

President's Monthly Report November 2011

Trent University Academic Plan

Trent University Provost and Vice President Academic Dr. Gary Boire, on behalf of the Academic Plan Advisory Committee, released to the external and internal community the first draft of Radical Recovery: The First Academic Plan for Trent University (2012-2015). The intention is to stimulate debate and discussion, reflection and critique, leading to a second draft in the new year, and, ultimately, approval by Trent's Board of Governors and Senate.

Trent University – Success and Celebration

Trent University Athletics enjoyed a spectacular month in November, hosting the CIS Women's Rugby Championship and then winning the first Trent medal (bronze) in the OCAA Men's Rugby Championship. Over 4500 fans attended games at Justin Chiu Stadium over the two weekends of play. Trent Night with the Peterborough Petes was a huge success – an estimated 300 students, faculty, staff and alumni were in attendance – setting a record for the Petes this season – and TCSA President Sheldon Willerton, Athletics Director Bill Byrick, Chair of Alumni Council Bob Taylor-Vaisey, and our new Vice-President External Relations and Advancement, Julie Davis, handled the ceremonial puck drop. The Trent International Student Association Choir performed the national anthem – and the Petes were victorious!

Intensity in Trent's recruitment activities continued with over 1000 people participating in Trent's two Open House events – November 5 at Symons Campus in Peterborough, and November 19 at Thornton Road in Oshawa. Scholarly activities were similarly intense in November – for example, Nancy Oliverio spoke at Trent University Oshawa, and author Teresa Toten read from her work at Scott House, Trill College. Enweying 2011 was an event to remember – An Event About Extraordinary Ideas. And the 2011 W. L. Morton Lecture "A Wilder West: Rodeo in the Colonial Culture of the Canadian West" was delivered in the Champlain College Council Chambers by Dr. Mary-Ellen Kelm of Simon Fraser University.

Capital Planning for the New Year, and Longer Term

A new capital planning process has been initiated around the three priorities which were originally submitted in June 2010 to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities as part of the government's request to identify Trent's Ten-year Capital Priorities. Their request was for Trent to identify projects to support provincial post-secondary infrastructure and enrolment plans. The three projects, to be more fully described by end of January, will help prepare Trent for possible capital and fundraising opportunities in the New Year:

1. Robert Clarke will lead the development of a concept to encompass new ideas for digital library development, renovations to Bata Library space, and a possible 'ideas' space that combines Student/Learning Commons/Technology/Centre.
2. Stephen Bocking and Doug Evans will develop ideas that will be useful in the construction of a new Environmental Science Building, including the possibilities for a new School of Environment/Enterprise/Society, and possibly components of a Student/Learning Commons/Technology/Centre.

3. Brendan Hickie will explore a diversity of ideas for construction of Trent University Oshawa Thornton Road Campus Phase II including a possible partnership with Durham College Whitby Campus and UOIT – perhaps, again, through an emphasis on a Student/Learning Commons/Technology/Centre. This development concept will also need to consider provincial interest in the development of one of the three announced ‘undergraduate-focused’ satellite campuses in the GTA.

Each of these projects will consider the addition of desirable academic spaces, such as large lecture halls, to help Trent meet current and future student demand. Appropriate steps will be taken to consult with the community and then confirm any proposal that emerges in these three areas. Updates on this capital planning process will occur at Faculty Board, Senate and Board of Governors meetings.

While I believe there are some possible opportunities that may arise in the coming months, I would not want to have expectations increase too quickly - there may very well be few or no capital funding opportunities available, and, in addition, the fundraising priorities of the university are now under review by Julie Davis, Trent's new Vice-President External Relations and Advancement - yet we should be ready with appropriate conceptual plans in any event.

In the longer term, a capital planning process, linked to the Academic Plan, that also considers Trent's deferred maintenance issues, and is part of the integrated planning process, is clearly desirable. Such a process will be included in the development of Trent's Second Integrated Plan during the next integrated planning cycle to begin in 2015.

Endowment Lands Planning

The Endowment Lands Master Plan was completed in 2006 – the first priority in that Plan was the Water Street Residence Project, for which construction began this past month. The initial residence building on Water Street will provide space for up to 110 students in three-, four-, and five-bedroom apartments, each with their own shared living room, laundry and kitchen facilities. Additional buildings will be added in the coming years for a total of 310 beds in Phase I, with Phase II of the Water Street Residence Project to be planned within five years.

