



President's Report to Senate September 2020

Welcome Back and Looking Forward

enthusiasm abound. Indeed, as of this writing over 1500 students have participated in orientation events for fall 2020! While this is certainly a year like no other before, and the summer has been most unusual and challenging, I still feel the optimism around me for our students, staff and faculty creation, optimism and

addition to the hopefully mostly temporary challenges due COVID-19, with \$5-20M of potential risk for 2020/2021 (as of June 2020), Laurentian must continue to solve an ongoing structural deficit of almost \$7M, which has arisen mainly due to the 10% reduction in domestic tuition rates and loss of unachieved graduate spaces in SMA3.

At its meeting of June 18th, the Laurentian Board approved a preliminary 2020/21 budget with a \$7.4M shortfall that remains to be dealt with during the fiscal year. The preliminary budget projected this to be achieved through \$4.4M in academic savings, \$1.8M in additional non-academic savings and \$1.2M in SMA3 government advocacy. A final budget will be brought to

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The Information Systems team for the swift changes to Colleague to allow student registration and payments;

The Teaching & Learning and Service Desk team to design, order, install and test the 8 remote and hybrid classrooms;

the portals and website; and,

The rest of the IT team (operations, security, network) for keeping the University operating while the rest were busy applying the changes.

Award of Excellence. Dr. Jennifer Walker is a Haudenosaunee member of Six Nations of the Grand River and holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health at Laurentian University. In response to COVID-19, Dr. Walker and her team of graduate students pivoted their focus to respond to research questions from First Nations. Dr. Walker has focused on addressing community health data priorities related to COVID-19. Notably, her research program at Laurentian University has produced COVID-19 epidemiological models to support the Chiefs of Ontario, the Ontario Regional Chiefs and other First Nations leadership to develop their pandemic planning and response. Congratulations on a well-deserved honour.

A special acknowledgement of our Recruitment and Liaison teams led by Justin Lemieux and managers Pieter Breijer, Benoît Clément and Jin Liang for their tireless efforts in

of welcoming new students, Jason-Scott Benoit and Sarah Johnston led 31 Registration Clinics in English and French. 1,559 students have participated to date via Zoom.

Céline É. Desaulniers, Mary Laur and Jason-Scott Benoit are leading a new Peer Support Council, in coordination with the Student Associations and student leaders. The Council aims to peer-led support through the Learning Commons in the Centre for Academic Excellence.

Louise-Phillip Rochon (Dept of Economics) has been invited to speak at The Banff Forum which brings together Canadian leaders and leading thinkers from around the world to engage in conversation and debate on a range of current and critical themes. By promoting discourse, leadership development, and professional networking across regions and

Investigators: Drs. Lynne Gouliquer (Sociology), Daniel Côté (Indigenous Social Work)

The Language Institute, led by Manager, Tammie McLoughin, successfully transitioned to remote delivery of all language partnership programs in China, including the XUST Summer Experience Program (61 students) and JXUST English Language Program (51 students).

The Centre for Academic Excellence's Teaching and Innovation team has demonstrated exceptional leadership this summer, working collaboratively with faculty members to prepare for the upcoming academic year. During July and August alone, the team conducted 8 workshops and 5 department visits, for a total of 412 attendees. The team also met with over 200 faculty members via Zoom, e-mail, or phone.

In collaboration with Instructional Technology, the Centre for Academic Excellence's Teaching and Innovation team created a new webpage. Our Teaching and Innovation team also co-wrote an open textbook, <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/luremote/>, which includes Laurentian specific tips and tricks. Such fantastic teamwork and support for teaching and learning at Laurentian.

Professor Elizabeth C. Turner from the Harquail School of Earth Sciences has received the Howard Street Robinson Medal, presented by the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), which recognizes "a respected and well-spoken geoscientist who will further the contributions to research on precambrian geology. receives this award for outstanding
