

President's Report to the Board



April 29, 2015

From the President

The close of any academic year brings examinations and marking, but it is also a time to celebrate academic achievement. In the weeks since our last Board meeting, senior students have been showcasing their work in a variety of forums. Honours students in History, Sociology, Biology and Psychology all give formal presentations at special symposia that are open to the public. It's a nice opportunity to share the fruits of their work, and to be put to the test as they field questions about it from the audience. Participation rates in all of these symposia have been up this year. Other programs provide different venues for their senior students to shine. Music students do end-of-year recitals. Fine Arts students have a special exhibition of their work. And the senior students in Business participate in Case Competition that includes students from other institutions in Northern Ontario.

Faculty also have an opportunity to shine at this time of year. It has just been announced that Dr. Pedro Antunes has been awarded a prestigious *Canada Research Chair* that will provide funding for him to continue his highly productive work on invasive plant species. We have also learned that all three Biologists who applied for grants from the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) were successful this year. NSERC grants are increasingly difficult to come by. It is impressive to see that all three of our applicants were awarded grants this year. As one of the other Biologists is already on a continuing NSERC grant, we have a department in which 80% of the faculty hold NSERC grants. That's a ratio that would compare very well with any university in Canada.

The main item of business for this Board meeting is the 2015-2016 budget proposal. It has been my practice to have a *President's Budget Advisory Panel* (PBAP) with representation from Students, Staff, Faculty and Administration, do most of the hard work on the formation of the budget proposal. Operating within a specific mandate from the President, they have to review spending patterns and spending requests, assess enrolment and revenue projects, establish budgetary priorities, and formulate a proposal for a budget that is both balanced and credible. This year's PBAP has had a more challenging task than those in previous years, so I would like to extend my thanks and publicly recognize them for their good work. They are:

Adam Rueckwald (Student, second year on PBAP)
Paul Dupuis (Faculty, first year on PBAP)
Ed Turgeon (Faculty, second year on PBAP)
Sarah Crowell (Staff, first year on PBAP)
Brent Krmpotich (Administration, first year on PBAP)
Richard McCutcheon (Dean)
Sean Dwyer (VP-Finance and Chair of PBAP)

The PBAP is very capably supported by Maria Murtha, the Financial Services Manager.

Dr. Richard Myers
President

Vice President Finance and Administration

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015 Sean Dwyer, Vice President Finance and Administration

1. 2015-2016 Budget

The final draft of the 2015-16 budget will be presented to the Board of Governors at the April 29th meeting. Despite the challenges presented by a decline in enrollment, among other issues, the PBAP worked hard to achieve its mandate to present a balanced budget recommendation to the President which is the basis of the final draft taken through the governance for approval.

Recognizing that additional valuable input to the budgeting process may be available, this year the PBAP engaged the broader Algoma University community in the budget planning process by conducting an anonymous budgeting survey. The survey was intended to allow for the sharing of ideas on cost saving opportunities as well as ideas on ways to generate additional revenue. There were 262 responses and the PBAP has completed reviewing the survey results. There were several common themes and some interesting ideas and ultimately the PBAP found it to be a worthwhile exercise.

The PBAP was also provided the two Strategy Committee reports provided to the Board of Governors in Open session in September and November of 2014 respectively such that University objectives could be reinforced as guiding principles.

2. Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Collective Bargaining has commenced between the University and the Full Time and Part Time Faculty Associations. The University has three collective agreements: the Full-Time Faculty CA, the Part-Time Faculty CA and the Support Staff CA. All three expire on June 30th, 2015.

3. Pension Plan Actuarial Review

An actuarial valuation is required for the Pension every three years. A valuation as at July 1, 2014 was completed in March 2015. The actuarial valuation outlines the financial situation since the previous valuation at July 1, 2011, and provides the information and the actuarial opinion required by the Pension Benefits Act (Ontario) and provides the information required to maintain plan registration under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

4. Grievance Committee

The Joint Consultative Committee has been meeting regularly to address complaint issues pertinent to faculty. A Grievance Committee has been stuck, as is mandated by the grievance process outline in the CA, to review and respond to faculty grievances. The Committee has met and responded to three grievances and is currently working through a fourth.

