In keeping with the University of Regina’s commitment to Indigenization, 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 progress since the last Board meeting on five key areas of focus that the Board and I identified for the 2015-16 academic year. These areas of focus align with the three priorities and two overarching themes of the University’s strategic plan, *peyak aski kikawinaw*: student success; research impact; commitment to communities; sustainability; and Indigenization. The report also includes updates on my academic research, University events and accomplishments, and other matters that may be of interest to the Board.

**Objective: Sustain enrolment at 2014-15 levels per the performance management framework, with particular emphasis on enhancing diversity among the student population**

Student enrolment remained strong throughout the reporting period, and a number of initiatives were undertaken to recruit students for future years:

- Following the Winter 2016 semester in which overall enrolments were up 3.1% over the previous year, initial indications are that Spring/Summer 2016 enrolments will be strong as well. Although final enrolment numbers will not be available until later in the summer, preliminary numbers indicate an increase compared to 2015:
  - The number of new students registered for Spring/Summer is up 13% compared to last year;
  - The number of students registered through the Faculty of Arts for Spring/Summer has approximately doubled; and
  - As of June 10, the number of international students enrolled for the semester was up 7.4% compared to end of term last year, with increases in the number of both new and returning students.

- Looking further into the future, there are positive early signs regarding enrolment for the Fall 2016 term. Currently, the number of registered new domestic students is ahead of last year by 5% compared to 2015. Calling campaigns are continuing until the end of August, targeting students with incomplete
applications, those who have not yet accepted offers, and those who have accepted offers but not yet registered in courses. A call campaign will also continue to offer out-of-province students a relocation award as an incentive to move to Regina to undertake their post-secondary studies. In addition, the May 6 UR Beginning event, designed to help students register for their studies and make connections to their home faculties, attracted approximately 1,000 participants.

- UR International has continued to play an active role in recruiting international students for the coming years. Recent examples include:
  - Collaborating with the Faculty of Business Administration to bring a Business Excellence Award ceremony to more than 50 Canadian curriculum high school students in China;
  - Providing training to various educational consultants in China, meeting with more than 500 Chinese high school students, and establishing a relationship with another Canadian Consulate office in China;
  - Strengthening the University’s relationship with partners in Mexico, with the result that a group of 50 students from 10 different Mexican technological and polytechnic institutions will be undertaking studies at the University for the Fall 2016 semester;
  - Expanding recruitment efforts in the Republic of South Korea; and
  - Undertaking efforts earlier in the year than ever before to convert accepted students into registered ones.

- At the faculty level, a great deal of activity has taken place since the last report in the areas of recruitment and enrolment. A small sampling of these activities follows.

- For Fall 2016, the Faculty of Business Administration has 835 new students admitted, with 318 already registered. This bodes well for enrolments in the faculty this year, since for Fall 2015, a final total of 428 new students registered out of 712 admissions.

- Admissions to most programs in the Faculty of Education remain open, and overall numbers are expected to be stable for the coming year. Advisors are currently working through waitlists and extending counteroffers to students who have applied to an area of study that is full, but may be interested in switching to another area. Other activities include the creation of a Certificate of Extended Studies that will allow graduated students to continue coursework to gain a second teachable area, work to support internationally educated teachers who require certification in the province, and continued efforts to recruit Indigenous students into degree programs.

- The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science is planning to sustain enrolment at the same level as the previous year by registering approximately 375 first-year students. The Faculty is doing a great deal to prepare for this, including renovating some existing teaching laboratory facilities, enhancing a computer lab, splitting larger classes into two sections, increasing support for teaching
assistants, and offering additional Spring/Summer classes to meet demand. The Faculty is also making a concerted effort to recruit female students.

