

President's Report to the Board



September 25, 2014

From the President

As is the case every September, we divide our attention between celebrating the start of a new academic year and worrying about enrolment. Preliminary data from the Registrar's Office suggests that we are on track to exceed our enrolment targets for the year. The 2014-2015 budget calls for an overall weighted increase to FTE of 2.7%. After a strong performance in the Summer Session (+4.8%) we appear to be on track for an increase of 4.5% for the Fall Semester. That figure includes both good news and bad news. The good news is that we appear to have done very well in terms of the number of new direct-from-high school students enrolled here on the Sault Ste. Marie campus. In this key market, we are up approximately 12.5%. This is especially welcome news given that most universities in Ontario appear to be down in this category. On the other hand, the number of new transfer/mature students to the Sault Ste. Marie campus appears to be down by about 4%, and the number of new students at our offsite operations is also down.

The big picture is also decidedly mixed. We will once again break all enrolment records and are likely to finish the year close to 1500 FTE. Yet the rate at which we are growing is clearly slowing down and the underlying determinants of enrolment all suggest that it will be very challenging to achieve any consistent growth at all in the coming years.

This shift from a period of rapid growth to a period of low or even no growth is one of the critical factors that needs to be considered as we discuss the central item on our agenda next week: strategic planning. The report that has been forwarded from the Strategic Planning Committee recommends that we move from a growth-oriented plan to more of a sustainability model, with a special focus on improving student retention and success. I look forward to a lively discussion of that item!

Some other matters that will be of interest to Board members:

1. Decanal Search

I am pleased to report that our search for a new Academic Dean was concluded very successfully. Dr. Richard McCutcheon, a former Dean at Menno Simmons College (University of Winnipeg) will take over from Dr. Arthur Perlini when he steps down in December after four terms as Algoma's Academic Dean. Dr. McCutcheon's academic field is Peace and Conflict Studies and he comes to us with a reputation as an outstanding teacher and a deft administrator. He has joined Algoma as a faculty member for the Fall Semester, teaching a couple of courses while he gets to know the institution and its people.

2. Business Incubator

We recently learned that Algoma University and Sault College were successful in their joint application for provincial funding to establish a business incubator for postsecondary students. The incubator will be operated by the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre on behalf of the College and the University.

3. Ontario University Fair

This coming weekend, Algoma University will again be participating in the Ontario University Fair (OUF) at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto. Approximately 120,000 people – mainly high school students -- visit the fair each year in order to learn about Ontario’s public universities. An assessment of our return-on-investment over the past four years indicates that OUF is not a terribly productive place for Algoma to recruit, but we do believe it important to have a presence there. We are therefore participating this year with a smaller contingent of staff and students and with a much smaller booth.

4. Departing Employees

Amanda Hay leaves us after a short, but very effective stint managing our website. Amanda has landed a position as a Math teacher for the ADSB. We wish her well in the career that she always aspired to.

Dr. David Schantz has also resigned from his position as Vice-President (Academic and Research) after almost three years at Algoma University and we wish him well in his future endeavours. After some consultation with the Senate and the academic leadership at the University, we have elected not to appoint an interim for the balance of the year, but to reassign the various responsibilities of that office to other officials. At the same time, we will be engaging the relevant stakeholders to determine whether we should be conducting a search for a new VPAR, or whether that office (and perhaps the broader structure of our academic administration) might be organized differently.

5. Induction Ceremony

The University held its annual Induction Ceremony on September 5th, providing a formal (and colourful) welcome to its new students, faculty and staff. Our new faculty and staff since June include:

Dr. Murshed Chowdhury (Economics)	Brandi Bell Tanninen (Health and Safety)
Dr. Rainey Gaywish (Anishinaabe Studies)	Brittany Paat (College Outreach)
Dr. Christine Hiller (Social Work)	Steven McCoy (AID)
Jane Petroni (Social Work)	Jo-Anne Watson (Support Services, Brampton)
Dr. Trevor Tchir (Political Science)	Rose Leeson (Supports Services, Timmins)
Dr. Zulfiya Tursunova (CESD)	Jayne Sparks (Admin Assistant, Social Work)
	Meghan Rix (Support Services Assistant)

Dr. Richard Myers
President

Vice President Finance and Administration

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June 2014

Sean Dwyer

1. Part-Time Faculty Collective Bargaining Negotiations

The University Administration began negotiations with the Algoma University Faculty Association regarding the PT Collective Agreement in July 2013 as per the contract expiring as of June 30th 2013. After approximately one year of bargaining, and multiple sessions with a Ministry of Labour appointed conciliator, a two year agreement was reached that was ratified by the Algoma University Board of Governors on June 19, 2014. The Algoma University Faculty Association approved the agreement on August 15, 2014 and as such a memorandum of settlement was signed by both sides in late August officially concluding the process.

