

President's Report to the Board



November 29, 2012

From the President

Board members have likely seen the press release indicating that our official enrolment count for this year is a phenomenal 20% higher than last year. Domestic enrolments are up by 10%, which is more than we predicted in our budget. The big story, however, is a remarkable surge in international student enrolments. You will also be pleased to hear that the positive trends continue. As Brent Krmopotich notes in his report, we've had a fantastic response at the big recruitment fair in Toronto. And this past weekend, it was standing room only in the Great West Life Amphitheatre as prospective students from out of town came to campus to learn more about us. I can tell you from numerous conversations with students and parents that our *Small University/Big Education* message is resonating extremely well.

Naturally, rapid growth brings challenges. We are increasingly challenged to find classroom and office space. The Board will be presented with some options for addressing those challenges. We also find that there are academic challenges that follow from the recruitment of a truly global student population. Because different countries have different educational systems and practices, our students do not all arrive with the same academic preparation. Under the leadership of Dr. Schantz, we have moved quickly -- in a way that only Algoma can -- to provide extensive and systematic support to those international students whose high school work left them insufficiently prepared for programming here. And in keeping with the best elements of the Algoma spirit, our faculty and staff have been generous and progressive in support of these measures. This, too, bodes well for our future.

We also continue our efforts to be more visible in the broader Sault Ste. Marie community. In the past couple of weeks alone, the University has participated in the Festival of Trees, the Santa Claus Parade and the Remembrance Day services at the Essar Centre, and we have hosted numerous community events (such as the Career Information Expo and the Career Networking Event) on our campus.

I would also like to draw your attention to developments in three specific areas.

1. Discussions with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig

In an effort to accelerate progress with SKG, we set aside five consecutive mornings (October 29-November 2) for intensive discussions about how to move the partnership forward. The AU team consisted of the President, the Past-President, the Vice-President (Academic and Research), the Speaker of Senate, the Director of the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and the Director of the Shingwauk Residential School Centre. We obviously made this file a very high priority. The discussions were very constructive and culminated in a verbal agreement on a new path forward. A draft text of the terms of the new arrangements is appended for your information. It has not yet been signed by the parties.

2. New Offsites

The success of our new extension operation in St. Thomas has created quite a stir. The City of Brockville has made a formal request that we establish a comparable operation in that community. Officials from the City of Chatham have indicated their intention to file a similar request. Our capacity to act on these requests will require consultation with both internal and external authorities.

3. Ministry News

Glen Murray has announced his intention to seek the leadership of the provincial Liberal party. He has therefore resigned as Minister, in accordance with the rules established by the Premier. Responsibility for the portfolio has been re-assigned to House Leader John Milloy, who preceded Glen Murray as Minister. Most observers take the view that the ``transformation agenda`` championed by Mr. Murray will be shelved and that the focus of the Ministry will now be on priorities such as the development of a new tuition framework.

Dr. Richard Myers
President

Memorandum of Agreement

Between

Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig

And

Algoma University

(DRAFT)

WHEREAS Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig's mission is to be a centre of excellence in culture-based Anishinaabe education, and AU's charter confers upon AU a responsibility and mandate for cross-cultural education and a responsibility to provide support services for all AU students;

AND WHEREAS Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig have signed a Covenant that expresses their mutual commitment to respect each other's independence and to support each other's aspirations;

AND WHEREAS the two institutions have collaborated in the development of a series of principles and commitments that will serve as the operational foundation for advancing the friendship established by the Covenant;

The parties therefore agree to the measures listed below.

1. AU acknowledges and supports SKG's ultimate goal of complete institutional autonomy (including the securing of its own Charter and operating grant). The parties agree to work together in support of this goal.
2. SKG acknowledges and supports AU's special mission in cross-cultural education and recognizes the importance of promoting a variety of approaches to learning.
3. AU commits to treat SKG as an autonomous partner to the full extent permitted under the federal and provincial rules, regulations and laws that bind the University.
4. The parties agree to take a staged approach to pursuit of complete institutional autonomy for SKG.
5. The parties agree that the next stage under Article 4 is to develop more robust Anishinaabemowin programming, including a competency-based certificate, and to develop an appropriate initial credential and/or credentials (certificate, minor or major) in Anishinaabe Studies. It is further agreed that these programs are to be seen and described, within the limits of current legal and administrative realities, as SKG programs.
6. It is agreed that, for the time being, the best institutional vehicle for pursuing the initiatives described in Article 5 is AU's Department of Modern Languages.