Academic Dean

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Dr. Richard McCutcheon

1. Five Year Academic Plan

On May 1 the Academic Planning and Priority Committee will present a motion to the Senate to create a new grouping of departments into three faculties: a Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; a Faculty of Sciences; and a Faculty of Professional Schools. This reorganization opens the doors to moving forward with a concrete five year plan that moves each program area through a review and towards a clear set of goals that includes enrolment projections, benchmarks for success, and rejuvenated degree programs.

2. Budget Development

I have worked with Department chairs to develop a new formula to create departmental budget lines. In addition, we intend to reduce our course offerings in the general roster by 30, and the foundation courses by 10 as a contribution to achieving a balanced budget.

3. The Social Work Program

In late May the hiring committee for the Social Work Director will be conducting interviews with two strong candidates. Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon has acted as an Interim Director since January 1, 2015. In the coming week candidates for the tenure-track position in Social Work will be interviewed. Also of note, the PEQAB site visit will take place on April 30th.

4. Professional Development Days

The second in a series of professional development workshops will take place on 15 May (Difficult Conversations). This workshop, as with the first one, will be run for the staff in the morning and faculty in the afternoon. We have contracted with Facilitated Solutions based in Winnipeg to conduct these workshops.

The next social event on our schedule is an “End of Term” party for all full-time and part-time faculty at the Speakeasy (May 1 following Senate).

Office of the Registrar

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

David Marasco, University Registrar

1. Enrolment

Current FTE enrolment numbers for the spring/summer 2015 terms have increased 17.3% as compared to the same date 2014 spring/summer terms. Registration for this session continues until May 12 – a more detailed assessment of enrolment numbers will be available after the registration period has ended.

2. Office of the Registrar/Reports

Spring Convocation 2015 is scheduled for June 13, 2015 – with approx. 280 graduation applications, the university will be awarding degrees to the largest class in the history of the institution. As well, during the ceremony, the new Chancellor will be installed.

The Office of the Registrar and IT are working together towards a DOCUSHARE enterprise management system to allow for e-files for students in an effort to reduce the amount of hardcopy documents. The system will allow for effective/efficient management of documents enabling the office to configure, and automate filing processes.

The AU Senate approved an Early Access Program entering into cooperative linkage agreements with the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) and the Algoma District School Board (ADSB). The program will allow eligible students, while they are still in secondary school, to complete university courses that will count towards a post-secondary degree or certificate at Algoma University. The program has a number of benefits including: increasing awareness of the various degree options that may be available to those students, affording students to gain a greater insight into education and career planning decisions, and enhancing recruitment efforts.

3. College Transfers

Algoma University continues to work with the colleges to enhance/promote college pathways. At the last meeting of the AU Senate, exceptional agreements were approved with Sheridan College and Centennial College. Also, we are working with Fanshawe College and Lambton College with pathways from their Computer Programmer Analysis program towards AU's Bachelor of Computer Science degree program. Additional curriculum assessment/evaluation is being conducted with Police Foundation, MUSC, and Fine Arts programs in an effort to secure multi-lateral agreements with the colleges in the province.

A diploma-to-degree agreement with Northern College has been finalized to compliment a joint admissions initiative with Northern College. It is hoped that the leadership at NC will be amenable to the D-2-D agreements as they have already approved of the Joint Admissions Agreement in principle.

ONCAT recently approved the release of funding (11K) for a low affinity project which was finalized identifying college programs and their pathways to degree studies.

4. ESL@algoma

Algoma University will be hosting short term study groups this spring/summer from Uniminuto University (Colombia), Shimonoseki City University (Japan) and Dong-A University (Korea). The groups will be here for

three/four weeks studying English as a second language as well as participating in various community and cultural events. As part of the program, students will be required to volunteer as part of community service.

For 2016, we have received encouraging assessments from two Japanese universities regarding our short-term study program. Both Kansai University and Nanzan University are hoping to send their students to Algoma, however, a final decision will be made later this year.

Marketing and Communications

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015 Brent Krmopotich, Director Marketing and Communications

I took over management of the Marketing and Communications Department on March 16th 2015. This report is an update on the initiatives undertaken since that date.

1. Website Improvements

Huge efforts are being made to analyze what is happening on our website, why it is happening and effect change. A group consisting of the Director, an IT staff member, and our Web Specialist have been reviewing the Google Analytics for algomau.ca. The results have been interesting. The pages we would like to be popular aren't popular, bounce rates are high, particularly from mobile devices, paid advertising is not driving much traffic to the site and the amount of time people are spending on our site once they arrive is low. We are working to change this. By April 15th a set of Google Analytics metrics that we feel are important to track will be identified and a strategy will be put in place to improve those metrics.