- In the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance, the focus is on outreach to students who have been admitted but have not yet registered. This includes initiating contact with current students to discuss the faculty’s programs.
- As of mid-June, the Faculty of Nursing had admitted 150 students in Regina, 139 in Saskatoon, and 7 in Swift Current, putting it well on its way to a full complement of new students. The Faculty has also introduced the LPN to RN program, allowing LPNs to fill SCBScN seats that would otherwise be vacant through attrition.
- The Faculty of Social work has increased the number of students to be admitted into the BSW program by approximately 50 students. In addition, the Faculty has developed a new transfer credit agreement with Medicine Hat College.
- The Faculty of Science is working with La Cité universitaire francophone to promote courses to be delivered in French in the areas of biology, math, physics, chemistry and computer science.
- La Cité is also reaching out to potential students, having made presentations in more than 35 schools. In addition, a new Living-Learning Community, Le Quartier francophone, is being created in residence for the fall.
- Offers for Fall 2016 admission to the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy are up 10% over last year, with international offers representing 42% of the total, compared to 32% in 2015. The School attributes the increase to the hiring of an academic advisor, funded through revenues earned by the Master of Health Administration program, whose sole focus is the recruitment and retention of students.
- FGSR is working to recruit highly qualified PhD students from Vietnam who are fully funded by the Vietnamese government.

**Objective: Identify and begin implementing specific initiatives designed to increase first-to-second-year retention rates to 80% per the University’s performance measurement framework**

A great deal of activity has taken place across campus recently to implement new initiatives designed to improve student retention, and to evaluate existing ones:

- The Academic Advising Unit has formulated a plan as to how to best work with at-risk and undecided students. Implementation will begin this summer by sending a letter to all students admitted with an average between 65% and 69.99%, inviting them to meet with an advisor. By fall the advisors will be ready to reach out to and meet with new students recently placed on probation, as well as all undecided students. A peer advising program is also being implemented.
that will allow students to meet with current students for peer support and registration assistance.

- UR International continued enhancing its services to help retain international students:
  - The number of available English coaching hours has been increased by 50% compared to Spring/Summer 2015;
  - The International Peer Advisor program, in which 35 students mentor their counterparts, has been expanded so that students may assist those who have not yet arrived in Canada, but have been accepted to the University; and
  - A training session for peer advisors is being planned for August to prepare for the coming year.

- A great deal of retention-related activity has also taken place in the Faculty of Education recently:
  - The Faculty has implemented an “Intrusive Advising” program by which students who are struggling to maintain the necessary averages are identified and provided with additional assistance. As a result, the Faculty has seen a lower attrition rate than before from year one to year two;
  - This fall, the Faculty will initiate a first-year pinning ceremony similar to that which has been created in other Faculties so that students feel more closely aligned with their program and have a stronger sense of belonging and community throughout their studies; and
  - The Faculty has moved from a five-year to a four-year Arts Education program. BMusEd students, for example, will now do their first two years in the Faculty of Media, Art and Performance and then complete their Education degree requirements. This will address the challenges these students were facing in managing the Fine Arts and Education demands simultaneously, and should address attrition challenges that have been persistent over the past decade.

- The Faculty of Media, Art and Performance has further developed protocols for working with the Student Success Centre to assist and support undeclared and at-risk students in particular. The Faculty has also introduced MAP 001: Success Strategies for Students – a mandatory seminar for first-year students that teaches them to study skills, helps them learn how to use the library, and introduces them to the arts in the campus and larger communities. The Faculty is exploring the idea of formalizing contact with MAP 001 students into their second semester of study.

- The Faculty of Nursing is exploring new ways to support students in threshold or gateway courses such as BIOL 110, recruiting tutors for courses, and determining how the Faculty can provide additional tutorials in clinical settings.

