



## **President's Report to Senate May 2020**

With our spring/summer session now well underway, I would like to again thank Senators for their hard work in providing the academic tools and accommodations needed to ensure the continuation of courses, enable the success of our students, and thank all of our faculty colleagues for their commitment, dedication and flexibility through these challenging times. I would also like to recognize the Senate's role in enabling the graduation of our class of 2020. Unlike many universities that have significant numbers of academically stranded students unable to complete their degrees due to the disruption of COVID-19, the great majority of eligible Laurentian students have had the opportunity to graduate.

As we work towards preparing for the best possible fall semester, I look forward to similar senatorial engagement and applaud the leadership that continues to be shown by all and in particular by our provost, Prof Demers.

Enrolments for Fall 2020 are crucial for the viability of the university sector, and for Laurentian University in particular, where the impacts of COVID-19 have already depleted essentially all of our financial flexibility to traverse the pandemic.

You will have seen in the past several days, universities are announcing their plans for the fall, so as to provide both learners and instructors the time needed to adapt their courses to the new reality. For the most part, you will notice a commitment to a return to the physical classroom in some areas that require in person attendance and are expected to be deliverable ensuring appropriate social distancing and sanitization. You will also note that most universities have raised the expectation for continued remote learning and an increase in online learning. With ongoing expectations for social distancing and restrictions on international travel, it currently seems impossible for any university to expect to offer the full on-campus experience that we all offered last year.

Laurentian has declared and committed publically to offering a full suite of courses and programs



## **Spring Programming Update**

Laurentian's spring offerings are now well underway and their success is a credit to all of our faculty and instructors, to your commitment, dedication and flexible responsiveness.

I also must acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Liaison, Laurentian Online, Teaching and Learning, Academic Advising, Transitions and Engagement, myLaurentian Hub, Admissions, Registrar, Marketing, Communications, Digital Strategy, as well as others, who have worked so hard to attract students to our spring programming.

With numbers remaining to be fully finalized, we are trending up approximately 5% in individual students registered from spring term over spring of 2019, with total course registrations up over 20%.

Two important notes of caution in over-interpreting these numbers. First, we are very closely monitoring fall applications and acceptances, and Laurentian, like the entire system, is extremely concerned by the prospect of significant loss of enrollments for the fall term. Second, our overall

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**Laurentian's Fiscal Sustainability Measures and 2020-21 Budget Consultation with Senate**

There have been many suggestions to our sustainability register for how staff, faculty, together with our labor partners can participate in achieving the savings needs. For this, I thank everyone who contributed sincerely. I for one am confident in this community that by working together, ensemble, maamwi, we will achieve our objectives and that Laurentian will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic positioned to achieve our collective ambition of being a leading university for the North.

### **Monthly Kudos**

A compilation of the great news surrounding the response of the Laurentian community to COVID-19 is available at the following link, I am very proud of the commitment and thoughtfulness of our entire community:

The Transitions & Engagement and Academic Advising teams, along with Faculty members, delivered a successful Spring Orientation remotely, which attracted 1,035 participants to 40+ academic preparation and orientation sessions.

The Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit capped off a year of celebration of its 30th anniversary with its annual meeting at the end of April. Great work to all those that have made this partnership between government, industry and the university, in support of environmental remediation in Sudbury and beyond, possible. For more information on the work of the unit and the environmental remediation progress it has contributed to, contact Dr. John Gunn, Canada Research Chair in Stressed Aquatic Systems and Director of the Vale Living with Lakes Centre.

Thank you to the Translation Team, who continue to provide us with quality content in both official languages. Their commitment to bilingualism is truly exemplary.

Robert Haché, PhD  
President and Vice-Chancellor