The events calendar is now functional and should be on the homepage by April 15th.

A call to action button is being added to the homepage to encourage more web inquiries. This should also be functional by April 15th.

2. View book Development

The view book is being developed in house this year. The decision was made to make tweaks to the view book this year in anticipation of a potential overhaul next year. A first meeting was held to determine the photography and content that needed to be updated. The focus will be on making major improvements to 3 sections this year: academic programs, Sault Ste. Marie as a place to live, and the campus tour program. The next step is scheduling photo shoots to capture images we don't currently have and writing copy.

3. Video Production

Developing video content for the website and to share on social media is now a priority for this department. Algoma hired a local video production firm Village Media to shoot footage at the Business Case Competition. A rough draft of two videos has been produced, one highlighting the Business program and the other promoting the case competition itself. These should be complete and online shortly. We have also gathered a lot of raw footage at a variety of events on campus. Staff will receive training on video shooting and editing over the Spring/Summer so that we can take advantage of these opportunities.

4. Team Meetings

The format of team meetings has been adjusted. Every second week the Marketing and Communications Team meets with the Recruitment Team. The aim is to have the units behave more as one enrolment focused unit. Small working groups made up of staff from both departments have been established to tackle projects like social media and email marketing. The meetings begin with a review of enrolment figures and related key metrics so that everyone has a sense of the big picture and the goals that we are working towards. Staff response to this format has been positive so far.

Human Resources

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015 Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

1. Recruitment

Student Accounts Officer (permanent) – filled externally
Full-Time Groundskeeper (temporary) – filled internally

Since the University is a public entity, we strive to ensure that the hiring and selection process is fair and defensible. To assist in the hiring decisions, each candidate that has been short-listed for an interview may also be required to participate in a testing component or a presentation relevant to the position.

2. Human Rights and Equity Office

One informal complaint was brought forward by a student alleging a violation under the Human Rights Policy and Procedures. This matter was investigated and there was found to be no violation under this policy.

3. Labour Relations

One Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Meeting was held with the Staff Association during this period to address concerns brought forward by the University and the Union. JCC Faculty meetings have been scheduled on a bi-weekly basis to address all outstanding complaints and/or grievances filed by the Faculty Association. No new complaints or grievances were filed during this period.

Another meeting was held with the PT Hiring Policy Committee in order to develop a PT Hiring Policy and Procedure document. This is near completion and the next step in the process is to meet with the Chairs of each Division and the Academic Dean to present the document for approval.

A summary of the Harassment Survey results were released to all Faculty, Staff and Administration. The documentation also included a summary of the relevant information and trends identified with action items.

4. Health and Safety

Representatives from Administration and Faculty attended the two-day Partners in Prevention Health and Safety Conference held in Sault Ste. Marie. The Workplace Violence and Harassment Risk Assessments for all functional areas are currently in progress with most key areas completed. Algoma University had representation at the “Building Mentally Healthy Workplaces: Workshop Series” as facilitated by the Conference Board of Canada. The workshop’s primary focus was to provide information on implementation of the national standard for psychological health and safety in the workplace – one step at a time.

5. Training and Development

Administration was invited to attend a half-day session that was facilitated by David Falk of Facilitated Solutions providing information on dealing with conflict (difficult conversations), performance and change strategies. The training was able to provide those attending with a set of tools enabling them to bring out the best in the people they lead and interact with. A follow up session will be held in mid-May.

5. Service Excellence

A number of nominations were received for the Service Excellence Champions Award that was open to any employee of the university, including student assistants. Nominees for this award will demonstrate extraordinary commitment by continuously providing excellent customer service and have made a significant impact on students, staff, departments or the University. The Service Excellence Committee will be meeting to review all nominations received and the recipient(s) will be announced at a reception in late Spring 2015. There were also a number of kudos awards given out during this period to Staff and Faculty that were recognized for going over and above in the service they have provided at Algoma.

6. Respectful Workplace Policy (Code of Conduct)

A committee consisting of representatives from Faculty, Staff, Admin and student representatives have been meeting regularly in order to develop a Code of Conduct (Respectful Workplace Policy). The mandate is to develop a Respectful Workplace/Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure that establishes the standards of acceptable behavior at Algoma University. Upon completion of the policy and procedures, communication and training will be provided to all employee groups.

