

President's Monthly Report September 2011

September Start-Up

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Trent University. This is always an invigorating time of year as students, staff and faculty return to campus with renewed passion and energy. On behalf of the Trent community, I would like to offer a special welcome to our new students. You are joining an exciting and energized university where your engagement is highly valued. Be sure to let us know how we can make your Trent experience a rewarding one – talk to your professors, fellow students, staff, and alumni – and consider dropping in to the *President's Office Hours for Students* (the first of which is scheduled at 1:30PM on October 5, 2011, at the Ceilie).

Major Consultative and Administrative Activities

President/Vice-President Executive Committee Retreat

Trent's senior executive committee is the President/Vice-President (PVP) Executive Committee (see the Draft Terms of Reference for PVP and other senior committees at the following website <http://www.trentu.ca/planning/documents/100915terms.pdf>). PVP held a retreat on September 1, 2011 and discussed strategic issues associated with the coming work in each of the broad administrative portfolios. The agenda focused on the Four Institutional Commitments of the Integrated Plan, with some time devoted to a new 'Dashboard of Indicators' that will be needed to measure progress and institutional success in the coming years. A requirement is a two-fold reporting tool that can summarize:

1. Direction in trends toward achieving specific strategic objectives (such as, "Are we achieving our enrolment goals?", and "Are we increasing financial stability?");
2. An interpretation of the trends leading to a broad understanding of the question: "What is the overall health of the university?"

A consultative process to consider these ideas and other possible approaches will likely follow the development of the Academic Plan this fall.

Ontario Universities' Fair

The annual Ontario Universities' Fair will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on October 14-16, 2011. This is the single-most important recruitment event of the year, and I would like to extend a special note of thanks to the many staff, student and faculty volunteers who, each year, continue to build on past successes and introduce innovative approaches to this key recruitment activity. Participation is welcome! Last year's event saw a record number of students, parents and educators attend, and Trent's display booth alone received at least 100,000 visitors over three days.

Sacred Heart – Catholic College in Peterborough

Trent continues to build a relationship with the new Sacred Heart College in Peterborough. Over the summer I asked Dr. Robin Lathangue, through the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences (Humanities, Social Sciences), to work on appropriate course development and curriculum – he is now under contract with Sacred Heart, as their Institutional Liaison Officer, while continuing to serve Trent University as Head of Otonabee College. The MOU approved last spring by Senate and the Board of Governors has

guided the development and approval of two courses that have been approved by the Deans as eligible for unassigned credit towards a Trent degree. One university-level course at Sacred Heart on ethics and leadership was launched earlier this month. A scholarship program is in place that is funded by Sacred Heart and administered by Trent. Soon the new College will learn the outcome of their application for Associate Member status with the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada. Over the course of the next few months it may be possible for Trent to consider the development of a formal articulation agreement.

Senior Administrative Searches

A number of senior search processes were recently concluded or launched at Trent University, including:

- *Vice-President External Relations and Advancement:* This search concluded earlier this month with the announcement that Ms. Julie Davis, currently President and CEO of Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation, will join Trent University in October. This is an outstanding appointment that will enable the institution to move quickly on effective fund-raising, and communications, marketing, alumni and external relations that focus on telling Trent's multiple stories of success and community impacts, and building the brand and positioning.
- *Associate Vice-President Student Affairs:* Development of the position profile has been completed and the search process began in August. The position has been advertized with a closing date of November 11, 2011.
- *Associate Vice-President Information Technology Services:* Development of the position profile, advertizing and the actual search process began in August, and the search is expected to conclude with an appointment later this fall.
- *Associate Vice-President Physical Resources Division:* This search process started in July and is expected to conclude in the next few weeks.
- *Vice-President Administration:* The initial search process format, committee composition, position profile and mandate were shared with the Board of Governors, Senate and Faculty Board in June and are available on the web (<http://www.trentu.ca/vpadminsearch/>). This search is expected to conclude this fall.

Other senior searches that are expected to begin later this year led by the Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Gary Boire, include the search for a permanent Associate Dean and Principal for the Trent University Oshawa Thornton Road Campus, and two decanal searches.

Two New Research Centres at Trent University

The following research centres are now recognized pursuant to the recently-approved Trent University Policy on Research Organizations:

- The Trent Centre for Biomaterials Research has been created to support the research activities of Dr. Suresh Narine and his team on the utilization of vegetable oils for the synthesis of functional polymers (for use as intelligent coatings, biomedical delivery systems and other specialized polymers), lubricants, greases and waxes, nano-matrices for the delivery of bioactive compounds and fertilizers, and crystallized networks of lipids for use as healthy food materials (<http://www.trentu.ca/biomaterials/overview.php>). A Presidential initiative to support the development of partnerships in Guyana (with the University of Guyana, for example) is also now underway with the support of this Centre and all members of PVP.

- The Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre (NRDPFC) at Trent is a strong team of researchers, led by the Chair of the Biology Department, Dr. Brad White. This Centre will continue efforts to leverage long standing partnerships with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and optimize the benefits to the Trent research community. Projects are underway in marine mammals, wildlife and forestry DNA profiling and forensics, and landscape genetics (<http://web.nrdpfc.ca/index.htm>).

Trent University 50th Anniversary Steering Committee Activities

The Trent University 50th Anniversary Steering Committee is the senior administrative executive body responsible for the successful planning, implementation, and celebration of the 50th anniversary events at Trent in the period September 2014 to August 2015. The Committee met in September to establish objectives and a proposed theme for the 50th Anniversary:

1. To celebrate Trent University's 50th Anniversary
2. To recognize all those associated with Trent's past success and a sustainable future
3. To create fundraising opportunities for Trent's priorities
4. The Theme of the 50th Anniversary of Trent University will be focussed on the quality of the student experience at Trent. This Theme will be supported by events and project activities that refer to the past and future experience of Trent students, by highlighting interdisciplinary and experiential learning at Trent, the Trent College life and experience, and student initiatives that embrace the unique and powerful individual Trent student experience.

The Committee also discussed plans to develop a dedicated website, acquire new membership and schedule regular meetings starting this fall. This Committee is responsible for coordination of all planning and implementation actions to be managed by various groups and committees, such as the affinity reunions and signature and milestone events. The Steering Committee is also responsible for the relationships to administrative bodies, such as Alumni Council, and Trent's governing bodies, the Senate and the Board of Governors.

Current Membership:

- Steven E. Franklin, President and Vice Chancellor (Chair)
- Thomas H. B. Symons, Founding President and Vanier Professor Emeritus (Honorary Chair)
- Harvey McCue, Chair, Advancement Committee of the Board
- Lon Knox, University Secretary and General Counsel
- Don Cumming, Acting Vice-President External Relations and Advancement
- Lee Hays, Director of Alumni Affairs
- Adam Guzkowski, President of Trent University Alumni Association
- Robert Lightbody, Official Representative of the Alumni 50th Committee

- Representatives to be named as appropriate: Board, Students, Alumni, Staff, Faculty
- Administrative Assistant to the President (administrative support)

Internal and External Relations (September 1 - 30, 2011)

Internal Meetings

Trent University staff and faculty meetings (10)

Trent University students and student groups (5)

Trent University Board members, and committees/subcommittee meetings (10)

Trent University senior administrators (11)

External Meetings

Community leaders and community groups in Peterborough/Oshawa (12)

Other Organizations (21)

Events (5)

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).