

## **President's Monthly Report June/July/August 2011**

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### **Toward a Sustainable Future: The First Integrated Plan for Trent University**

The third and final draft of *Toward a Sustainable Future: The First Integrated Plan for Trent University (2010-2015)* was approved on May 10, 2011 by Trent University's Senate and on June 24, 2011 by Trent's Board of Governors. I am very proud of the university in achieving this milestone, and grateful to all who have helped articulate and complete the Integrated Plan, which identifies four Institutional Priorities for this coming year:

- Commitment to Academic Excellence (supported by an Academic Plan)
- Commitment to Strategic Enrolment Management
- Commitment to Achieving Financial Stability (supported by a Multiyear Budget Framework)
- Commitment to Strengthening Community Engagement

Subsequently, Key Actions are recommended for consideration in annual phases, with regular reporting on measures of success, and a commitment to transparency. As this new phase begins, an allocation of \$250,000 has been budgeted annually to seed initiatives managed by the Provost's Planning Group. I am looking forward to the implementation of this Plan, to do all that is possible to implement the Priorities and Key Actions identified. I believe this Plan will help Trent achieve a long-desired goal of a secure and sustainable future building on strong traditions and changes to reflect new challenges and opportunities.

### **Trent University's New Water Street Residence – Site Plan Approval**

On Tuesday, August 2, 2011 the Council for the City of Peterborough approved the site plan for the development of a new student residence on Water Street. The project was previously endorsed by the Planning Committee of Council on Monday, July 18, 2011.

With this municipal approval, Trent University has concluded an important step in its on-going mission to serve students and the community. The vision for the Water Street Residence Project is of a vital, high quality, townhouse- and apartment-style student residence important in attracting students, and a format that many of Trent's competitors already offer. This development, to be built by the Residence Development Corporation, will help Trent improve its place and profile in the market, and attract more students to Peterborough. Such growth requires suitable housing options which are responsive to students' needs, to their desire for modern student accommodation in close proximity to campus, and to new services and programming options provided by the University. The approved site plan adheres to environmental standards consistent with Trent's planning processes and values. Retail space is not included in this phase of the development in recognition of the need to continue the strong tradition of Trent students supporting the downtown. There is potential to introduce certain aspects of residence- and College-based programming to the Water Street Residence Project, similar to the successful programming options provided at the McDonnell Street-Champlain Annex. Any decision to provide such programming will, of course, be informed by the preferences and support of students residing in the Water Street Residence and student leadership on campus.

## Celebrations at Trent University

A busy summer schedule celebrating with Trent students, staff, alumni and faculty featured Trent's signature outdoor-Convocation (Trent's 44th Convocation in June saw Chancellor Tom Jackson award 1,699 members of the 2011 graduating class their degrees and diplomas in five ceremonies). Several other events and activities in Oshawa and Peterborough included:

- Oshawa Graduate Dinner
- Oshawa Conversion Event at the Oshawa Museum on Lake Ontario at Lakeview Park (June)
- Ed Lupton Memorial Golf Tournament BBQ Lunch, Oshawa Golf and Curling Club (June)
- Run to Live – Trent student Scott Cannata's marathon-a-day Peterborough event at Justin Chiu Stadium (August).

I also had the privilege in early July of visiting with Chancellor Tom Jackson in Calgary, and showing the Trent flag at several events with colleagues and Trent alumni at the University of Calgary. And finally, on June 16-17, 2011, at Massey College in Toronto, I was pleased to represent Trent at a Symposium and Dinner in honour of T. H. B. Symons, Trent's Founding President and Vanier Professor Emeritus. The occasion was the publication of the outstanding book entitled "*Tom Symons: A Canadian Life*" published by the University of Ottawa Press under the editorial leadership of Ralph Heintzman. The book features a collection of narratives about Tom Symons' professional life, many stories of which are linked to one of the defining achievements of his life's work, the creation and advancement of Trent University. Highlights of the evening included remarks by former Prime Minister Paul Martin, former Finance Minister Michael Wilson, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, and Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett, that emphasized the many ways in which Professor Symons' outstanding contributions to Canada and Canadians have made a difference in their lives and the life of the country.

## Major Consultative and Administrative Activities

### *Recent Appointments*

- Lee Hays is the new Director of Alumni Affairs
- Dr. Brendan Hickie is the new acting Principal and Associate Dean of Trent University Oshawa Thornton Road Campus
- College Heads:
  - Dr. Michael Allcott, [Champlain College](#)
  - Dr. Doug Evans, [Traill College](#)
  - Dr. Robin Lathangue, [Otonabee College](#)
  - Dr. Melanie Buddle, [Gzowski College](#)
  - Dr. Carolyn Kay, [Lady Eaton College](#)

### *Searches for Two New Vice-Presidents*

Two advisory committees have been working over the summer to provide guidance on the search for a new Vice-President External Relations and Advancement, and a new Vice-President Administration. Each committee has a unique mandate established independently based on widely-circulated Position Profiles and Position Mandates, which are also posted at the following search websites:

<http://www.trentu.ca/vperasearch/>

<http://www.trentu.ca/vpadminsearch/>

The committees are advisory to the President, and both searches are expected to conclude in early fall with the President's recommendations for Vice-Presidential appointments to be considered by the Board of Governors Executive Committee.