- The Faculty of Social Work is working on several initiatives designed to enhance retention:
- The Faculty is placing more emphasis than ever before on advising for BSW, MSW, and pre-Social Work students in Saskatoon, Regina, and rural/northern communities;
- It has increased the number of on-site/in-person visits to northern and rural regional colleges (La Ronge, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and Yorkton);
- It is collaborating with the Faculty of Arts to deliver Arts courses at the Saskatoon campus effective Fall 2016 to make it easier for those students to access their course requirements; and
- It is establishing an Indigenous Students’ Society to provide support and mentorship to Indigenous students as they continue their studies.

- The Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies is exploring with its Students’ Society how the Society can play a larger role in the recruitment, mentoring and retention of students.

- The Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy is creating an international students’ society for Fall 2016 to help create a mutually supportive cohort of students, and a more clearly defined group with which advisors can communicate centrally in order to better support them.

- In April, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Dr. John Archer Library collaborated to deliver the University’s first-ever “Thesis Boot Camp,” designed to support graduate students at a key point in their program. The three-day program was so popular that a second one has already been held.

- An important campus-wide retention initiative this year was the creation of the Arts Transition Program (ATP) under the Academic Recovery Program (ARP) umbrella. While similar in content to ARP, the ATP is intended to help students be successful in the Faculty of Arts specifically. Over the past several years, ARP has served an increasing number of students, including international students with the involvement of UR International. Fall 2013 saw 11 participating students, for example, and by Fall 2015, that number had grown to 79. Many students who complete the program are successful, including one who was admitted into the Bachelor of Social Work Program, and one who recently graduated.

- Two other campus-wide programs that help to engage and retain students, the UR Guarantee and the UR Ambassador program, continue to be successful:
  - There are currently more than 1,700 students in the UR Guarantee program, and of the 70 who have completed it so far, only two have been eligible to return for additional studies because they were not able to begin their careers within six months of graduation;
  - Graduates of the UR Guarantee program have gone on to careers with diverse organizations such as SaskPower, MNP, and the RCMP; and
  - The University will be hiring a new Ambassador Program and UR Guarantee Program Advisor to provide further support to participating students.
Objective: Highlight and publicly profile four research initiatives (including one related to Indigenous research) that clearly demonstrate the tangible local impact of our work

The University of Regina research enterprise is increasingly diverse in nature, and our researchers are engaged in work that has substantial impact on the lives of those close to home as well as beyond our borders. Over the last few months, the Communications and Marketing unit has actively worked to promote these research endeavours through both paid and unpaid channels. As a result, media on a local, provincial, national and international level have been engaged in telling our research stories. What follows is a small sampling of that activity.

- A total of thirty-one research-related stories have been published on the University homepage since late April, and five research-related news releases were sent to media during that time.

- In the past two years, the University successfully marked Earth Day by gaining significant profile for sustainability-related research initiatives, so two such projects were highlighted this year to once again correspond with Earth Day – the work of Dr. Katherine Arbuthnott and Dr. Andrew Cameron.

- By featuring researchers working in two different areas, the University was better able to show that it is through disciplines working together for sustainability that we make the greatest progress. Dr. Arbuthnott, a conservation psychologist at Campion College, provides insight into human behaviour that is crucial for the implementation of climate change solutions. Her research focuses on the best way to influence people to act in more environmentally friendly ways. Dr. Cameron and his colleagues from the Integrated Microbial Systems and Society laboratory in the Department of Biology are working to determine the perfect oil-eating microbial community to break down oil and other contaminants.

- These projects were profiled locally and nationally using both paid and unpaid advertising, which in turn garnered free media attention. Dr. Arbuthnott’s work was profiled in the May issue of University Affairs, and she was interviewed about her research by CBC’s Morning Edition. Dr. Cameron and his team appeared in University Affairs in June, were featured in the Regina Leader-Post Update, and the University homepage story about them was re-tweeted by the national funding agency NSERC.