Anishinaabe Student Success, Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Judy Syrette, Director

1. **Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow**

The 10th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow co-hosted by Shingwauk Anishinaabe Student Association and Anishinaabe Initiatives Division was held on March 7 & 8, 2015 at White Pines High School. Many Anishinaabe students from White Pines volunteered to help out at the event and proudly wore their lime coloured t-shirts throughout identifying them as student volunteers.

The Jingle Dress dancers who completed their regalia from January to the end of February had a special dance to come out as first time jingle dress dancers. There were approximately 138 registered dancers as well as many other dancers not competing in the dance competitions. In addition to the host drum - Whitefish Bay from northwestern Ontario and co-host drum from Batchewana First Nation there were 11 additional drums from across Ontario and Michigan. Some of the competition dancers come from as far away as New York State each year. This event increases in attendance each year and is one of the biggest Pow Wows in northern Ontario.

2. **“Exploring Aboriginal Land Management, Planning, and Use” Symposium**

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and the Department of Geography & Geology at Algoma University are hosting a symposium on ‘*Exploring Aboriginal Land Management, Planning and Use*’ from diverse perspectives. The purpose of this symposium is to begin exploring through research and best practices, the inclusion of cultural and traditional practices of land management, planning and use for Aboriginal communities in northern Ontario. This symposium will create awareness regarding the discourse of land management, planning, and use, and will explore the appropriate steps to building capacity in Aboriginal communities. The needs of Aboriginal communities are diverse as they prepare to face contemporary challenges.

The symposium is scheduled for May 4, 5 & 6, 2015 and will be held at the Days Inn & Suites on Bay Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

3. **Post-Secondary Education Funding for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) Funding**

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division is entering the final third year of the multi-year funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for services and programming at Algoma University. Information on this funding envelope should be forthcoming at the next Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on April 28th & 29th, 2015 in Kingston, Ontario.

Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre & Special Advisor to the President for the Residential Schools Legacy

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Jonathan Dewar, Director

1. Research and Programming

The Centre's first co-publication under the SRSC Imprint initiative has just been released. "Residential Schools: A National History – With the Words and Images of Survivors," by Larry Loyie, Wayne K. Spear, and Constance Brissenden, is co-published with Indigenous Education Press and is available at www.goodminds.com.

The Centre supported the development of two other publications that have recently been released:

- Roots and Routes of Displacement and Trauma: From Analysis to Advocacy & Policy to Practice. Eds. Sheila Gruner and Sohelia Pashang. Rock's Mills Press
- The Land We Are: Writers and Artists Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation. Eds. Gabrielle Hill and Sophie McCall, Arbeiter Ring Press

2. Visits

The Centre continues to offer site tours to learners of all ages, with regular elementary, middle, and secondary school visits, visits by community groups, and university student-centred tours and lectures. In October, The Centre will host nine students from Nipissing University for a two day learning visit.

Planning for the 2015 Shingwauk Gathering & Conference (beginning of August) is underway.

Information Technology

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

1. **Security Committee**

An IT Security Committee was formed early last fall, and meets on a regular basis to discuss measures to protect campus IT systems from data breaches and other threats. Dozens of recommendations have been made and implemented thus far. Members of this committee include the Director of IT, Manager of Information Systems, and Academic Systems Analyst who holds a CISSP certificate (Certified Information Systems Security Professional).

2. **Purchase Order System**

The implementation of a new Purchase Order system using DocuShare continues to go well. There are currently 9 departments using it. The new system is completely paperless with all approvals being done electronically. We expect the time savings will be substantial, both for the purchasers, and the back-end financial staff.

3. **Office of the Registrar Paperless System**

Work has started with the design of a paperless system for student records in the Office of the Registrar. Student records (transcripts, letters, petitions, etc) will be scanned in to our new Document Management System (DocuShare), and integrated with our Student Information System (OASIS).

4. **Classroom Improvements**

A number of improvements are scheduled for our classrooms this summer, including a redesign of NW200, easier to use video switching units in our video conferenced classrooms, new audio mixers, and additional desk space for the podiums.

5. **ORION Feature**

The ORION network (www.orion.on.ca) was on site recently shooting a promotional video to highlight how Algoma University utilizes their high-speed research network. Dr. George Townsend was highlighted for his work with Brain Computer Interfaces, along with Dr. Rick McCutcheon speaking to the increasing importance of technology in research, and myself speaking to the technological merits of the ORION network.