2. Executive Search firm tender/contract

Working closely with the board chair and vice chair, bids were solicited for executive search services in the search for the University's next President and a contract was negotiated with the successful firm, the Phelps Group. The Phelps Group will be on campus on Sept 16, 2014 for their initial meeting with the Presidential Search Committee regarding the specific qualities the University is seeking in its next President. Consultations with various other stakeholders will also take place on the 16th to further familiarize the search firm with the University's operations.

3. Lease for Music Program space

Negotiations to lease a portion of the Algoma Conservatory's space in the Administration Building at the former St. Mary's Paper site at 75 Huron Street commenced in mid-June and concluded with the signing of a three year lease on August 20, 2014. All other lease terms have been previously socialized with the University Governance over the past year.

4. Fine Arts Program space

Negotiations to lease a portion of the former St. Mary's Paper Machine Shop at 75 Huron Street from River's Edge Ltd. commenced in late-July and are nearing conclusion.

5. Operational Highlights

Numerous operational activities have recently been completed and/or currently being undertaken are as follows:

- (i) An RFP for auditing services has been completed and is set to be posted in late September.
- (ii) The fees related to our credit card processing arrangement have been recently renegotiated which translates to a savings of approximately \$10,000 per fiscal year.
- (iii) A new approach to cash management has been implemented with our retail banking service provider that will better maximize interest earned on operating cash balances.
- (iv) A template is being finalized to improve financial reporting to University donors.

6. Program Costing Analysis

The 2013-14 academic program costing model was reviewed with the Finance Committee in June 2014. The intention of this analysis is to provide an overview of how the University is performing financially by academic program. The analysis is intended to provide a high level view of the net financial contribution by program.

A look back on 2011-12 has been undertaken to allow for trend analysis to be applied to three years of data. This broader analysis will be taken to the Oct 2014 Finance Committee meeting and then included in the following Board of Governors agenda as per the 2012 board decision to add this analysis to the board's annual calendar.

Office of the Registrar

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June 2014

David Marasco, University Registrar

1. Enrolment

Final FTE enrolment for the 2014 spring/summer (160.20 FTE) as reported to MTCU increased 4.8% as compared to the 2013 spring/summer terms (152.90 FTE). For fall 2014, the current enrolment is approximately 4.5% ahead of fall 2013. Registration for the fall 2014 term continues until September 19, 2014.

2. Office of the Registrar/Reports

At spring convocation 2014, 206 students received Algoma degrees, of which 68 graduated with distinction. During the ceremony, the University acknowledged Professor Don Jackson with the Distinguished Faculty Award. Also, Ms. Donna Hilsinger was honoured with the Senate Award (Honourary Member of Algoma University). Finally, Algoma University conferred an honorary doctorate on Mr. Les Pyette (Doctor of Letters, honoris causa).

Online registration for new and current students was quite successful with 35% of the students registering online. This number will increase in subsequent terms. Many thanks to the IT department for their continued work on ensuring student access to the registration utility. Current projects include the annual Multi-year Accountability Report (MYAA). Also, we are currently working on an Early Access Program (EAP) that will allow secondary school students to register for university courses while attending high school. Students must adhere to a number of conditions including grade requirements and a recommendation from the HS principal.

During the past summer, Algoma University was pleased to announce that it is the newest member of the Ontario Universities' Electronic Transcript System (OUETS), which provides students with ease of access in requesting transcripts and transfer credit resources. Algoma University followed guidelines established by the Post-Secondary Education Standards Council (PESC) when designing the new technology, which utilizes XML language and formatting. The template and work created by Algoma U, in partnership with OUETS, sets high standards for the other universities to move toward in the future. This new technology employed by the University, will also allow for the future transfer of data to colleges and universities found across Canada. Members of our IT Department/Office of the Registrar worked diligently to establish this new platform to allow for the secure and effective transfer of academic records across post-secondary institutions. This new process provides for prompt, consistent, and transparent electronic transcript exchange to allow for a more effective and efficient assessment process.

3. College Transfers

Algoma University continues to work with the colleges to enhance/promote college pathways. The Department of Community Development has been active working with both Centennial College and Sheridan College for exceptional agreements with Community Development diploma programs – since the transfer is outside of the current transfer credit framework, any agreements will require senate approval.

Also, Senate adopted a block transfer credit policy for students who have completed a college certificate program (minimum two semesters) with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (70%) or 'B' average. Upon completion of the college certificate program, students are admissible to Algoma University's Bachelor of Arts degree programs with 15 credits recognized as, typically, non-equivalent transfer credits. Students who apply for admission with a college (two-year) diploma or (three-year) advanced diploma or a first-degree along with a college certificate will not receive course recognition for the latter.