7. AU commits to providing additional academic resources for the objectives specified in Article 5. The nature of the resources and the timing of their allocation will be subject to negotiation by the parties, but AU is in principle open to a new faculty appointment for an Anishinaabe Studies program and an additional instructor in Anishinaabemowin.
8. The parties agree that the teaching staff appointed to deliver the programming specified in Article 5 will, within the limits of current legal and administrative realities, be regarded as SKG faculty.
9. AU agrees that once the programming specified in Article 5 is ready for delivery, with the additional teaching staff in place, responsibility for administering it within the AU institutional framework will be moved from the Department of Modern Languages to a new academic structure. The parties agree that, until a more complete form of autonomy is possible, the preferred option is to find a way for SKG to have special status within the AU administrative framework as a kind of autonomous department or school, ideally outside of the normal divisional structures.
10. The parties agree to actively promote their partnership and to always do so in a positive way. By way of example, AU will work to promote a wider appreciation of the value of an Anshinaabe-controlled institution of Anishinaabe education and the significance of WINHEC accreditation. SKG will acknowledge the support that is provided by AU and the value of having diverse institutions with diverse missions and diverse ways of pursuing them.
11. The terms of this agreement will be reviewed by the Joint Working Group in the spring of each year.
12. Unless and until it is superceded by another agreement, this agreement shall be reaffirmed each year by the presidents of the two institutions on the day of the Summer Convocation Ceremony.

For Algoma University

For Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig

Richard Myers, President

Darrell Boissoneau, President

Date:

Date:

Vice President Academic and Research

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012

Dr. David Schantz

1. Foundation Courses

With the assistance of the Academic Dean, Registrar and Faculty, the challenges experienced by new International students are being addressed. Foundation courses and extended credit degree programs are being developed to assist those students who are receiving failing grades during their transition into the Canadian university experience. Foundation courses are designed to provide basic skills in mathematics, computer science, English and business administration to help them be better prepared and successful throughout their academic career at AU. This initiative has the preliminary support of one key international governmental bureau in Ottawa (this Bureau provides the funding for these students to attend AU).

2. Expansion Initiatives

Lake Superior State University – Participated in the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance conference on Bi-National Regional Collaboration along with Morrie Walworth (Provost and President for Academic Affairs, Lake Superior State University); also used this opportunity to liaise with LSSU faculty to continue discussions on working together. LSSU and AU are exploring multiple opportunities for cooperative programming and building relationships to facilitate program development.

Brampton campus – With the assistance of the Director of Extensions and the Registrar the current admissions policy for Brampton is being clarified. This action is projected to result in increased enrolments. Contractual negotiations for additional space in Brampton to accommodate increasing enrolments are being finalized.

3. Faculty Negotiations

During collective bargaining, proposals to improve the faculty Tenure and Promotion and faculty hiring processes were advanced. Revisions are designed to improve processes and integrity of both of these significant elements in the Collective Agreement. Both proposals have been accepted by the Faculty Association bargaining unit and are being considered by the Association.

4. Overhead / Indirect Policy – Interim and Research Advisory Panel

A draft policy regarding overhead / indirect charges for the university has been created. It will assist faculty in accessing previously unavailable grant sources and potentially increase the size of grants. Funds raised through this initiative will be distributed to faculty, departments and administration activities and enhance the overall teaching/research capabilities of Algoma University. A Research Advisory Panel is currently being assembled. Along with other responsibilities the panel will have the opportunity to further vet this and other research related policies. The panel will also provide more depth of consultation with faculty research initiatives and policies.

Vice President Finance and Administration

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012

Sean Dwyer

1. Collective Bargaining/Negotiations

Collective Bargaining with the Algoma University Faculty Association has concluded and a tentative agreement has been reached. This agreement will be presented to the Board of Governors for ratification at their November meeting.

2. Financial Services Department reorganization

A review of the roles in the Financial Services department to achieve efficiencies and a segregation of duties has been completed. Two positions have been posted, the Student Accounts Officer (SAO) position and a new Accounts Receivable Officer (ARO) position that will increase the segregation of duties in the SAO role and the entire department. This new position allows numerous duties to be moved around and new duties to be added impacting the entire team. These two positions report to the new title of Financial Services Manager, who is tasked with more day-to-day operational supervision and auditing of the broader accounting and financial functions. The ARO is a net new position. The Financial Services Manager is an upgrade to an existing position.

3. ERP/HR Software

We continue to research software options and have met with three additional companies to explore their products for Payroll and Human Resources Information Systems. This portion of the review is nearing completion and a decision should be made shortly.

4. Audited Financial Statements

The auditors have completed their audits of the University Financial Statements, the Foundation statements, the statements of the associated entities (institutes) and the Pension Financial Statements. All statements have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and those requiring Board approval will come forward at the November meeting.

5. CSAO Benchmarking Working Group

I participated in a Benchmarking Working Group with three other members of the Council of Senior Administrative Officers. The group was formed to provide feedback to the ministry on their intention to engage in performance measurement in the sector. In order to be better informed and equipped to advise the ministry on performance measurement in the postsecondary education sector, CSAO members proposed that a working group be developed with the purpose of examining benchmarks and best practices in the broader public sector. I will continue to participate in this working group throughout the year.