6. **Phone Lines**

Work continues in reviewing campus phone services to reduce costs. A number of traditional “copper” lines have been discontinued and are now using our new Vianet services. Our goal is to only keep a minimal number of traditional phone lines for emergency purposes only, such as 911 calls, and elevator emergency phones. New policies regarding the use of mobile phones is also being drafted.

Physical Plant

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

1. **Arthur A. Wishart Library Reroofing**

All aspects of the roofing and new HVAC installations are complete. The plans for the interior repairs are currently being investigated with plans to complete work after the winter term.

2. **George Leach Center Ontario Universities Athletics Expansion**

The GLC has been turned over and all new exercise equipment has been installed. The facility is in full use. Once the ground thaws completely the remainder of the exterior work will be completed. There are sidewalks and barrier free parking spaces to be paved, sod to be laid and general clean up.

3. **Deferred Maintenance Plan**

The Ontario Association of Physical Plant Administrators (OAPPA) currently has a request for proposals out for pricing for Facility Condition Assessment Services for ten Ontario Universities, of which Algoma University is one. Once the pricing is received we will initiate a contract with the successful bidder to begin an assessment of our entire building infrastructure. From the report created from this assessment a deferred maintenance plan will be created to guide Physical Plant and the University in properly planning and budgeting for future maintenance needs. In the meantime a list of the known maintenance priorities is being maintained and updated on an ongoing basis as per the current practice. There was a delay from OAPPA in issuing this request for proposals, it is scheduled to be issued in the following weeks.

Student Recruitment: Domestic

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015 Brent Krmpotich, Director, Domestic Recruitment

1. Application Update

Applications remain well behind historical levels. High school (101) applications continue to trickle in but are not likely to exceed 700 this year. Non-traditional (105) applications are also behind last year's pace. We typically receive 50% of our 105 applications after April 1st. Conversion activities have been effective. I expect the final first year enrolment figures to be better than originally thought. See the charts below for historical year-on-year comparisons of applicants and confirmations. April 6th is the comparison date for all years listed.

Application Update

	15F	14F	13F	12F
101	648	790	712	792
105 SSM	175	211	206	220

Accepted Offers

	15F	14F	13F	12F
101	56	60	44	42
105 SSM	33	29	30	19

2. March Open House

Our March Break Open House was executed extremely well. In total we had over 100 guests, half of which were students. Attendance was slightly higher than last year when we ran a bus. The format was changed slightly to include a student panel rather than a presentation from staff. This went over very well with the prospective students. It is a format we will use again at future events. As of this writing 16 of the students who attended the open house have confirmed they will be attending Algoma next year, 12 of those students are from outside the Algoma region.

3. Local Applicant Reception

One week after our March Open House Algoma's Recruitment Team hosted a reception for local applicants and their parents at the new Fine Arts space on Huron St. Attendance could have been better but the event itself ran very well. Over 30 guests (including parents) attended the event. Algoma was represented by the Recruitment Team, Dr. Myers, 4 faculty members and 3 current students. The evening included a student panel, tour of the facility and an opportunity to mingle with faculty. We plan to hold the event again next year but will look at alternate dates to increase attendance.

Student Recruitment: International

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Joanne Elvy, Director, International Recruitment

1. School visits – Japan (April 2015)

Pre-departure guidance and support were provided to 17 fee-paying Japanese students who will travel to Algoma from their university in either April or August 2015 to study for one or two semesters. This gesture on the part of Algoma serves to provide much more than mere outreach; it sends a clear message to our partner schools that we care about the success of their students as they transition to our University. The Director of International Recruitment also provided workshops on study abroad as a guest speaker in four different partner universities during their respective student orientation programs; as well as liaised with administrative heads in three other institutions on extended programming options.

2. Secondary School visits – China (April 2015)

Over a two-week period, Algoma University conducted school presentations in secondary schools in the western region of China, by in large an emerging region rarely visited by Canadian recruiters. This is for target recruiting, as it is otherwise difficult for Algoma to compete in other well-traveled areas where Chinese parents will value school rankings above all in school selections. As a result, five students have applied to our Computer Game Technology program for fall 2015.

3. University visits – China (April 2015)

Four different university visits are scheduled for the Director of International Recruitment to align objectives with administrative heads for upcoming MOU signings. Two of the four universities (Dali University, Dali and Qujing Normal University, Qujing) will then be making official visits to Algoma University in the upcoming months to meet with various department heads and the Academic Dean.

