensive analysis of external research application success rates over the past five years is complete, showing particular success in the Faculty of Science, but fluctuation in the annual success rates in all faculties as the competition for available funds has increased. Work has continued to implement measures to enhance success rates, including:
  - The Research Office has made several changes in structure and personnel to more effectively support researchers applying for external funding. These changes include filling vacant positions to manage research grants, ensure compliance, and manage research partnerships;
  - The University has moved from an honorary member to a full member of MITACS, which will allow for significantly more funding for our graduate students across disciplines; and
  - The number of Tri-council workshops has been increased to better inform faculty members of changes in policy for proposals and of strategies for making stronger submissions to the granting agencies.
- It is also of note that the faculty members and units on campus had a great deal of success during the reporting period in attracting federal research funding.
  - Western Economic Diversification announced funding of $2.3 million for equipment and software to help improve public safety and inter-agency emergency response; and
  - University of Regina researchers were awarded close to $2 million in funding for 15 projects from the NSERC Discovery Grants Program. It is especially significant that much of this funding was awarded to faculty members who are in the early stages of their careers.

**Objective: Engage with key stakeholders to enhance the University’s community presence**

During the reporting period the University continued to strengthen its approach to community engagement and look at new ways of connecting with its various community stakeholders:

- Based on recommendations contained in the external review of the Alumni Relations and Development Offices, the 2015-16 University budget included provisions for two new positions: a Director of Alumni Relations and Community Outreach, and a Director of Development position. When filled, these positions will be critical to building capacity and leadership in the Alumni Relations and Development areas.

- Per another recommendation from the review, the External Relations unit has been restructured. Kim McKechnie will lead the Marketing and Communications area, and Alumni Relations and the events area (Community Outreach) will report to Bruce Anderson, who has agreed to serve a three-year term as Associate Vice-President (Development). The re-alignment of the Alumni Relations area within Development was also recommended in the External Review and is seen as an opportunity for better alignment with fundraising. Merging the events and Alumni Relations staff together will allow Alumni Relations staff to have a greater focus on new and more strategic alumni initiatives.

- All other recommendations from the review have been accepted, and steps will be taken to implement them during the coming year.

- As part of the emphasis on finding new ways of connecting with campus community members, community groups and other external stakeholders, a number of initiatives were undertaken, including:
  - On April 25, the inaugural “Prairie Kitchen Party” drew approximately 400 people and raised more than $20,000 for student aid;
- On April 30, the University premiered the video RespectAbility, which features students in the Campus for All program and promotes inclusiveness at the University. Close to 200 people from the University and larger communities were in attendance;

- An open budget forum was held on May 6 at which more than 100 faculty, staff and students attended to provide input on how to address the University’s fiscal challenges;

- Journalist Don Newman delivered a public lecture in Moose Jaw on June 1. This lecture, which stemmed from discussions with the Major of Moose Jaw during the December “Community Connections” visit to that city, was jointly sponsored by the City of Moose Jaw and the University. It attracted close to 100 people and received a great deal of local media coverage;

- A signing ceremony was held on June 2 to mark the third Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Astonished! Centre for Learning. The MOU will allow Astonished! to continue using University facilities for the next five years to provide social, recreational, educational and research opportunities for young adults with complex physical disabilities;

- The University provided extensive website and social media coverage of Spring Convocation. Five articles on Convocation appeared on the University website’s front page between June 4 and June 7, and two news releases were sent to media outlets locally and posted on the University’s Facebook page;

- The official unveiling of the Pride flag on campus took place for the first time ever in conjunction with Queen City Pride Week in mid-June. Approximately 100 people attended the event, and the flag will be on permanent display in the Riddell Centre as a symbol of the University’s inclusiveness; and

- On June 17, I established a Twitter account that will help me better connect with the University’s community stakeholders.

- Numerous initiatives are helping make significant progress toward completing Building Knowledge: The College Avenue Campus Renewal Project (CAC), the University’s primary capital fundraising priority. Some of the activities include:

  - Donations to the CAC campaign now total more than $8 million, including the gift of the Shumiatcher art collection. The total includes received cash and cash pledges of $5.7 million. I will be publicly announcing a significant gift in September, and another $100,000 in gifts will be finalized in next few weeks;

  - Prominent CAC Donors Dr. Roberta McKay and Elmer Brenner were guest speakers at the Association of Fundraising Professionals luncheon;

  - Darke Hall has played host to events organized by the Regina Jazz Society and Regina Folk Festival. These groups and others have been actively promoting the Darke Hall renovation as important to the community;
Darke Hall renovations were the focus of a recent University of Regina application to the Western Diversification’s Canada 150 Infrastructure program. Arts Centres were an eligible category for support. The program could provide up to $500,000 (matched by CAC campaign funds) toward renovations and upgrades.

Formal deeds have been created to transfer elements of the Shumiatcher art donation to the University, and on June 23, I hosted the opening for the Shumiatcher art currently displayed at the President’s house.