6. President's Budget Advisory Committee

Initial discussions with the President have occurred. The budget process will be further refined this year and management officers will be notified of next steps in the very near future.

Academic Dean

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012

Dr. Arthur Perlini

1. Program-Quality Assurance & Program Reviews

Every publicly-assisted Ontario University that grants degrees and diplomas is responsible for ensuring the quality of all of its programs of study meet provincially established standards known as the *Quality Assurance Framework* (QAF). They do so by program self-study and external review, following an *Institutional Quality Assurance Process* (IQAP). These reviews result in program and curriculum changes aimed at improving the quality of those programs. Cyclical program reviews are undertaken every 7 years and during the current academic year, the following programs are under review:

- a. Computer Science [B.Sc. General & Honours, BCOSC]
- b. Mathematics [BA & B.Sc. General]
- c. Anishinaabemowin BA (General) and Anishinaabe Studies
- d. Biology [B.Sc. General and Honours]

2. Curriculum Developments

- a. Growth - Both the Five-Year Academic Plan and Strategic (Institutional) Plan call for institutional growth via program and curriculum development. Program offerings off-site include course delivery in Timmins (Community Development and Social Work), Brampton (Business Administration) and St. Thomas [First-Year-at-Home, Arts – ENGL, HIST, GEOG, PSYC & SOCI]. The Brampton offerings include 40+ courses to ~100 students; Timmins offerings include 17 courses to ~25 students and our St. Thomas offerings include 10 courses to 19 students. Opportunities abound for continued growth with such programming.
- b. Special Mission - In accord with the University's special mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning between aboriginal communities and other communities and the University's institutional commitment to engage in a special partnership with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, the Curriculum Committee has established the *Indigenous Learning Committee*. The Committee will serve as a vehicle for consulting with Indigenous communities and organizations about existing and new/proposed programmes. Representation will include faculty, CSAA, SKG, APC, SASA and ASSD.

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012.
Judy Syrette, Director

1. Aboriginal Reference Group Advisory to Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

The fall meeting of the Aboriginal Reference Group was on October 2, 2012 in Toronto. The major topic of discussion was the funding under the Multi-Year Aboriginal Action Plan for Postsecondary Education (MYAAPPE) that AU receives for the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID). There was little information received from representatives from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) on proposed funding criteria for next year. The 2012-2013 MYAAPPE funding is considered an Interim Year and has been held at the same funding levels received from 2009-2012.

2. Aboriginal Self-Identification Roundtable Discussions

The Council of Ontario Universities sponsored the Aboriginal Self-Identification roundtable discussion with Algoma University Anishinaabe students and staff on October 18, 2012. This roundtable was part of the final phase of the consultation strategy of the Aboriginal Self-Identification Project that will be finalized in March 2013. Approximately 16 Anishinaabe students and 4 Anishinaabe staff participated in the discussions. The day ended with a performance in the Speak Easy by Kinnie Starr, a Juno Award winning producer, songwriter/Rapper/Innovator.

3. Cross-Cultural Workshops at Algoma University

Bruce Stonefish, a PhD candidate from Harvard University and Executive Director of the Indigenous Education Coalition in London, Ontario, presented two cross-cultural workshops on October 29th, 2012. The faculty workshop focused on curriculum development strategies and was called *What is success in First Nation Education?* There were approximately 12 faculty in attendance. The second workshop for staff focused on Aboriginal cultural awareness and sensitivity with 10 staff in attendance.

4. Aboriginal Education Council Gathering 2012

Two members of APC, Lori Rainville and Sherri Kitts, accompanied the Director of AID to the *Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) Gathering 2012* in Niagara Falls, Ontario. This is the second gathering of Aboriginal Education Councils since the introduction of Aboriginal postsecondary funding in 1991. There were panel discussions and presentations on AEC best practices on the following topics: Aboriginal Self-Identification, Aboriginal Leadership & Community Engagement, Accountability and Reporting, Attraction, Retention and Completion, and Facilitating Transitions in the Post-Secondary Education Sector. The conference was well attended with 200 participants by both the college and university education councils in Ontario.

Extension Programming

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012

Brock Olive, Operations Director

1. St. Thomas Initiative

Academic Programming in St. Thomas is progressing well. The students are now in their fourth block and all reports from students about the block programming model are positive. Students are finding the block format very manageable and very conducive to in-depth learning. The block format is also allowing for the development of a cohesive collegiate atmosphere where students are truly working together and helping each other to succeed.

Recruitment and promotional activities are in full swing, and we are expecting new registrations for the winter 2013 term. Outreach to local high schools, specifically with guidance counsellors, is resulting in very positive feedback and interest in our program offering in St. Thomas. We expect these relationships to be a core component of our ongoing outreach and recruitment activity going forward. A guidance counsellor dinner/info session is currently being planned to further nurture and develop these important relationships.