4. Follow-up visits

One of Algoma's international students will accompany the Admission Advisor (GTA Region) to several private Chinese high schools in Toronto to provide follow-up to student applications to Algoma. In this case, potential students will hear first-hand in their native language from a current AU Chinese student the benefits of studying at our Sault Ste Marie campus.

5. Japan College of Foreign Languages (JCFL) visits Algoma University (April 2015)

Ms. Michiko Yamaguchi (Course Manager, Study Abroad Canada, JCFL) will be visiting Algoma U in late April 2015 to consult with the University Registrar and Assistant Registrar, Admissions to update the existing MOU between our two institutions. Since 2003, approximately 30 JCFL graduates have transferred into Algoma to complete their university degrees in Canada, remaining one of AU's strongest international partners

Extension Programming

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Brian Leahy, Operations Director – Extension Programming

1. Algoma University @ Brampton

We have continued to reach out to key stakeholders within the Brampton area including new mayor Linda Jeffrey and members of the Blue Ribbon Panel she has struck to examine future university programming within the community. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and numerous suggestions have come forward regarding how best to ensure our message reaches prospective students. This information will assist in our efforts to develop a long-term marketing strategy that will better focus our efforts to grow enrolment at this extension.

Our inaugural Brampton based Algoma U Alumni social took place in late March with approx. 25 grads, faculty and staff participating. This was a great opportunity for those involved to reconnect with Algoma and we hope to build on the evening's success by hosting similar events in future terms. A special word of thanks is extended to Amanda Thomas (BBA, 2013) for assisting with event logistics and Bev Teller and staff from the Alumni Office for their support. The presence of Dr. Aaron Gordon (Dept. of Business and Economics) and Dave Marasco (Registrar) helped reinforce the important connection between the main campus and those involved with our Brampton extension.

Finally, Algoma University @ Brampton has been nominated for a "Community Impact" award at the Brampton Board of Trade's Annual Business Excellence Awards Dinner taking place in late April. Although we are a "small player" in a relatively big market, this is another opportunity for us to raise our profile in the community.

2. Algoma University @ St. Thomas

The final block of programming is currently underway at our St. Thomas extension. Our last two courses have focussed on Pre- and Post-Confederation Canadian History. In keeping with the opportunities made possible through our block programming model, we enhanced the experiential learning opportunity for students registered in these offerings by arranging short excursions to key historic sites in Hamilton (Dundurn Castle/Whithern Historic Home) and Toronto (Archives of Ontario, ROM, Casa Loma, etc).

The last day of the term is scheduled for April 24th and it is anticipated that the wind-down of key operational matters pertaining to this extension will be complete by mid-May.

3. Algoma University @ Timmins

We are pleased to report that the pilot offering of our introductory social work course that was extended to interested students from Moosonee/Moose Factory and Haileybury was a success. This course would not have been possible without the support and access to quality video-conference equipment provided at the Northern College campuses in all 3 locations. We hope to build on the success of this offering in future terms as it is another small step that will help support enrolment growth and educational access within Northern Ontario.

Arthur A. Wishart Library

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Ken Hernden, University Librarian

1. **Staffing:**

- a. The University Librarian (coordinating with Academic Dean) has struck the hiring committee for the CLTA Librarian (9-month) position to help to cover for the University Librarian's administrative leave and the half-sabbaticals that have been approved for the professional librarians. Applications have been received and the committee is conducting its review.

2. **University Sector Engagement:**

- a. The University Librarian completed work as a member of the search committee for the next Executive Director of the Ontario Council of University Libraries. This was an international search, assisted by The Portage Group, an executive search firm specializing in not-for-profit leadership recruitment. Members of the search committee included the University Librarians from Queen's University, Trent University, the University of Guelph, as well as the Director of Scholars Portal (OCUL). This position reports to the board of OCUL, which comprises all of Ontario's University Librarians and is based out of the John P. Robarts Library at the University of Toronto.
- b. The University Librarian and faculty librarians continue to play provincial roles in the Ontario Council of University Libraries' new governance structure. This gives Algoma University an equal, ongoing voice in shared infrastructure and content development at OCUL's \$4 million/per year Scholars Portal services. Currently OCUL is working on grant funded project to explore "collaborative futures" or ideas for new services that all of Ontario's university libraries could develop and share in order to be cost effective and provide better services to all universities. Through its librarians, Algoma will be engaged in these explorations.