Work on a course equivalency database continues with the province. The project is intended to help institutions to develop and maintain course equivalencies for credit transfers. For students, the database will provide a searchable tool for course equivalency for both colleges and universities.

4. International Recruitment and ESL@algoma

Algoma University hosted a short-term study group from Uniminuto University (Colombia) during the month of July. The group, consisting of university administrators was here for one month studying English as a second language as well as participating in various community and cultural events.

International numbers for fall 2014 show a very small increase in the number of students as compared to fall 2013, however, we should see a more diverse international student body. More accurate enrolment data will be available for the next board report.

ESL@algoma continues to grow as enrolment increased 16% this past spring/summer 2014 as compared to 2013.

International recruitment efforts for the fall 2014 term includes visits to Bangladesh, Colombia, China, India, Japan, and Pakistan.

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June 2014

Judy Syrette, Director

1. Annual Report to MTCU

The Annual Report was submitted to Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities at the end of May 2014. AID is currently in the second year of the three year funding envelope.

2. Anishinaabe Binesi Summer Camp

There were four themed weeks of Anishinaabe Binesi Summer Camp – culture, science, fiddle and regalia plus one additional week on Food Safety sponsored by NORDIK for a total of five weeks. There were a total of 121 day campers attending Algoma University campus during the summer.

3. Native Language Teachers' Gathering

AID collaborated with the Anishinaabekwe of the North Shore, local of the Ontario Women's Association in preparing a funding submission to the Anglican Healing and Reconciliation Fund of Canada to host a Native Language Teachers Gathering at Algoma University on August 7 & 8, 2014. There were a total of 45 Ojibwe teachers and Elders in attendance for the two days.

4. Social Work Perspective of Northern Ontario Métis Course

AID continues to fund a Research Assistant to do research in the Métis community in preparation for a new course in the Bachelor of Social Work Program called "a Northern Social Work Perspective of the Métis People". To date there have been 21 members of the Métis community who have participated in this research project. An external Métis Advisory Committee is in place to oversee this project to its conclusion in the 2014 Fall semester.

5. AFOA Designation in Bachelor of Business Administration

AID funded a Research Assistant position in the 2014 Spring/Summer semester to research the background for a proposal to be submitted to the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association. This national Aboriginal organization has partnered with the Certified General Accountants Association to create this specialized designation for Aboriginal students studying business. When the AFOA designation is approved to be offered at Algoma University, all students in the BBA program can work towards this designation.

6. Other AID Projects

a) Presentations at 2014 Congress:

Two Anishinaabe students in the Social Work Program – Denise Richer and Kimberly Pelletier presented their posters at the 2014 Congress held at Brock University. The students' posters were

well received and they spent two and a half days in front of their posters instead of two and a half hours as scheduled. These two students put Algoma University and the Social Work Program front and centre at this conference.

b) The Baawating On-Line Journal of Indigenous Knowledge

Training was held on August 29th for the new on-line journal created in January 2014 at the Anishinaabe Inendomowin Research Symposium hosted by AID.

Marketing and Communications

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since June 2014

Kevin Hemsworth, Director Marketing and Communications

1. Visual Identity Refresh

The Visual Identity refresh is in progress. The new visual identity presented at the June Board Meeting has been employed around the University on signage, vehicles, and printed materials (letterhead, envelopes, viewbooks, etc.). In order to support the launch, we developed a website section that explains the usage of the new and old marks, and provides downloadable versions for use. In preparation for the announcement of the 50th anniversary in September, the anniversary version of the logo is being used on all recruitment materials. We continue to work towards replacing the old word mark and educate staff as to usage of the new identity.

2. Signage

The front lawn sign was replaced this summer. The new signboard features a large digital panel that will help to communicate our messaging and events more effectively, as we can send multiple messages to play on the sign in sequence. This has enabled us to remove some of the other signboards that cluttered our front lawn, and will reduce Physical Plant time spent updating the sign message, as well as eliminating the health and safety hazard that the old sign presented when updating during windy conditions.

3. Athletics Communications

With the addition of OUA soccer to our varsity programming this year, we have ramped up our internal coverage of games, in order to both satisfy our obligations to the OUA as well as to develop our marketing resources (eg. photography) to assist with future recruitment efforts. While our coverage of our OUA players/teams has resulted in improved media coverage, we believe that consistent communications to media will lead to much better coverage in the future.

4. Convocation Streaming

For the first time, we live-streamed our annual convocation ceremony in June on our YouTube channel. With very little promotion (intentionally, as we wanted to ensure that we could air a successful broadcast) the broadcast attracted close to 20 viewers during the event, some being parents of international students viewing from overseas. The video has been viewed another 290 times since. We plan to broadcast convocation again, and possibly other events in the future, with greater promotion.