2. Brampton Programming

On October 20th we held our first convocation ceremony in Brampton. The event was a smaller scale version of the convocation activities we hold here on the main campus but it did not lack any of the important features of what makes up a great graduation ceremony. Attendees to the ceremony included Dr. Rick Myers, Dr. David Schantz, David Marasco, Dave Galotta, several faculty and staff associated with the program in Brampton, and the keynote speaker was the Honourable William Davis.

Positive enrollment growth in Brampton for the fiscal 2012/13 period is putting pressure on current classroom and common space facilities. We are currently assessing the potential for leasing additional space in the building we are currently in. The goal would be to have this additional space in place by the start of W13 classes.

3. Timmins Programming

In June's report we projected enrollment to be behind budget for fiscal 2012/13, however a final hard push on recruitment activity resulted in our enrollments coming back on target. The addition of our Support Services Coordinator in Timmins has already been resulting in positive impacts on promotional and recruitment activity, as well as student service provision.

External Relations

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since September 2012

Kevin Hemsworth, Divisional Director

1. New Website

The new website is nearing completion. Given that it is almost the end of the fall term, and many of our students and faculty use the website for various resources, it is appropriate to delay the launch of the site until exams are completed on December 19th, to avoid confusion. In the meantime, all new traffic generated from our fall recruitment campaign continues to flow to our experience microsite (experience.algomau.ca)

2. 2012-2013 Marketing/Recruitment Campaign

The recruitment advertising campaign is in full swing, and is primarily targeting students from smaller cities in Southern Ontario. We are engaging students on a mix of platforms, including mobile, web banners, and social media.

3. Offer Letters/Package

We are developing new offer packages to send to successful applicants to the University. This should lead to higher conversion rates from our applicant pool.

4. Athletics Website

External Relations will be actively engaged in developing a new Varsity website into the new year.

5. Social Media

The final version of the social media policy has been submitted to Board for their review. Once the policy has been approved External Relations will distribute and ensure adherence by the different groups that may be affected by it.

Human Resources

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since September 2012

Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

1. Recruitment

New appointments since the last meeting of the Board:

- Archives Technician position filled internally.
- Casual Custodian position filled externally.
- Two Teaching Assistants hired to work with the Saudi Arabian students for five-week period.
- Full-Time First Generations Assistant position filled internally.
- Temporary Part-Time Coordinator of Membership Services – GLC filled externally.
- Recruiting Officer (GTA) filled internally.
- Currently recruiting for ESL Instructor position, Students Account Officer position and Accounts Receivable Officer.

2. Human Rights and Equity Office

Four complaints brought forward and dealt with on an informal basis.

3. OSSTF - Position Evaluation

All representatives have been finalized for the Joint Job Classification committee. The online certification training requiring 6-8 hours of each member's time will be completed prior to classroom training. The classroom training will be delivered to all members on November 29, 2012. At conclusion of training, all positions requiring evaluation will be completed. As per previous agreement, the training costs will be shared equally between the Union and the University.

4. Grievances/Complaints

Two staff grievances submitted related to violation of the Collective Agreement and both have been denied by the University. One grievance has been withdrawn and we are awaiting response from the Union on the second grievance.

5. Health and Safety

The governance document outlining responsibilities in health and safety has been completed and will be communicated to all employees before the end of the calendar year. An external audit has been completed by the University's health and safety officer representative. The timelines for completion of items identified in audit will be determined. Five ergonomic assessments and workplace set-up have been completed. Purpose of the assessment is also to provide education to the participant.

6. Communication

JCC meeting held with Faculty to discuss outstanding issues/items of concern. Regular monthly JCC meetings started in September to discuss any outstanding issues. Both parties are given the opportunity to bring items forward as per the terms of reference outlined in the Collective Agreement.

A Human Resources section of the website has been completed and sent to the Communications Department for posting to the external website. The section will include all applicable HR related information including career opportunities and other information applicable to current and prospective employees of Algoma University.

Information Technology

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since September 2012

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

1. Manager of Information Systems

Our department welcomed Jim Adams as the Manager of Information Systems at the end of September. Jim's role will primarily be centered on designing and project-managing our core Information Systems on campus (OASIS, my.algomau.ca, CMS, financial, and HR systems). He will be undertaking several projects at once, and he'll be heavily involved with many departments on campus.

With 14 years of IT experience, Jim is coming from Sault Area Hospital, where he spent the last 6 years as a Systems Analyst. He's worked with several enterprise IT systems, and has overseen a variety of projects.

2. Classroom Upgrades

IT will be upgrading one additional classroom (EW203) prior to the Christmas break, and potentially one at the Brampton location. After this upgrade, the majority of classrooms on campus will have our standard technology installed making it easy for faculty to move between classrooms, and easier on the IT department with respect to training and support.

