

## President's Report to the Board

June 23, 2016

### 1. Financial Stewardship

- Bargaining has begun for both full time and part time faculty contracts. Principles of bargaining were agreed to quite quickly, and dates have been set throughout the spring and summer.
- Implementation of the 2016/17 approved budget has been more time consuming than in previous years due to the layoff and bumping processes. However, these are now complete and the focus is on moving forward with budget implementation.

### 2. Institutional Leadership

- The Institutional Strategic Plan has been approved at Senate and will be coming to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting for consideration.
- I attended the grand opening of the Millworks Entrepreneurship Centre which is a project of the SSMEDC and is located in the Machine Shop.
- At the most recent COU Executive Heads Roundtable, discussions took place around the funding formula review, a COU sector-wide strategic communication plan, the coming expiry of the tuition framework agreement, and developing a response to the Premier's interest in the impact of delayed retirements on faculty renewal and the increased use of part time instructors.
- I met with two city councilors, Susan Myers and Sandra Hollingsworth, to discuss collaborations between the City and the University, and how we can provide support to each other as we move forwarding with our planning.
- I represented Algoma University at the convocation ceremonies at Sault College. I also attended the Lake Superior State University Convocation exercise and took part in the convocation ceremony at Northern College where we were able to confer degrees on our Algoma U@Timmons students.
- I have been a proponent of creating collaboration among the four Northern Ontario universities and through my office we have organized and scheduled a meeting to discuss a joint funding formula proposal for our universities.
- Our University has taken a leadership role in the development of a partnership between the Algoma District School Board, Sault College, and



ourselves to support a joint initiative in attracting and retaining international students.

- I attended the CIS AGM in Toronto on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. While at this event, I took time away to meet with the MTCU ADM, David Carter-Whitney, to follow up with previous discussions that indicated support from the Ministry for new initiatives at AU.
- I attended a meeting of the major education organizations in Sault Ste. Marie that was organized by the Mayor as part of his community development program. Sault College, both K-12 school districts, and Algoma University were present. A number of interesting ideas were presented and one, a partnership between all three levels of education delivery for the support of international students, is currently being followed up on.
- I participated with our staff members of the OSSTF on a 20-minute community make over neighbourhood clean-up day.

### 3. Enrollment Management

- Grade 11 days were recently hosted on campus. Over 200 Grade 11 students from Sault Ste. Marie and region were hosted over 2 days. Students get to explore the campus, learn about our programs, and receive a careers presentation. All local high schools, as well as out of town participants from Wawa, Manitouwadge, Hornepayne, and Blind River participated.
- We have developed and recently announced a tuition waiver program to support laid off workers in the steel industry (at Essar and Tenaris) who have been negatively affected by the downturn in that industry.
- We attended the annual ICEF fair in Toronto in May. The ICEF fair is a networking event for educational organizations and international agents working in student recruitment. We met with 48 potential agents, and after a vetting process will look to sign contracts with a handful of new agents before the fall semester.
- Our student recruitment agent in Pakistan, Farrukh Luqman, visited our campus in May. He is strongly committed to working with Algoma and we expect that through his efforts we will see 10 new Pakistani students per year attending our University.
- We have signed several MOU's with educational partners in the past month to support student education opportunities. These include Gachon University in South Korea, Northern College to expand our joint admission program to students studying in their programs in China, and a pathway agreement with Georgian College for their [Anishinaabemowin language diploma program to articulate with our 3-year BA in Anishinaabemowin degree program](#). Senate also recently approved exceptional agreements with Fleming College for our [Biology and Geography programs](#).