Requests for Proposal were received for the construction manager and preliminary design work for CAC, and final decisions should be made shortly.

New marketing materials have been developed including pop-up displays (to be used at CAC) and postcard-style print materials highlighting five areas of focus of CAC – the Centre for Continuing Education, the Conservatory for Performing Arts, the Lifelong Learning Centre, Darke Hall, and the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

On September 16, I will be hosting an open house and social at the College Avenue campus to allow our donors and the community to interact with the CAC architects and heritage consultant.

A number of business donors have been engaged and initial discussions have been very positive regarding business community support for the Centre for Continuing Education, and for enhancing opportunities for “stop-out” adult learners (who “stopped” for family, work, or financial reasons) to pursue credits towards degrees; and

The University’s semi-annual fundraising appeal is underway right now with CAC as the focus. The appeal includes direct mail, email marketing, and student callers doing follow-up.

Objective: Develop an inventory of current Indigenization initiatives at the University and provide options for enhancing them

Throughout the reporting period, it remained a priority to continue Indigenizing the University’s operations and curriculum:

- The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) continued providing advice and input on the Indigenization of campus and strategic priorities flowing from peyak aski kikawinaw. The IAC has prepared a presentation on its strategic plan that will be delivered to the Board of Governors at the July meeting.

- Dr Shauneen Pete, who works closely with the IAC, will remain in the role of Executive Lead – Indigenization until June 2016. Dr Pete’s inventory of current Indigenization practices on campus and initiatives at other universities is
regularly updated to reflect developments in academic departments, Faculties, and operating units.

- The Board-approved 2015-16 operating budget base funded the Executive Lead position. Work toward creating a robust Office of Indigenization that would oversee and have accountability for various aspects of Indigenization will continue as funding is available.

**Objective: Develop an inventory of current sustainability initiatives at the University and provide options for enhancing them**

Efforts to enhance the sustainability of the University’s operations continued:

- The President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) has done a great deal of work in conjunction with Facilities Management and other areas on campus to identify of the University’s current sustainability measures over the past several months and areas for future focus. Going forward, PACS now has an approved sustainability plan aligned with peyak aski kikawinaw that it will roll out in 2015-16. The plan focuses on five areas:
  - Leadership;
  - Waste;
  - Energy;
  - Transportation; and
  - Communication and engagement.

- PACS recognizes that strong, clear leadership on sustainability will be necessary to overcome “business as usual” assumptions, and that progress in some areas will be slower than in others. One potential early accomplishment would be a successful outcome to the U-Pass negotiations currently underway between the University of Regina Students’ Union and the City of Regina.

- Several other developments during the reporting period are of note:
  - Performance indicators associated with energy consumption on campus have been included in the 2015-16 performance management framework;
  - The University is seeking to learn from Luther College on how to reduce food waste in cafeteria operations; and
  - Information Services has launched the “Print Optimization 2.0” project. This project will continue where the original Print Optimization project left off by right-sizing the number and capacity of print devices in use on campus. Since this new project was launched, cost savings potential of $360,000 over five years has been identified. Additionally, should the University reach its goal of reducing the total number of devices on campus to 317, the potential is
there to achieve additional cost savings of $1.4 million over the new five-year term. This would bring the total of savings already realized ($1.3 million), plus the potential over the next five years to a ten-year total of $4.36 million.
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- My research partners from the Faculty of Education and I met several times to continue work on our “Voices of Inclusion” appreciative inquiry into inclusive education and employment practices in Saskatchewan. We worked on articles for potential publication as well as academic presentations, continued drafting our final report, and selected quotations and some of the photography required for use in the report and a potential book.

- I continued my work as President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD). As President, I was involved in IASSIDD’s May Regional Congress of the Americas, chaired meetings of the organization’s Executive and Council, and provided input to those planning the 2016 World Congress.

FAMILY LITERACY

- A team of educators and researchers in Calgary has been working for some time to have the public and Catholic school boards in that city implement a family literacy program in some schools. A new opportunity has arisen to do so through a funded support program, and the team requested copies of my various family literacy programs so that they might be considered for implementation.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

- At both the May 2015 Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity and the IASSIDD Regional Congress, Dr. Scott Thompson and I delivered presentations on inclusive employment based on research we are doing on the “Voices of Inclusion” project.

- As part of the Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference, I gave a presentation and hosted a round-table session on education and the role it plays in developing women leaders.

- I participated in meetings related to Universities Canada’s (formerly AUCC) Standing Committee on International Relations, of which I am Chair.