3. Internet Redundancy

An agreement with Shaw Communications has been signed to install a redundant fiber feed to main campus in late November. This will add further redundancy to our external connectivity in the event our other Internet providers have outages.

4. Student Information System

We are currently in the design phase of an online registration module for OASIS (our Student Information System), which will let students choose their courses and make online payments through their student portal <http://my.algomau.ca>. We expect this to be used quite heavily, and help cut down on lineups in the Registrar's office during peak times.

We are also currently working with the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) on an electronic transcript delivery system using XML. Once complete, we will be the first university in Ontario using these new standards to transfer transcript data electronically.

Physical Plant

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since September 2012

Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

1. New Residence (R4) Update

The new residence is now 100% complete. Student move in went very well on September 15th. As is typical with all new buildings, there have been some minor issues that have arisen. The contractor has been very attentive and quick in addressing all of these issues. All systems are functioning, and all furniture is installed.

2. Renovations/Space/Office locations for fall 2012

The faculty lounge renovations are now complete and the lounge is open for faculty use. Conversion of Townhouse 3 from a student residence to an office space for Social Work is on-going. The second level flooring has been replaced allowing the staff to occupy the four second floor offices. The remaining accessibility renovations are waiting on a response from the Enabling Accessibility Grant application through Human Resources and Skills Develop Canada that we have applied for. To further accommodate our Sessional Faculty, we are going to be renovating the Sessional Pod in the West Wing. There is limited seating and work space in that area, so we will be adding more seating and better access to space for all sessional faculty.

3. Windsor Park

The re-roofing project has been put on hold for the time being. With the various ideas and usage schemes that are currently in discussion for this building, it was determined that proceeding with the roofing replacement now before there is a clear picture of how this space will be utilized was not the best use of resources. The plans and specifications are complete and if there are no significant changes to this building, the roofing project will be ready to proceed in the spring.

There has been an on-going electrical issue in the Student Residence portion of this building. Due to the age of the building, the electrical supply to the individual residence rooms cannot handle the power demands put on the system by the students. As a short term solution we are moving the microwaves out of the rooms into the common space on each floor. As a permanent solution we have hired a consultant to design a new power supply that will provide additional circuits to each room that will be able to accommodate the power requirements.

4. George Leach Center Locker Rooms

Both the men's and women's locker rooms at the GLC have been renovated and updated. A wall was removed to better utilize the space in each room. The lockers, which were original to the building, were replaced with new units. The carpet flooring was removed and replaced with enhanced slip resistant vinyl flooring. The men's sauna had all of the cedar lining and benches replaced as well a new sauna heater was installed. Both locker and washroom areas were also repainted during the renovation.

Arthur A. Wishart Library

Summary of Major Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012 Ken Hernden, University Librarian

1. Collections & Space

Database renewals and new purchases continue, primarily through the Canadian Research Knowledge Network's efforts to provide to member universities consortial pricing for these products. Significant new additions to online holdings will include *World of Science* + 20-year back-file, *SpringerLink Journals Online*, and the American Mathematics Society *MathSciNet*. A conservative estimate is that this will add several thousand academic journal titles to our holdings (meaning tens of thousands of issues and millions of full-text articles) to support all of the Natural Sciences and our three research chairs.

The Library completed the first phase of weeding physical collections, creating better student space, and increasing the amount of storage and archival space within the Library's current footprint. We plan to continue to increase space for and the provision of comfortable student seating on the third floor of the Library by January 2013. The Library's "angel donor" who has been donating to renovate the Library's purpose built, climate controlled archival space (1st Floor, West Wing) provided for the purchasing of proper, space-saving archival storage.

In 2013, we will initiate discussions with Physical Plant concerning using the remainder of the donation to renovate the archival working space, upgrade the climate controls and reconnect the archives to the rest of the Library.

We will also initiate a program of hanging art and displaying historical artifacts and rare books now in storage in the university archives in amongst the new student seating areas.

Currently we are seeing the effects of a higher student enrolment and providing more seating. During peak hours, the library sees 60-80 students at a time engaged in individual or group work within the Library.

2. Web Site

Robin Isard, Systems Librarian, connected the new Library website (launched September 1, 2012) to Google Analytics™, a powerful suite of free tools that provide detailed web site analyses. In brief, since launch the new web site we continue to see growing use, long average times on the site, and that our new features – subject guides and databases by discipline – are the most popular selections after the home page. We desired this outcome; we definitely want direct faculty and students immediately to the resources that are clearly best for them as quickly and as simply as possible.

3. Donations

This fall the Library received three major donations (gifts-in-kind):

Books

- Dr. Dieter Buse (Laurentian University Professor Emeritus) donation of his personal research library on German and Holocaust History.
- Ms. Helen Tressider (estate of Dr. Warren Tressider, McMaster University Professor Emeritus) of Dr. Tressider's research library on Renaissance Fine Art.