A second planning area identified in the Endowment Lands Master Plan encompasses areas on the west side of Water Street, both north and south of Woodland Drive. The Board of Governors Endowment Lands Committee considered expressions of interest about these lands over the fall, with the notion that development of these lands should build momentum (and provide seed money) to be used in the development of the areas at the intersection of Armour Road and Nassau Mills Road. The Capital Plan for the City of Peterborough now includes the relocation of the river bridge on Nassau Mills Road a few hundred metres to the south to facilitate the servicing of these areas. Looped services that join the east and west sides of the river are needed to potentially open up considerable land on the east bank to planning and development, as envisioned in the 2006 Endowment Lands Master Plan, consistent with the earliest planning vision for the university as highlighted in the original Master Plan Press Release (May 14, 1964):

“A village at the edge of the campus will be planned to serve the needs of staff and students primarily. It is expected to contain a theatre, museum, and art gallery, and such things as shops, banks, bookstores, and a restaurant. It should provide a natural attraction for the City of Peterborough and neighbouring communities as well, and in the process become a meeting place of town and gown.”

Life and Health Science Building Opening

Dean Del Mastro, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Member of Parliament for Peterborough, and Jeff Leal, Chief Government Whip and MPP for Peterborough, were at Trent University in Peterborough in November to officially open the Life and Health Sciences Building. The project, completed on time and on budget – thanks to a huge effort by many dedicated people at Trent and in the various trades – earlier received a Government of Canada investment of \$10.8 million through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) and a matching contribution of \$9.9 million from the Ontario government through the 2009 Budget. This new teaching and research facility provides a home for Trent's Biology department and animal care facility, and is physically connected to other academic units, such as Anthropology and the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing. There are an additional 216 new student spaces including 12 fully-serviced research labs plus research utility space and teaching support areas, six fully-serviced 36-seat teaching science labs as well as a new imaging suite and three environmental chambers. It is anticipated that the new building will receive an official Gold LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), in recognition of the sustainable and environmentally friendly design and construction.

Several speakers at the opening ceremony highlighted new possibilities for research and teaching, and mentioned a strong desire to continue developing Trent's facilities and infrastructure to support academic innovation in the medical sciences. Ideas for a Queen's/Trent medical school satellite campus, and a new Bachelor of Health Science, with specializations in aging and human kinetics, and additional research equipment of next-generation DNA sequencing were recommended and will, based on our outstanding staff, students, faculty and new infrastructure, receive serious and full consideration.

Major Consultative and Administrative Activities

Vice-President Administration Appointment: Steven Pillar will join Trent on February 1, 2012 as the new Vice-President Administration. Currently at Brock, Steven brings an outstanding combination of experience and energy to this portfolio, and I am sure all of the Trent University community will join me in warmly welcoming Steven to his new role.

Journal of Canadian Studies Editorship: Progress has been made in the confirmation of former Trent President Leonard Conolly to lead new editorial team for the Journal of Canadian Studies. Leonard Conolly has agreed to serve as editor for a two-year period that is expected to begin soon.

Satellite campuses: Ideas for new satellite campuses have been widely shared in the province since the provincial election and the strong signal from Queen's Park that this is to be considered a viable strategy for additional postsecondary institutions to help manage the increased enrolment planned over the next five years. Trent, in conjunction with our traditional partners in the Durham Region, Durham College and UOIT, have been meeting to consider collaborative models of delivery and infrastructure. The province has not yet communicated the process for decision-making, but it seems clear that the Durham Region, along with a northern and a western GTA site, are logical locations for new facilities – and, equally clearly, that any such planning must consider the needs, capacity and aspirations of the institutions currently serving students in those areas.

Deferred Maintenance: Trent University is in the process of contracting a company to perform a deferred maintenance audit.

Internal and External Relations (November 1 – 30, 2011)

Internal Meetings

Trent University staff and faculty meetings (23)

Trent University students and student groups (15)

Trent University Board members, and committees/subcommittee meetings (13)

Trent University senior administrators (12)

External Meetings

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

Other Organizations (17)

Events (11)

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