3. **Internal and Community Engagement:**

- a. The Arthur A. Wishart Library and the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre will host visitors from the Anglican Diocese of Algoma's biennial Synod on May 7, 2015. The Bishop of Algoma, the Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Andrews and the Primate of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz will be in attendance as approximately 120-150 delegates visit: The Engracia de Jesus Matias Archives & Special Collections (university archives which contain the archives of the Diocese of Algoma and the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario (Anglican); the Shingwauk Residential School Centre; and the Bishop Fauquier (Shingwauk) Memorial Chapel.
- b. Algoma's librarians participated in a meeting of librarians from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan to explore opportunities to share information and expertise. The group included librarians from hospitals, government laboratories, public libraries, colleges and universities.

Student Services

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since March 2015

Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

1. Student Services

- Dr. Karen Booth has officially started her role as the campus Physician under a temporary agreement which is in place until the end of June. She will utilize the Health Centre facilities at Sault College to conduct her clinics.
- The Student Satisfaction Survey is currently under way and is open for students input until mid-April
- The Student Early Alert referral platform has yielded close to 70 referrals from faculty who have identified at-risk students in their class rooms. Student Services staff reviews the alert and then follows up directly with the student to offer both academic and non-academic support.
- Student Services and the IT department are in the early stages of developing an online Student Help Me centre where student can request and access both academic and non-academic supports. These requests will provide students with a very quick response or referral from staff.
- Algoma University had a flag raising ceremony to recognize World Autism Day on April 2nd. Faculty member Cathy Burgess (who teaches a special course on Autism) and student Michael Vandenburg (a successful student who is Autistic) assisted in the ceremony.
- Six Algoma U students and one staff member volunteered at the annual Easter Seals Telethon on March 29th
- Second semester “Scan to Win” winners were announced at the Annual Health and Happiness event on April 1st here at Algoma University. These five students were rewarded with an Ipad for taking the time to attend events and academic workshops on campus throughout the term – Stephanie Harris, Suzana Murai, Jeri Ann Breen, Mitchell Case and Cheryl Jamieson



2. Residence

- Residence hosted its Annual Awards Night on March 27th where 90+ students attended and recognized award winners for their contributions to Residence Life
- 12 residence students took part in one of Sault Ste Marie’s honoured traditions by attending the annual Kiwanis Pancake breakfast at the historical Sugar Shack site on 5th line.
- Residence staff are in the midst of interviewing and selecting next Fall’s Residence Advisors (15 student applied for positions)

3. **George Leach Centre**

- The George Leach Centre opened its new expansion area to members on March 9th and had its official grand opening on April 8th where MPP David Oraziotti, Mayor Christian Provenzano, and other special guests assisted in the ribbon cutting.
- Since opening on March 9th, the GLC has renewed or welcomed close to 100 members to the facility. We have also expanded our Aerobics staff to include many of the top instructors in the area, including Jessica Sicoly. Jessica is an International Cover Model, CanFit PRO certified Fitness Instructor Specialist, CanFit PRO certified Personal Trainer, certified Les Mills RPM and Body Pump Instructor.
- Feedback for current members has been very positive and everyone is pleased with the outcome
- GLC staff is very busy planning summer programming and a membership drive.



4. **Varsity**

- The Varsity Thunderbirds held its annual Athletic awards night on Saturday March 21st. The evening was highlighted with the presentation of the Male and Female Athletes of the Year (Sean Clendinning, Men's Basketball and Natasha Doroodian, Wrestling). Each will receive a \$1000 bursary supported by Pepsi. Brad Jacob's Rink were inducted into the Thunderbirds Wall of Fame (Builder's Category) and the following athletes won Academic Achievement Awards

- Natasha Doroodian (Women's Wrestling)
- Natasha Doroodian (Women's Soccer)
- Samy Mohamed (Men's Basketball)
- Taylor McAllister (Women's Basketball)
- Taregh Zadmard (Men's Soccer)
- Michael Cassagrande (Men's Wrestling)
- Laura Thibodeau (Nordic Skiing)
- Daniel Scarpino (Cross-Country Running)
- Leah Hodgson (Women's Curling)
- Andrew Vanderburg (Men's Curling)



5. **Ancillaries**

- Planning continues with Morningstar to bring a Coffee and Bake franchise to the campus as agreed upon in the recently negotiated food services contract