Archives

- Ms. Nancy Rahtz (estate of Brian Vallée, Sault native and award winning journalist, documentary filmmaker, and novelist). Ken Hernden had the pleasure of giving Ms. Rahtz and some of Mr. Vallée's friends and family a tour of the university and described for them how we intend to use our archival collections in faculty and undergraduate research, as well as addressing social justice issues.

Office of the Registrar

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since September 2012

Dave Marasco, Registrar

1. Enrolment

Enrolment for the 2012 fall term increased 20.3 as compared to fall 2011 as reported to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). The significant growth in enrolment can be largely attributed to a 125% increase in international students. All signs indicate that this growth will continue next term and that the final enrolment count for the 2012 academic year will surpass the projected enrolment.

2. Online Registration

Currently working with the Department of Information Technology (Reid, Adam, Biocchi) to introduced online registrations for current students as early as next term (course registration for current students begins February 6 for spring and fall/winter 2013). With an integrated approach in technology for registration/payment and faculty academic advising, it is expected that students will use this service as a convenient method of course selection. Students will still be allowed to register for courses and make payments in person.

3. College Transfers

Ian Brodie, an Algoma University graduate with administrative/research experience, has been hired as the new College Outreach and Support Officer. This position serves to support and assist the admission, recruitment and retention of college diploma students with a focus on facilitating a seamless transition from college to university. The position is important as we support TCU's initiative of enhanced pathways for college students as they continue their post-secondary education. Two new pathway agreements will be signed shortly: one with Cambrian College (Music) and one with Seneca College (from their SSW-Immigrant/Refugee program to our CESD programs).

4. Academic Projects

The Department of Computer Science and Mathematics will launch its second-degree program in Computer Science beginning spring 2013 (April 29, 2013). Students will be able to satisfy the requirements of the general Bachelor of Arts or general Bachelor of Science degree program in one calendar year (3 terms) depending on their previous academic history. The program will be available to students with a previous university degree or computer-science related college diploma. Thanks to Dr. Simon Xu and the Department of Computer Science/Mathematics for their work on the proposal.

Currently, the office is working with the University of Sudbury and Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute (KTEI) in attempting to establish a transition program on site at KTEI beginning fall 2013. The program will facilitate joint admissions in an effort to provide seamless admission of qualified students. The purpose of the program:

- To facilitate access to increase post-secondary education offered on site at KTEI
- Offer community-based educational opportunities for the students of KTEI
- Support and promote the mission of AU and US in embracing the diverse composition of its student population and celebrate its distinct mission for Anishinaabe education and research
- Promote pathways for students interested in continuing their education at either AU or US

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

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012

Jonathan Dewar, Director

1. Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC) and Algoma University hosted the *Reconciliation: Work(s) in Progress Innovation Forum* symposium and artist incubation, Sept. 27-Oct. 3

This gathering, from Sept 27 to Oct 3, 2012, explored reconciliation theory and practice, and the role of art, artists, and artistic and curatorial practice within reconciliation, as they relate to the current Canadian context, particularly the presence of the Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), through a collaborative process of Western and Indigenous research methods, artistic practice, and curatorial practice. A further focus, in keeping with the notion of reconciliation as “right relations” was cross-cultural dialogue, particularly Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaboration. SRSC Director Dewar was a co-applicant for the SSHRC Innovation Forum grant that funded this event. While a colleague at Simon Fraser University was the lead, SRSC/AU was the host for the event and will be a principle player in forthcoming outcomes, along with other project partners: the Centre for Innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada (Thompson Rivers University); the Aboriginal Healing/Legacy of Hope Foundation; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; and the Ryerson Gallery and Research Centre (Ryerson University). See <http://reworksinprogress.ca/>.

2. SRSC-hosted Canadian launch of *Reconcile This!* a special issue of *West Coast Line*

The SRSC hosted the launch of the journal *West Coast Line* (74, vol. 46, no. 2, Summer 2012), titled *Reconcile This!*, which was co-edited by SRSC Director Dewar.

3. Research

A formal program of research and related programming is also being developed, along with proposals for a specialized “sharing, healing and learning” publishing platform.

4. Budget and Staffing

The SRSC Director has been joined by an Archives Technician through a 2-year, \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. This grant will further allow for the addition of necessary full-time staff in administration, communications, and research capacities (or a combination thereof) for 18-24 months.

5. Project of Heart Commemoration

The SRSC and its Director were recently chosen by Project of Heart to be the Ontario representative for the “Project of Heart- Commemorating the Children for Future Generations” project for the Ontario region, with a budget of \$35,330.