- The University also made a special effort to showcase the research innovations of Engineering and Applied Science students Joshua Friedrick, Caleb Friedrick, and Sam Dietrich. These students won the AgBOT Challenge, defeating teams from several large American universities by developing the most efficient unmanned crop seeder. Their technology, which was featured on the University’s homepage and in Degrees magazine, garnered significant interest from media in both Canada and the United States. This included features on the North American agriculture site Farms.com, the American magazine Modern Farmer, Yorkton...
This Week, the Regina Leader-Post, and an interview on CBC Saskatchewan’s Morning Edition. Social media sites across North America also picked up the story. The students, all of who graduated this spring and have credited the Engineering and Applied Science program with contributing to their success, will also appear in the August issue of University Affairs.

- Two other research features were prepared for the alumni magazine Degrees:
  - The first centred on Erin Wasson, a graduate of the University of Regina’s Master of Social Work program who is working as Canada’s only full-time veterinary social worker. Her work has also been featured in Maclean’s, University Affairs, and The Western Producer; and
  - The second examined the work of Dr. Joseph Piwowar, associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and Canada Research Chair in Geomatics and Sustainability, who is focusing on how warming ocean temperatures affect Regina and other places around the world.

- The University also made good use of other opportunities to profile research that stands to have a high impact locally, nationally, and even internationally. These included:
  - Executive Lead – Indigenization Dr. Shauneen Pete’s keynote address, at the second Living Heritage symposium, hosted by Heritage Saskatchewan and the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy;
  - The work of Dr. Katya Herman, assistant professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, who has been looking into the benefits of standing desks at work by evaluating the daily activity of research participants at the University of Regina before, during, and after using an adjustable sit-stand workstation;
  - Dr. Herman’s research into the connections between physical activity, sedentary behaviour and health outcomes, particularly among children;
  - The work of Dr. Michelle Stewart and her research team, who are examining how the justice system deals with people who have mental illnesses; and
  - The research program of Dr. Shanthi Johnson, professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Dr. Johnson recently was named a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and was named the recipient of the 2016 Award of Innovation for implementing an exercise program for seniors.

**Objective:** Ensure that the newly restructured Alumni Relations and Community Outreach unit develops a comprehensive long-term plan for its operations

A considerable amount of progress was made in recent months in the area of alumni relations and community outreach.
The restructuring of the unit has been completed, a new Director has been hired, and the unit has been renamed Alumni and Community Engagement. The term “engagement” is important, as it will clearly guide the unit’s operations going forward, and signals a pivotal change from simply reaching out to our communities to an approach emphasizing a closer and more meaningful two-way relationship. A strategic plan will be developed over the coming year, and has been included in my objectives for 2016-17.

The University continued to build strong connections with alumni and community stakeholders in a variety of ways:

- The Prairie Kitchen Party was held on May 7 with 400 people in attendance. The event raised $50,000 for student awards;
- Also in May, an event was held for 75 alumni and friends in Ottawa. The Honourable Ralph Goodale, an alumnus, brought greetings. A dinner was also held with 20 Ottawa-area alumni.
- In early June, some staff attended the Calgary Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences to promote University of Regina as a destination for Congress 2018, which we will be hosting.
- The College Avenue Campus Renewal Project continues to move forward. A donor event and a media conference related to the proposed Conexus partnership were held, and there has also been one community consultation as well as a session with the members of the Lifelong Learning Centre. Another consultation is planned June 23, and staff will be holding other consultations with heritage and business groups.
- The Alumni Association’s annual general meeting took place on June 16. The Association’s executive has seen some renewal, with Kaytlyn Barber becoming the new President; and
- Plans are underway to engage alumni in a survey that will follow up on the 2011 survey and form the basis for the strategic plan going forward.

Each year, the University of Regina Alumni Association Awards for Excellence provide a way to honour faculty members and engage the Alumni Association in the University’s teaching and research. This year’s recipients have been named:

- Dr. Alec Couros (Education) – Award for Excellence in Teaching;
- Dr. David Gerhard (Computer Science) – Award for Excellence in Teaching;
- Dr. Gordon Asmundson (Psychology) – Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Mentorship;
- Dr. Raymond Blake (History) – Award for Excellence in Research; and
- Professor Roz Kelsey (Kinesiology and Health Studies) – Award for Excellence in Service.