- A student appreciation day was held in which a number of our students were recognized for their contributions to our University. 30 students in total were recognized, including 5 on our Timmons campus.
- Algoma University was one of the partners for the the Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival, which took place in May. I was able to offer a few words at the media launch for the Festival on the value of science, and a number of our faculty, staff, and students were involved in the delivery of the different programs, including being a major part of the ARTIE event, and having a number of displays at the public celebration of science that was held at the Machine Shop.
- Algoma University has partnered with Sault College, the SSMIC, and the Canadian Gaming Association to launch a major needs assessment for the education and training requirements in the Lottery and Gaming sector. The intent will be to then either work with Sault College, or in isolation, to develop specific elements of an education and training program for the industry that will be delivered locally, and throughout the country. We have also signed an MOU with Sault College to work collaborative towards the establishment of an Institute for the Study of Responsible Lottery and Gaming.
- Our varsity coaches have been particularly successful this year in recruiting student athletes to our campus. Students who have already signed with the Thunderbirds represent an incredible spectrum of geographical locations, including Ontario towns such as Windsor, Ajax, Oakville, London, and Belleriver, and out of Province locations such as Vancouver, Michigan, Georgia, Michigan, Washington, Hawaii, Florida, and even as far away as Brazil. More information can be found at [algomathunderbirds.ca](http://algomathunderbirds.ca).
- For the second year in a row, a short-term stay group from Unimoto University in Colombia is visiting the campus.
- The Bounce Back program has been re-launched with a number of changes to support students who are struggling in their first year at university. These changes include the assigning of a personal academic coach and the use of a success contract". A number of staff and faculty are becoming trained as academic coaches to fill that role in the program.
- A new peer mentoring program has been developed and will be implemented for the first time this fall.
- An on-campus academic orientation for new students was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the first time an in-person academic orientation had been held since 2012. 71 students were in attendance, many accompanied by their parents, and 19 faculty members were on hand to assist with advising. Students also were given a number of presentations from student services.

#### 4. Organizational Conditions

- The Research Advisory Committee recently reviewed and provided funding to support research activity through the Algoma University Research Fund. In all, 6 projects were funded.
- We had preliminary discussions with the Tech to investigate potential collaborations and cooperative opportunities. Areas of interest include developing a community model to support CIS hockey at Algoma, and options to create pathways from their proposed music programs.
- We have signed an MOU with Sault College to set the foundation for our collaboration in the development of education and training programs for the lottery and gaming industry.
- We have developed a partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie Academic Medical Association and signed an MOA to support the development of a research office on Algoma University's campus that will provide services to the research activity of health professionals in our region.
- A special luncheon was held to confer an honorary degree on Senator Murray Sinclair. As he is not able to attend our Convocation in person, he delivered his Convocation speech to an invited audience of community members that was played during the Convocation ceremony.
- The MTCU Deputy Minister, Dr. Sheldon Levy, visited campus and we were able to provide him with a deeper understanding of Algoma University, our history, our successes, and our challenges.
- The area in front of the Speakeasy underwent a significant "makeover" and has been renamed "Piazza Alanna" after our former colleague Alanna Bondar. A dedication ceremony was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at which a plaque was unveiled and was attended by a number of the Bondar family, including Alanna's parents, sister, and brother. This was the first of three such ceremonies that will be held to honour people who have made significant and important contributions to our University.
- The AU golf tournament was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This was a very successful event that has raised significant dollars to support our University's students. This year's tournament raised \$30,000.
- A very successful Spring Convocation was held on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The Senate has passed both the Institutional Strategic Plan and the Academic Plan with a notable majority.
- The refreshed and reconvened Diversity Committee had their first meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> with a large number of staff, faculty, and students in attendance. A second meeting will be held near the end of June to set a plan for the upcoming academic year.

## 5. Special Mission with Anishinaabe Students and Partners

- The most recent class of the First Nations Social Services Administrator Certificate that we deliver in partnership with the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA) completed their program on

campus, and I was able to attend and make a presentation at their graduation ceremony that was held at the Delta Hotel.

- The Joint Working Group has begun meeting again after a 4-year hiatus. Our first meeting was a general discussion about our working relationship with the Shingwauk Educational Trust and the application of the Covenant.
- I held a meeting with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association to help with the organization and functioning of the group, and to support the planning for the summer gathering.
- We held a Pipe ceremony on campus with 7 pipe carriers in attendance on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was to support the work of the Indigenization Working Group. The Anishinaabe Initiative Division provided a lunch of soup and bannock following the ceremony. Approximately 75 people attended.
- I attended the Pathways to Reconciliation conference in Winnipeg June 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Algoma University through the Shingwauk Residential School Centre were co-sponsors of this conference.
- A Geography Spring Institute course “Aboriginal Eco-Based Land Resource Management” was put on and taught by Cheryl Recollet, the Environmental Coordinator from the Wahnapiatae First Nations in Ontario. A broad range of students participated in the course.
- We were recently successful in our application to host the National Science Camp for Aboriginal Students this summer. Approximately 50 students from across Canada will be spending a week in Sault Ste. Marie and will be staying in our residences. Each day the students will visit different sites around our City to experience science. Apart from being the home site for the students, Algoma University will have one day to deliver programs to these students on campus and our department heads in the Science Division are working hard to put together an exciting program.