Student Recruitment: Domestic

Summary of Issues, Initiatives, Operations since September 2012

Brent Krmpotich, Director of Student Recruitment – Domestic

1. Guidance Dinner

The Recruitment Team hosted the annual Guidance Dinner on September 19th. Attendance was better than usual this year with 28 local counselors taking part in the event. This year the theme of the dinner was Internationalism at Algoma University. Local guidance counselors were treated to presentations by four current Algoma University students who spent last year overseas as part of the Study Abroad program. The four course meal was coordinated with the student presentations. As such the counselors sampled food and drinks from Australia, Germany, England and Korea. Everyone who attended the event seemed to leave happy and looking forward to next year's dinner.

2. Ontario University Fair

This year Algoma brought more faculty and fewer staff to the Ontario University Fair (OUF) in Toronto Sept. 28 – 30th. Algoma was represented at the fair by 7 faculty members from a variety of disciplines. We wanted to improve our “product” at the booth so that we could have a greater impact on the students and parents who visited the booth. We were successful in this. This was Algoma's best OUF in years. Close to 600 students filled out reply cards compared to just over 300 in 2011.

3. Ontario High School Tour

This fall the Recruitment Team visited roughly one third (over 300) of the high schools in Ontario. The schools visited were determined based on past success, geography and likelihood of future success. Early returns to the visits have been good. Our prospect pool is significantly larger than in 2011 and registration for the Fall Open house has far surpassed 2011 attendance.

4. MOU signed with Children's Aid Society

Director of Student Recruitment Brent Krmpotich coordinated the signing of an MOU between Algoma University and the Children's Aid Society of Algoma. As part of the MOU, Algoma agreed to assist in the transition of Crown Wards from the CAS's care to university. Algoma has designated a point person for CAS staff and Crown Wards to contact when applying to university. Algoma has also agreed to host an annual information session for local Crown Wards. The first of these annual sessions was held Sept. 20th.

Student Recruitment: International

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012

Joanne Elvy, Director, International Student Outreach

1. Science without Borders – Canada/Brazil initiative

The 15 students from Brazil on full scholarships have had their scholarships extended for one additional semester, meaning that they will now stay at Algoma until the end of December 2013 to take on an additional semester of academic courses. Four out of the six students from this group who were in homestay in fall 2012 have chosen to move into the new residence at the beginning of January 2013. Twelve new students have been provided offer letters for winter 2013 start date, 11 of whom will start in ESL in January. Students have the option to remain at Algoma University for a 16-month period until the end of April 2014, to include a semester of intensive ESL training, 2 semesters of academic classes and a one-semester internship in an industry placement that supports their career goals.

2. Exchange Initiatives – (September 2013)

In the month of September, the Director pursued opportunities for enhancing exchange opportunities. Within the next year, AU students may be able to study abroad in Ireland, Sweden, Argentina, Italy and the Netherlands, among others.

3. Recruitment Initiative – Vietnam, India (October 2013)

A first-time visit to Vietnam via a Canadian Embassy fair (Ho Chi Minh, Danang and Hanoi) has established a secure relation with a local agent representative for effective follow-up; an extension to an existing agreement with University of Finance - Marketing, and definite interest in a partnership with Danang University. India continues to show promise, with a return visit scheduled for spring 2014.

4. Recruitment Initiative – Korea, Japan (November 2013)

Keimyung University in Daegu, Korea has been an active study abroad partner with Algoma University for four years. They have come forth with an interest to partner with Algoma University's Computer Game Department; discussions forthcoming. Algoma's participation in the Canadian Embassy fair in Seoul, Korea, generated several students for year-long studies starting spring 2014, as well as interest for additional school partnerships.

Algoma then participated in a series of education fairs in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, in which there has been definite interest in Algoma's "flexi option" for Japanese students to study here for one full year. Government scholarships to Japanese institutions to assist funding for student groups to study abroad for short-term programs further generated a series of meetings and university site visits for Algoma to secure proposals for 2013 and 2014. Our long-standing relations with Japanese partners are sure testimonies for our strength in this market

Student Services

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since September 2012.
Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

1. Student Services

Student Services Advisors have been meeting with the various faculty divisions to discuss advising and services aimed at improving student retention and success. Faculty use this time to inform advisors of upcoming program changes, career options, and advising practices. The fall months are typically the busiest in terms of events and workshops. The Student Services team averages about 20 events per month including academic support workshops, fall tours, VISA workshops, Winter Preparedness workshops, Graduate School Information sessions, Annual Flu Clinic, and cultural events such as EID dinner and Diwali. This year also saw the return of the Career Fair in partnership with the Sault Community Centre hosted on Nov 6th at the GLC. Fifty-one Employers and local agencies were on hand and approximately 500 people attended the event. The Soo Thunderbirds Hockey Club have also come forward and offered free admission to every Algoma University student for all home games during the 2012/13 season. Attendance in general has been significantly higher at AU events due to the increase in students and as a result having another residence on campus. On Sept 28-30, 28 First Generation Students attended the Annual Leadership Retreat at Melwel Lodge located near Elliot Lake. The 3 day program features several keynote speakers, workshops, and outdoor activities aimed to strengthen leadership skills, focusing on self-awareness, confidence and trust. The First Generation Coordinator is planning a Health and Wellness Week Nov 26-30 which will be open to all students.