### *Office Moves*

Over the past few months and extending into the fall, several Student Services units at Trent will complete the moves to restructure into a Student Wellness Centre in Blackburn Hall. The Student Wellness Centre will encompass the student support units of Counselling, Health and Disability Services under one administrative umbrella. Further office changes in Blackburn Hall are a result of the Provost's new administrative structure that brings together the staff in the Offices of the Registrar and staff in Institutional Planning & Analysis under the umbrella portfolio of Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM). At the same time, Graduate Studies has been relocated to the Science Complex (SC 201). Marketing and Communications have completed their move from Blackburn Hall to the Bata Library, in the area adjacent to the President's Office formerly occupied by the Disability Service Office (who are now located in Blackburn Hall space).

Another important move is the establishment of the Centre for Academic Testing (CAT) in Otonabee College (OC 211) to facilitate alternate tests and exams for students. New classroom space is now or will soon be constructed in OC with renovations in ESB to accommodate the School of Education and Professional Learning. On the second-level of the Science Complex, two new 60 seat classrooms and one new 30 seat classroom have been constructed. And finally, an existing classroom (DNA B110) has been divided into two classrooms providing much needed additional teaching space in the building. Several portables have now been removed.

In addition to all of these changes over the summer, Physical Resources has successfully coordinated the move of Biology into the Life and Health Sciences Building (Module D), new Bata Library parking lot surfacing, roof replacement at Lady Eaton College and bathroom renovations in Champlain College, and new electrical installations in Oshawa. One of the university's most important long-term capital projects, the refurbishing of the Stanley Adamson Powerhouse, was started with new dam automation installation.

### **AUCC and COU Activities**

Activities led by AUCC have focussed on advocacy and communications around the federal budget, the aftermath of the federal election and the preparations for a provincial one, and major issues of interest to universities including engagement with India and Brazil, the Aboriginal agenda, academic freedom and university research. The Science, Technology and Innovation Council (STIC) released a State of the Nation report benchmarking Canada's performance in terms of international standards of excellence, research intensity, commercialization, and workforce skills for graduates in these new and turbulent economic times. Such issues and others will be the focus on the October AUCC membership and Board meeting in Montreal. Other AUCC activities this coming year at which Trent University will likely be represented include a Workshop on Mental Health Issues, a Professional Program for Presidents, a joint AUCC-FBS Workshop on University Collective Bargaining, and an AUCC-led Presidents' Mission to Brazil.

COU continues strong advocacy and communications in support of universities in Ontario. Most recent work involved an analysis of the newly released "*Building Together: Ontario's 10-year Infrastructure*

*Plan*” which is designed to guide investment over the next decade in Ontario universities, transportation and health care projects. Approximately \$35 billion will be invested by the Province in the next 3 years (compared to the \$62 billion invested since 2003). Several priorities apply to university infrastructure investments in the next few years. For example investments must respond to enrolment demand (as articulated in the *Putting Students First Plan*, with funding over the next five years for 60000 new students). The Province also intends to introduce a new satellite campus policy to help manage growth, and develop an associated major capital projects policy. The infrastructure plan emphasizes an asset management planning approach that includes repurposing and facilities renewal. There are also commitments to continuing investments in research infrastructure.

Trent’s long-term capital needs have been articulated in numerous earlier submissions to the Province, with our top priorities consistently identified as the Library, Environmental Sciences, and new academic space (including classrooms, laboratories, and a student commons).

## **Internal and External Relations (June 1 – August 31, 2011)**

### ***Internal Meetings***

Trent University staff and faculty meetings (29)

Trent University students and student groups (11)

Trent University Board members, and committees/subcommittee meetings (15)

Trent University senior administrators (18)

### ***External Meetings***

Community leaders and community groups in Peterborough/Oshawa (4)

Other Organizations (50)

***Events*** (14)

### **Special Note:**

One of the most important sources of satisfaction for any professor, and indeed the entire university community, is the success of students. Two shining examples of such success were announced over the summer:

Trent University Indigenous Studies PhD student Brigitte Evering will receive a \$150,000 scholarship over three years, as a recipient of Canada’s most prestigious scholarships for doctoral students - the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

Trent University Indigenous Studies PhD candidate Christine Sy has been awarded a \$5,000 Harshman Fellowship for her research examining Anishinaabe women and the sugar bush economy in the Great Lakes region during the 18th and 19th centuries.

While serving as an academic administrator at Trent, and previously at the University of Calgary and the University of Saskatchewan, I have been privileged to collaborate with two students who have recently been recognized for their remote sensing thesis studies. Julia Linke was awarded the Best Doctoral Thesis Award from the Canadian Remote Sensing Society for her work entitled “Development and Application of a Framework for Flexible and Reliable Landscape Monitoring: Changes in the Alberta Foothills and the Impact on Grizzly Bear Habitat”. And Dennis Duro, a visiting PhD student at Trent

University completing his doctoral thesis, was awarded the Best Student Poster Presentation at the 33rd Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing in Sherbrooke, Quebec, for his remote sensing research work in agricultural landscapes.

Personally, and on behalf of Trent University, I extend congratulations to Brigitte, Christine, Julia and Dennis, as well as *all* Trent University Graduate Students, for these and other significant accomplishments.

**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)).**