

President's Report to Board

April 4, 2016

1. Financial Stewardship

- A budget committee has been formed to develop a draft budget for submission to the Board in April. This committee has met once so far.
- There is no progress on the initiation of direct bargaining.

2. Institutional Leadership

- A “State of the University” town hall for staff, administrators, and faculty was held to discuss our current context as well as consider the proposal for academic re-organization. There was a very large turnout and an excellent discussion emerged.
- The Strategic Planning Process is well underway, with the majority of consultations having been completed. The anecdotal feedback has been quite positive with an expression of satisfaction with respect to the methodology being used.
- I was able to attend a Universities Canada 2-day workshop in Montreal on the future of the liberal arts at Canada. 50 Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Deans from 40 Canadian universities attended. A lot of very good information was exchanged. The workshop ended with a presentation by the author Joseph Boyden, who is one of our honorary degree recipients. In a conversation after the presentation, Joseph expressed a degree of affection for our University, which was gratifying to hear!
- I met with our local MP, Mr. Terry Sheehan, to discuss the upcoming Federal Infrastructure Program and suggest possible projects for support through that program.
- Community events attended include the City of Sault Ste. Marie App Launch, the Sault Area Hospital's 5th anniversary celebrations, the Police Community Services Award Dinner, and the SSMIC NOHFC funding announcement.

3. Enrollment Management

- Much activity has been focused on recruitment, conversation of applications, and retention of students. A more detailed description of that activity is part of the agenda.



- Our trip to China was very positive. We met with representatives of 5 universities, and spent considerable time with two separate agents (one we have a current contract with, and the second we are considering signing a contract with). There are numerous opportunities for us in China, and we are hoping to develop a strong action plan with specific deliverables to move forward. Our focus has been on tier 2 universities in China – very good institutions but being on the second level of Chinese universities, we are not competing with the Universities of Toronto, British Columbia, and McGill. One example is Taizhou University that shares a common history with us – a college that has become a university and is just advancing their degree options. Northern College already delivers a program on their campus, and we are working with them to give the students in Northern’s diploma program a degree completion option. They very much would like their students to have the opportunity for one or more years of study in Canada, and we would be the first foreign university with which they would have an agreement. There will also be opportunities for our students and faculty to have short term stays there; they are interested in having their faculty members link with our faculty members to help educate and train their faculty members. What is very interesting is that this university is a comprehensive university with computing science, business, and technology programs, but also the liberal arts and humanities, including fine arts and music. We visited the music building that has 200 individual rooms for piano training – and most of them were being used. They have 500 music majors and teach over 1000 students (mostly Education students who are required to take music). Taizhou is a very small city by Chinese standards (approximately 5 million people), very modern and clean and is located in what is considered the richest province in China.

4. Organizational Conditions

- Dr. Gavan Watson, from Western University, presented a workshop on campus about the use of technology in teaching
- Two short stay study groups from Japan have been on campus for most of March – one from Kyoto Sanga University, and the other from Nanzan University.
- The Athletics Award Banquet was held on March 11th. Dr. Lou Lukenda was recognized for his valuable contributions to the growth of our athletic program by being placed into our athletics hall of fame.

5. Special Mission with Anishinaabe Students and Partners

- The working group on Indigenization has begun their efforts. Rainey Gaywash has taken on a leadership role with the group, that consists of

Judy Syrette, Derek Rice, Sarah Crowell, Jonathan Dewar, Shirley Horn, and Billi Grisdale-Briski.

- The 11th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow was held in the GLC. This was a huge event that attracted participants from many Ontario communities, as well as a number of participants from the United States. It is estimated that over 2000 people took part in the event.