2. Residence

The new residence operation is running smoothly following our delay in the fall. The final equipment, furniture and landscaping pieces are complete. Normal new build deficiencies have been quickly addressed. The downtown residence continues to experience maintenance concerns which are quickly dealt with by plant. Electrical and plumbing concerns drive the majority of the calls. Recently microwaves were removed from each of the rooms and replaced with units at the end of each floor which for student use. This will help reduce the number of tripped breakers we were experiencing. Plans are underway to renovate the remaining double and triple occupancy rooms into single units in anticipation of the incoming January cohort of international students. In early October elections were held for Algoma University's first ever Residence Council made up of various executive positions and floor reps. Council will be responsible for advocating for students that live in residence as well as providing additional social opportunities. The Residence Advisors have taken responsibility for the "Hoodie" program where over 40 students have purchased Algoma University Residence Apparel. The expected routine student and maintenance issues are being dealt with as quickly and fairly as possible.

3. George Leach Centre

The GLC completed a major renovation of change room facilities (lockers, painting, flooring, etc.). The response from members has been positive and will be a major feature in our membership drive in early December to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. The GLC is currently working on an agreement with the SAH and City of SSM for corporate memberships. There has been increased participation in intramural and club programming and pick-up nights (volleyball, basketball and badminton). We anticipate intramural league play in the winter term. The facility continues to host key community events such as the Innovation Centre's, ARTIE Science Expo (Oct. 19th),

Sault Community Career Centre, Career and Information Expo (Nov. 6) and is preparing for, Explore Algoma U Fall Open House (Nov. 17th), OFSAA Girls AA Basketball Championships (Nov. 22 and 23). Science North, Science Olympics (Dec. 4th) and the Annual Tenaris Year End Gala (Dec. 8th).

2. Varsity

OUA Showcase games were held on Oct 4th with Laurentian University and the University of Windsor travelling to the Algoma .Over 700 students, staff, faculty and local basketball fans attended the games. The addition of a 783 portable bleacher system at the GLC made this event possible and allowed Algoma to meet one of the OUA seating capacity requirements for membership. The OUA task force was impressed with the quality and presentation of the games and felt going forward Algoma would represent the OUA well. Algoma University also hosted the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Provincial Cross Country Running Championships on Oct 20 at the Hiawatha Highlands. Close to 180 athletes representing 16 colleges' across Ontario participated with many Algoma U athletes earning personal bests. Fourth year basketball player Corina Bruni received OCAA Player of the Week Honours on Nov 6. That same week the Men's team topped the national CCAA rankings after a dominating undefeated start to their season and winning the Annual Dave Stewart Invitational at Durham College. The Basketball Thunderbirds hosted their annual Alumni games on Oct 20th as part of the Homecoming events and its annual Parents Appreciation event on Oct 26 and 27th.The men's and Women's soccer teams have begun indoor league play locally in preparation for the OCAA Provincial Championships in the winter term. Algoma University is currently enjoying a partnership with the Sault United Soccer Academy and the development of a Jr Thunderbirds program for boys and girls.

3. Bookstore/Cafeteria

On Nov 26 Algoma University will conduct a number site visits for various Chartwells operations in the GTA. The current operation, though sustainable, will soon need to be expanded to meet the needs of the growing campus. The purpose of the site visits is to see some of the latest trends in food services operations. Chartwells has a record 110 Students on the meal plan this is an increase of 72 from 38 in 2006. As a result the cafeteria has attempted to respond to space issues and menu variety. The Chartwells on site manager meets regularly with residence council and staff to improve communication and service. The bookstore operation remains unchanged other than a significant increase in sales directly resulting in enrollment. Reorganization at head office in the general merchandise division has resulted in newer styles, more varieties and increased sales. The Bookstore also now carries a variety of Special Gift cards (iTunes, Pre-Paid Visa and many retail outlets)

3. Health and Safety

The University offered a Health and Safety Orientation for New Employees on Oct 22. Thirty four staff and faculty took part and were provided with Office Health and Safety, Workplace Violence and WHMIS Training. The Joint Health and Safety committee continues to conduct monthly inspections and their regularly scheduled meetings. The University continues to provide training and certification opportunities for the committee members as well as staff, supervisors, and administration. In early October, three committee members received their Level 1 Certification in Health and Safety. A number of administrators and supervisors plan to attend a two day course on Effective Supervisor Training in early December.

4. Campus Centre

Overall patronage and attendance at the Speak Easy has risen this fall. The pubs are well attended and the casual evening use has increased. Sales are up slightly from this year at this time and the students are using the centre more since the improvements in furniture upgrades, capital and aesthetics