Similarly, the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards provide a means to honour and build relationships with outstanding alumni. This year’s ceremony will be held on October 6, and the recipients have been named:

- Dr. Geoffrey Taylor BSc’74, Lifetime Achievement Award;
- Derek Stoffel BA’84, BAJ&C’96 (Campion), Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement;
- Lisa King BPAS’95, MAdmin'11, Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Regina and the Alumni Association;
- Dr. David Millar BSc’81, Award for Distinguished Humanitarian and Community Service; and
  Dr. Regan Schmidt BAdmin’03, Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

- It is also of note that in July, I will be signing an agreement with Great Plains College in Swift Current to enable continued cooperation with student transfers and delivery of the University’s programs in that community.

**Objective: Implement the key recommendations from the review of the University’s donor relations functions in order to enhance relationships with donors and build the University’s capacity for fundraising**

With all of the external review recommendations having been addressed and two Directors in place for the Development and Alumni and Community Engagement units, the stage is set for the University to experience growth in our capacity to raise funds.

- Overall, the University’s fundraising performance has improved significantly, with donations for the 2015-16 fiscal year totalling $6.63 million, net of in-kind gifts and grants (compared to $3.45 million for same period in 2014-15). While donations were up 92% from the previous year, there is work to be done to address a drop in the number of both new and recurring donors. Building a stronger donor base is the number one priority for our new Director of Development.

- The University’s number one fundraising priority has been the campaign to renew the College Avenue campus. The campaign total now exceeds $7.17 million in cash and pledges toward a goal of $10 million. Should the potential partnership with Conexus move forward, the resulting $8.25 million in support help to finish off the fundraising campaign.

- I continue to work with my specific portfolio of donors. In May and June, I had meetings with key donors in Ottawa and Calgary, and I have other meetings scheduled in July with donors and prospects in Saskatoon. I also hosted a dinner for Crown Corporation CEOs, and hosted a lunch with those not able to attend the dinner.
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION RESEARCH

- The final report for my “Voices of Inclusion” study of inclusive education and employment practices in the province is still in progress. I continued work on the next draft of a related article that I am submitting the journal *Work, Employment, and Society*. In addition, I received confirmation that an article I wrote with members of my research team has now been published in Volume 20, Issue 8 of the *International Journal of Inclusive Education*.

- I have been preparing a presentation on this work that I will deliver at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) World Congress in August.

- I continued work as my term nears completion as IASSIDD President. This included final planning for the World Congress, at which I will also be delivering an opening plenary session.

PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION RESEARCH

- I completed a first draft of my assigned case study for the research on program prioritization at Canadian universities in which I am participating as part of a multi-university team. I submitted the case study to the other researchers for comment, and will revise it in the coming months based on their feedback.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

- Over the past few months, I delivered a number of other lectures and participated in panel discussions for a number of organizations. These included:
  - Speaking about women and leadership to students and faculty members at universities in both Mexico and Japan;
  - Delivering the keynote address at the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of Regina’s annual Friendship Dinner;
  - Speaking to two Business Administration classes on the subjects of governance and women in leadership;
  - Participating in a President’s Panel on leadership at the Canadian University Boards Association annual conference; and
  - Providing a keynote address at a national health care conference on responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s recommendations.
CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS

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

FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS

- After comprehensive review processes, Dr. Andrew Gaudes and Dr. Harvey King have accepted reappointments as Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration and Director of the Centre for Continuing Education, respectively. Both appointments commence on July 1, 2017 and conclude on June 30, 2022.

- Dr. Douglas Farenick of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics will begin his one-year term as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science beginning on July 1. I would like to thank Dr. Daniel Gagnon, whose term as Dean concludes on June 30.