- I drafted an Opinion-Editorial piece on international education for the Globe and Mail, and one on Pride Week for the Leader-Post.
CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS

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

FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS

- In late May, Dr. Nick Carleton of the Department of Psychology presented to the House of Commons Committee on Health regarding the mental health supports required for first responders.
- Dr. Carleton is also featured in a docudrama called *I Came Back* that chronicles a Canadian soldier’s battle with PTSD.
- Dr. Dena McMartin received the 2015 McCannell Award from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan in recognition of her service to the profession of engineering.
- The Alumni Association named the recipients of its Awards of Excellence:
  - Dr. Thomas Hadjistavropoulos for Graduate Research Mentorship;
  - Dr. Janis Dale for Teaching; and
  - Dr. Gordon Huang for Research.
- Dr. Huang was also recently elected a Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Engineering, and Dr. David Gregory, Dean of Nursing, was elected a Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. These two organizations are part of the Council of Canadian Academies, and membership in them represents the highest recognition for engineers and health scientists in Canada.
- Two University of Regina employees were recently recognized with YWCA Women of Distinction awards:
  - Dr. Jo-Anne Episkенew of the Indigenous Peoples’ Health Research Centre for lifetime achievement; and
  - Dr. Fatima Pirbhai-Illich of the Faculty of Education for education and mentorship.
- Dr. Lee Schaefer of the Faculty of Education was named the recipient of a Young Scholar Award by the International Association for Higher Education in Physical Education.
- Two University of Regina professors presented at the fourth annual TEDxRegina that was held on campus in early June:
  - Dr. Amber Fletcher on gender inequality and climate change policy; and
  - Dr. Chris Street on advising in innovation and entrepreneurship.
STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS

- Spring Convocation was the largest in the University’s history, with 2,057 graduates receiving degrees, diplomas and certificates. A number of student awards were presented, and the recipients included:
  - Natasha Ku, who received that President’s Medal for best combining academics, leadership and extracurricular activity. Natasha graduated with a BA in Japanese and a BSc in Mathematics;
  - Belma Kamencic and Tuan Minh Mai, winners of the University Medal for maintaining a GPA of 96.8% over the past year;
  - Isabella Hugel of the Faculty of Science, who received the Governor General’s Academic Silver Medal; and
  - Dr. Darryl Hunter of the Faculty of Education, who received the Governor General’s Academic Gold Medal.
- Also at Convocation, four Campus for All students received certificates to acknowledge their four years of participation in that inclusive post-secondary educational program.
- Several students were the recipients of national awards over the past few months:
  - Sophie Duranceau, a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology, received a SSHRC Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, valued at $150,000 over three years. The Vanier Scholarship is the most prestigious graduate scholarship awarded in Canada, and Ms. Duranceau is the third student from the Department of Psychology to receive one in recent years;
  - Doctoral student Olena Kapral of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy received the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship valued at $20,000;
  - Credence McFadzean, a Master’s student in the Department of English, received a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship valued at $17,500;
  - Natasha Gallant, a Master’s student in Psychology, received a CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship; and
  - Two incoming graduate students in Psychology also received SSHRC scholarships to support their research.
- In late May, CIBC donated $175,000 to create bursaries for Aboriginal students.
- In mid-June, Paul Davidson, President of Universities Canada, was on campus to announce the establishment of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships. The scholarships, which originate from a $1 million fund, with half of the funding from Universities Canada, will help 40 domestic graduate students spend time at Commonwealth universities and bring 12 students from other countries here between 2015 and 2018.
• The 2015 Alumni Crowning Achievement Award winners, who will be formally recognized in the fall, have been announced:
  - Jim Hopson for lifetime achievement;
  - Cherish Jean-Baptiste as young alumna;
  - Barry Clarke for outstanding service to the University and Alumni Association;
  - Dr. Kristian Baker for professional achievement; and
  - Rob Deglau for humanitarian and community service.
• Faculty of Business Administration alumna Susan Flett has been named CEO of SaskGaming.
• Faculty of Education alumnus James Wahl of St. Francis Community School in Regina was named one of the top principals in Canada.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

• At the Saskatchewan Polytechnic awards gala in Saskatoon on May 2, the University’s Faculty of Nursing received the President’s Program Partnership Award in recognition of the effective partnership between our two institutions to deliver nursing education in Saskatchewan.
• Also in May, longtime University of Regina supporter Duna Barber was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.
• The Faculty of Arts announced a new joint undergraduate program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, making the University one of only a few Canadian institutions to offer this program.
• The University signed a Memorandum of Understanding and an Undergraduate Student Exchange Program Agreement with the Universidad Autónoma de México, the largest university in Mexico. These agreements will facilitate student exchanges and joint programs between the two universities, as well as international research collaborations.
• Luther College’s Voluntary Sector Studies Network received $210,000 from the province. This funding will enable students to study the province’s voluntary sector, building capacity in the sector and educating them as future employees.
• The Canadian Society of Microbiologists conference took place on campus from June 15-18, bringing together approximately 200 scholars from across Canada.
• The University of Regina Press was recognized with the Lieutenant-Governor’s Heritage Architecture Award for its celebration and promotion of Saskatchewan’s historical architecture. The award also recognized the work done by the Press in its former incarnation as the Canadian Plains Research Center, and cited 14 books as having made significant contributions in this respect over the past few decades.