

## President's Monthly Report December 2010

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*Warm wishes to all for a happy and relaxing holiday season.*

### **Integrated Planning Update**

A draft of Trent's First Integrated Plan is now available, entitled:

*Toward a Sustainable Future:  
The First Integrated Plan for Trent University (2010-2014)*

(see <http://www.trentu.ca/planning/>). This draft of Trent's First Integrated Plan builds on the many outstanding submissions in the unit-level integrated planning effort last spring, and continues the renewal of Trent's planning processes. *Toward a Sustainable Future: The First Integrated Plan for Trent University (2010-2014)* introduces 30 Priority Actions in the integration of business and academic planning around three Integrated Planning Themes:

- Achieving Financial Stability,
- Enhancing the Trent Experience, and
- Strengthening Community Engagement.

*Toward a Sustainable Future: The First Integrated Plan for Trent University (2010-2014)* is intended to stimulate collegial discussion, and to lead to quality decisions on priorities, strategies and actions that will position Trent to fulfill its overall strategic intent – *to foster our role as a university that offers high-quality, challenging and distinctive academic programming; to continue to develop our national and international research record and reputation; to be financially stable; and to be organizationally and administratively responsive to changes in external and internal climates.* A number of consultative opportunities will be available in the New Year to discuss this draft of Trent's First Integrated Plan and to help bring the document to completion for governance approvals.

### **2011-2012 Budget Update**

Over 100 people attended the 2011-2012 Budget Information Session in December which featured presentations by Trent's Vice-President Administration Don O'Leary, Associate Vice-President Financial Services Garth Brownscombe, and Provost and Vice-President Academic Gary Boire.

The presentation included an extensive overview of the university's financial situation including being briefed about enrolment, pensions, the projected budget gap for the 2011-12 fiscal year, benchmark indicators and corrective actions under consideration. A key factor impacting the projected budget gap was flat enrolment growth for 2010-11 on the heels of very marginal growth for the past five years as compared to sector growth of 12.3% for the same time period. The projected increase in enrolment for 2011-12 is 152 full time equivalent students. Of this amount, an increase of approximately 90 students is targeted for the Oshawa campus. A budget deficit of \$4.2 million was projected for 2011-12 and another \$4.8 million for 2012-13.

The presentation concluded with a request to members of the University community to forward their thoughts and suggestions about the budget to the Provost and Vice-President Academic or the Vice-President Administration for consideration.

## **Major Consultative and Administrative Activities**

### **International Centre of Excellence for Water Quality**

On December 15, the City of Kawartha Lakes, the City of Peterborough, the Counties of Haliburton and Peterborough, Fleming College and Trent University met to continue discussions relating to the creation of an "International Centre of Excellence for Water Quality." A letter of intent has now been drafted which commits the various stakeholders to expanded cooperation in water conservation, innovation and research collaboration. It is envisioned that this collaboration will stimulate economic activity in the region, and will encourage training and research initiatives within the college and university, support entrepreneurship, contribute to innovation and facilitate the health of the region's water quality.

### **Water Street Residence**

The Water Street Residence Project is an important initiative to help Trent University realize growth targets in the Multi-year Enrolment and Retention Plan (April 2010). Successful College residence programming, and the implementation of Trent's communities of learning through the College Annex concept, will be considered for the Water Street Residence Project similar to the *Champlain College Annex on McDonnell Street* launched this past year in downtown Peterborough.

The developer for this proposed student residence, The Residence Development Corporation is now seeking to obtain municipal planning approval for the development with the agreement of Trent University. The Water Street Residence Project is expected to be ready for student occupancy in September 2012.

An Open House on Trent's Water Street Residence Project is planned for January 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Trent University. All are welcome to attend the session to view the site plan and timelines associated with completing this important development.

## **Humanities Research Day**

The annual Humanities Research Day, entitled "New Directions and Outlandish Dialogues" was held on December 15. The aim of this annual event is to showcase the work of Humanities to the university and broader community, and featured a broad range of insightful dialogues. I was fortunate to be able to present greetings on behalf of Trent as part of the program – I mentioned there my continued interest in landscape and place, which as a natural scientist I define and analyze from a 'remote sensing perspective'. The rich concept of a 'landscape continuum' defined differently in the social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities, had been explored earlier from a variety of perspectives in a 4<sup>th</sup> year cultural studies seminar, led by Dr Jonathan Bordo. Such stimulating intellectual dialogues are a wonderful part of the Trent 'landscape'! My greetings at Humanities Research Day were followed by some thoughts from Gary Boire, Trent's new Provost and Vice-President Academic, himself an outstanding humanities scholar with interests in 18th century British literature, Canadian poetry and fiction, postcolonial film, and postcolonial theory. And if these greetings were not 'outlandish' enough,

the main event proceeded with excellent scholarly presentations involving a wide diversity of topics, including 'what can the humanities tell us about science', 'beyond patriotism', and the 'philosophy of history'. Sessions were moderated by Robert Clarke, Moira Howes, Beth Popham and Jennifer Moore – all the presenters, moderators, participants and organizers, led by Zailig Pollock and Leonard Conolly, are to be congratulated on once again ensuring that Humanities Research Day was a resounding success.

## **A Brief Summary of Changes Proposed for UK Universities**

Significant change in the UK university system has been initiated based on an independent review of higher education funding by former BP chief Lord Browne (see <http://hereview.independent.gov.uk/hereview/report/>). By September 2012, tuition fees are scheduled to rise up to approximately £9,000 (\$14,000 in Canadian dollars) per year from the current £3,225 (\$5,000). The British government will introduce funding cuts up to 40% to teaching grants for universities. 'Access agreements' will be negotiated for each university, and the government will have the power to assess significant fines to universities if approved access targets are not met. Overall the number of funded places in UK universities is planned to increase by 10% over the next three years. The government student loan program will include increased thresholds for repayment plans. New providers of postsecondary teaching are encouraged to increase competition and differentiation – and, in anticipation of even more dramatic changes, only certain priority areas will be funded (for example, the STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and Medicine, Nursing and 'strategically important' Language courses). Universities that cannot cope with the new financial and accessibility environments will be encouraged to merge with others.

## **Internal and External Relations (December 1-31, 2010)**

### ***Internal Meetings***

Trent University staff and faculty meetings (4)

Trent University students and student groups (4)

Trent University Board and committees/subcommittee meetings (7)

Trent University senior administrators (16)

### ***External Meetings***

Community leaders and community groups in Peterborough/Oshawa (6)

Other Universities – University of Saskatchewan, University of Calgary (2)

### ***Events***

Social events (4)

The President's Monthly Report is available on the *Office of the President's Website* at [http://www.trentu.ca/administration/presidentsoffice\\_reports.php](http://www.trentu.ca/administration/presidentsoffice_reports.php). Questions or comments are welcome ([sfranklin@trentu.ca](mailto:sfranklin@trentu.ca)).