- On July 1, Brett Waytuck will begin his position as University Librarian for a term extending from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2021. I would like to express my appreciation to Colleen Murphy, who has served as University Librarian in an acting capacity for the past year.

- Effective June 27, 2016, Emily Grafton will begin work as the University’s Executive Lead – Indigenization, a role in which she will help Indigenize various aspects of the University’s operations and curriculum. I would like to thank Dr. Shauneen Pete of the Faculty of Education for serving in this role for the past few years.

- Patrick Maidorn, an instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has been named the recipient of the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences’ Education Prize in recognition for his mathematics education outreach.

- Dr. Yasser Morgan of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science received the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance’s Public Sector Leadership Award in Advanced Technology for his research into advanced communications for public safety and emergency response.

- Professor Roz Kelsey of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies was recognized as a 2016 YWCA “Woman of Distinction,” as were Chemistry and Biochemistry professor Dr. Tanya Dahms and former Chancellor Raynell Andreychuk.

- In May, Dr. David deMontigny of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science was honoured by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan with its Environmental Excellence award in recognition of his teaching, research and service to community. At the same event, Dr. Janis Dale of the Department of Geology was named a fellow of the
organization for her contributions to the geosciences profession in Canada, as was Dr. DeMontigny.

- UR International Director Livia Castellanos was invited to participate in the US State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program from June 6-14. She was nominated by the United States Consul General based in Calgary.

**STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS**

- As noted earlier in my report, a team of three students from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science – Caleb Friedrick, Sam Dietrich and Joshua Friedrick – won the $50,000 US first prize at the agBOT Challenge in Indiana. The team, which was the only Canadian representative in the competition, beat out 10 other teams (including ones from Purdue, Ohio State, Michigan State and Virginia Tech) by developing the most efficient unmanned crop seeder.

- Three other students from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science – Ryan Schmidt, Tanner Thomsen and Marlee Wasnik – received the 2016 Minerva Canada James Ham Safe Design Award for designing a portable fall protection system for flatbed trailers.

- Jessie Garuliuck, a first-year student in the Baccalauréat en éducation program, was one of five students across the country to receive a bursary for a video she created highlighting her home institution and its commitment to French-language education.

- Social Work student Kecia Cook won top prize at the national 2016 Aboriginal Arts & Stories youth arts competition for her art submission of a beaded medicine bag that brings together the worlds of traditional and modern Indigenous medicine. She was honoured at a ceremony at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

- David Herle, an alumnus of Campion College and former advisor to Prime Minister Paul Martin, delivered the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy’s annual Tansley Lecture.

- Timothy Long, Curator of the MacKenzie Art Gallery and another University of Regina alumnus, delivered the Faculty of Arts’ annual Stapleford Lecture.

- Alumnus Benjamin Freitag was recognized in May by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan with the “Friend of the Profession” award for his work to engage students in the fields of science, engineering and technology.

**CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Effective May 1, the Board of First Nations University of Canada officially accepted the amendments to the Advisory Services Termination Agreement. This
marked an important step forward for FNUniv as it continues to enhance its governance, financial, and operational processes.

- A delegation from Japan visited the University to learn about the Campus for All inclusive post-secondary education program.
- A delegation that included the National Director of Polytechnic and Technological Universities in Mexico as well as six presidents of Mexican universities visited the University in May to explore partnership opportunities.
- For the third consecutive year, the University hosted the Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference.
- FNUniv hosted a powwow to honour Aboriginal high school and post-secondary graduates from the Treaty 4 area. More than 500 people attended, including approximately 130 students.
- Robin Lawless, an instructor in the Journalism program, has donated 20,000 honeybees from his home colony to the University to provide a research tool for students and help with pollination of plants in the campus landscape.
- The family of former University Board Chair and Chancellor Dr. Derril McLeod was recognized at an event celebrating their longstanding support of the University.