

## President's Report to the Board

### 1. Financial Stewardship

- The administrative collective bargaining team and myself have been meeting weekly to identify the issues in the Collective Agreement that need to be addressed in the upcoming round of bargaining and develop suggested language that will be presented during bargaining. Bargaining on the PT agreement will begin in February, and bargaining on the FT agreement will commence very shortly thereafter.
- A number of potential pathway agreements with Ontario colleges are being evaluated, with reviews of college programs to determine transferability underway. Potential new pathway agreements are with a variety of colleges, including Lambton, Fleming, Fanshawe, Georgian, Confederation, and SCAAT.
- The process of developing the 2016/2017 draft operating budget is well underway. Without a significant turnaround in our student numbers, it will be a challenging year to balance revenue and expenses.

### 2. Institutional Leadership

- An external facilitator (Dr. Erik Lockhart from Queen's University's Executive Decision Centre) has been identified to help us with our strategic planning process. The first meeting of Dr. Lockhart with the Facilitation Team took place on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Continued work and discussion with respect to institutional organization has taken place. This includes a presentation of a potential model for academic structure to the Senate for information, as well as an open town hall discussion for all faculty members.

### 3. Enrollment Management

- Application numbers for the 2016/2017 academic year are down when compared to this point in time last year. The decline is 14%, which is mirrored by both Nipissing (also 14% decline) and Laurentian (8% decline) numbers.
- Applications for graduation are running at comparable numbers to last year, which was a record number of graduates for Algoma University.
- Two groups of international students will be coming to campus for short-term ESL programs. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting 17 students from Kyoto Sangyo University and on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 20 students from Nanzan University will arrive for their 3-week program.



- We have filled our domestic recruitment coordinator position. Richard Belton, who was doing recruitment for us in Southern Ontario out of the Brampton campus, has been hired to replace Paul Quesnele, who has moved into the Financial Aid office.
- Domestic recruitment season is in full swing. Our recruiters will be present at all college fairs across Ontario. We have also established a weekly presence on the Sault College campus.
- A number of changes to our international student recruitment program have been made. Joanne Elvy is no longer employed at Algoma University and her international recruitment responsibilities are being shared by several staff members. We have designed new agent agreements, and will review the work of our agents more frequently. Through this process of reviewing and renewing our agent agreements, we signed two new agreements with agents in Taiwan and Sri Lanka. Both paid immediate dividends with students from both countries arriving on campus in January.
- We have revised our scholarship criteria in an attempt to make the scholarship program more effective for the recruitment/retention of students.
- An online Student Help Centre is now active. Students can request both academic and non-academic support through their Algoma U dashboard on My Algoma U. A student making an online request has that request directed to the appropriate staff member in Student Services and that staff member will respond to the request in a timely fashion.
- We have partnered with OCEA (On Campus Entrepreneurship Activities) program of the Ontario Centres of Excellence to offer YouLaunch, an entrepreneurial program aimed at youth on our campus. YouLaunch advisors will be active in the Coop 101 class and in meeting with student groups throughout the term. The program offers students advice and support in launching their own businesses.
- A number of activities specific to Timmins have been planned in an effort to increase enrolment in our Algoma@Timmons programs. These include social work awareness week activities and fair, Eastlink interviews with program staff, a NORDIK driven "Timmins Change-Makers Ignite!" social entrepreneurship pop-up series, and sponsorship of the Northern College Pow-Wow.

#### 4. Organizational Conditions

- Dr. Donna Woolcott, Executive Director of the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance, presented a session in the professional development series for Faculty.
- A number of speakers and events to promote intellectual stimulation and engagement have occurred on campus. An example of this was the presentation by the former Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, to our

students and faculty. This event was organized by the faculty members in our Political Science program.

- Several human rights and harassment complaints were investigated in appropriate and respectful ways (some informal, others formal) with findings communicated and appropriate actions taken
- Mid-term performance reviews for administrative staff were completed.
- RFP for a new marketing firm has been drafted. We will be looking for a firm that can help guide the development and implementation of digital strategy in our marketing efforts.
- A SSM Chamber of Commerce Take 5 event was hosted on campus, with more than 140 community members attending. We partnered with TD Bank on the event and as a result of the sponsorship, 2-\$1,000 bursaries were donated by TD Bank to the University.
- The Tim Horton's "White Box" renovations are complete. Morningstar is now working to install the millwork, equipment, and finishes. The on-campus Tim Horton's should be open for business by mid-February.
- The tender package for the interior repairs and lighting upgrade to the library is nearing completion and should be ready to be issued in early February.
- HR continues to present "Lunch 'n Learn" sessions to administrators on a variety of relevant and important topics. The latest covered the payroll process, compensation, job evaluation, and attendance management.

#### 5. Special Mission with Anishinaabe Students and Partners

- Anishinaabe Studies program proposal has been approved at Senate, and is now being submitted to the Ministry.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bi-annual Anishinaabe Inendamowin (thought) Research Symposium was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, Jonathan Dewar, has been working in close collaboration with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association to help them develop their strategic planning and Board governance.
- We are facilitating the public screening and discussion of the film "After the Last River" featuring the film maker, Victoria Learn, in Timmons. The film exposes the duality of Attawapiskat, which is a profitable, resource-rich territory to some, but a vulnerable, endangered home to others.
- Algoma University, through the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division, is participating in the Provincial Aboriginal Postsecondary Education Campaign, which was initiated by the Council of Ontario Universities to take place from February 1-5 of this year. A celebration of the campaign launch was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Shingwauk Auditorium. As a contribution to this campaign, a short video of Chancellor Shirley Horn and two Anishinaabe students discussing their experiences in post-secondary education was produced and sent to the COU.

- I have formed an Aboriginal Circle, consisting of all indigenous staff and faculty at Algoma University for advising on Anishinaabe issues and programs. We have held one very productive meeting and the second meeting will take place in early February.

## 6. Upcoming Events

- College-University Articulation and Transfer Mini-Conference for Northern universities and colleges, February 18<sup>th</sup> (co-sponsored by Sault College and Algoma University and funded by ONCAT)
- OAU Wrestling Championships at the GLC, February 12/13
- Second annual Chili Cook-Off, February 5<sup>th</sup>
- Home basketball games versus the University of Waterloo, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the GLC
- On-campus visit from Mr. David Carter-Whitney, ADM for the MTCU, February 19<sup>th</sup>