

President's Report to Senate October 8, 2019

I am pleased to provide this report for the October 8th, 2019 Senate. As we head into October, I am thrilled to see our faculty and students in full form with only a few days until our fall study break. On my part, the past three weeks have been focused on meetings with community members, my first round of Laurentian Board committee meetings and meetings with COU and government officials. We are very fortunate at Laurentian to have an active and engaged Board of Governors providing oversight and stewardship on the business aspects of the University.

In particular, on Friday September 27th, we hosted a visit on Campus by Minister of Francophone Affairs and Transportation, Mme Caroline Mulroney where we had an engaged discussion on the importance of the francophone and bilingual aspects of Laurentian, the value that Laurentian brings to the North and Ontario in supporting the government's objectives. As part of the visit, the Minister had a round table discussion with our students in our francophone programs who spoke passionately about their programs and the importance of government investment in francophone university programming. I believe that the Minister left us with a much-enhanced appreciation for Laurentian, its students and its contribution to Ontario.

On Wednesday and Thursday Sept 25-26th, through a COU forum, I had the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Mr. Ross Romano, who spoke about the importance of retaining youth in the North amongst other topics. This aligns very well of course with Laurentian's mandate to provide leadership in both the attraction and retention of youth in the North through providing the education they need for rewarding and productive careers. We look forward to hosting Minister Romano on campus in the near future.

Kudos

Senator Murray Sinclair, former Chief and Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada delivered a very thoughtful and inspiring lecture as part of the Glencore Lecture Series on Thursday, October 3, 2019. He was welcomed to campus very warmly by our Indigenous Student Affairs and Advancement teams. Many thanks to advancement for organizing the event and securing the Senator.

Orange Shirt day (Sept 30th) g0194Jq0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 258.29 422

The Provost and Vice President Administration are co-leading a small working team to assemble our first draft. I will be proposing to bring presentation/discussion on our SMA3 draft to Senate in November. The leadership is also committed to transparent collegial consultation with the Laurentian community on the development of the plan. Engagement opportunities will be publicized shortly and I encourage all to participate.

Specific opportunities for positioning Laurentian for maximum success will be better understood once we have received the pre-populated data workbook and have met with the Ministry.

Update on Executive Team Recruitment

The profile for the position of Vice President Research is nearing completion and I expect the final draft will be communicated to the community for final feedback very shortly.

Opportunities to meet with the President

As I discussed in Senate last month, I am committed to providing regular small group and one on one opportunities to meet with community members around topics of interest. I am pleased to announce that the first in what I hope will become a regular series of breakfasts with the President will be held from 8:30-9:30 am on November 1st. Please look for a formal announcement, as attendance will be limited to groups of eight and RSVP will be required to reserve a spot. Please note that in keeping with proper financial stewardship, only a light breakfast will be available, with the focus being on conversation around topics of interest to the participants.

I am also pleased to announce November 4th, from 1-2pm as the first, in what I hope will be, a series of open availability drop in times for members of the community that have items that they would like to speak with me about one on one. Again please look for the formal announcement soon and please RSVP to book a time slot within the hour.