Human Resources

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since June 2014

Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

1. Recruitment

Health and Safety Officer – filled via external search
CESD Coordinator (temporary) – filled internally
GLC Coordinator of Operations (temporary) – filled internally
College Outreach and Support Officer (limited term) – filled via external search
Web Content Specialist - filled via external search
Anishinaabe Student Services Advisor (temporary) – filled via external search
Timmins Support Services Coordinator – filled via external search
Support Services Assistant, Ancillaries (temporary) – filled with external applicant
Administrative Assistant, Social Work – filled via external search

2. Human Rights and Equity Office

The Director of Human Resources (Equity Officer) presented information to the new Resident Assistants on the Human Rights Policy and Procedures and the Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Program.

3. Labour Relations

A series of attendance management presentations were delivered to the staffing groups. The purpose of the presentations was to address the application of existing language with the staffing agreement.

4. Health and Safety

A health and safety lunch and learn was held in May 2014 with the Director of Ancillary Services and Director of HR facilitating. On August 6th, Brandi Bell-Tanninen joined the Administration team at Algoma as the Full-Time Health and Safety Officer. Brandi brings to Algoma over five years of progressive management experience and over seven years working in a health and safety environment. She has a demonstrated ability to implement and continuously improve industry leading safe work management programs. Over the past month, Brandi has been meeting with key areas and individuals at Algoma University as she works toward further development and recommendation of improvements to the current health and safety program to ensure we are meeting the legislative requirements.

5. Payroll

Staff and Administration still have the option to have their payroll information available electronically or by way of a manual pay stub. By the end of 2014, there will no longer be an option and all information can only be accessed electronically. The electronic timesheets has proved to be a successful launch and has resulted in saving valuable time for the Payroll Officer. The last manual timesheet will be accepted September 30, 2014. By the first pay in October, all timesheets will be processed electronically.

6. Service Excellence

The Service Excellence program was officially launched to the AU community at an event held at the University on June 19, 2014. At the time, the website and video went live. The HR Director and one

member of the Service Excellence Committee have met with a total of six administration departments to complete the departmental training portion of the program. The purpose of the departmental training is for staff to identify how the standards apply within their own department. Departmental training will be completed by the end of September 2014. There have also been a number of kudos award given to staff members and teams to recognize an incident where the individual(s) went over and above in providing service excellence.

Information Technology

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since June 2014

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

1. EnrollmentRX

The recruitment module of EnrollmentRX is now running, with Admissions scheduled for November.

Various new features have been developed between Admissions, Recruitment, and IT, including the automated processing of a portion of our applications. For example, a high school student with good grades may apply and receive an acceptance within a day, all based on an automated routine.

2. Infrastructure Upgrades

EW201 and BT201 have now been fitted with our standard classroom IT equipment (podium, projector, PC, audio system, etc).

All full-time faculty have received new laptops or desktops (based on their choice), and all computer labs and classrooms across main campus and our remote sites have received new hardware.

Our multi-year surveillance upgrade and access control upgrade are now complete.

Classroom “Clickers” are now being used by several faculty as part of a research trial. General use for all faculty should be available in the winter term.

We are investigating the option of installing swipe access on all classroom doors, and an enhanced security system for our external doors

3. Internet Bandwidth

The bandwidth on main campus has been upgraded from 100Mbps to 200Mbps, and includes a fully-automated failover system to minimize Internet downtime.

4. New Information Services

Two new features were added to the IT-managed my.algomau.ca portal:

- A new timesheet submission/processing system replaces paper timesheets, and saves hours of additional work each month
- A new Co-curricular Records system has been launched for students.

The base installation of a new Document Management System (DocuShare) is complete, and ITS will be working with several departments on improving business processes. Our first “stop” this upcoming term will be with finance, and improving the purchasing process through electronic purchase orders.

Physical Plant

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since June 2014
Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

1. Arthur A. Wishart Library Reroofing

The library reroofing project was put out to tender and awarded to S&T Group. This project is currently underway with the new rooftop HVAC unit installation nearing completion and the new roofing installation underway. This project is currently behind schedule by about 1.5 weeks due to the amount of rain we have been experiencing. The contractors are planning to be complete by the end of September.

2. Essar Convergence Centre Expansion

A design for a new 80-seat classroom in the former Algoma Games for Health space was completed and the renovation contract was awarded to Kim Park Construction this summer. The main scope of the project was completed in time for classes to begin. A second renovation to add a Sessional Faculty office, as per the recently ratified collective bargaining agreement, as part of this space was recently added to the contract and the contractor is currently completing this work. The renovations are expected to be complete by the end of September.

3. George Leach Center Ontario Universities Athletics Expansion

The GLC Expansion project was awarded to Cy Rheault Construction. This major renovation and addition project is currently underway. All areas of renovation have been started with many portions near or totally complete on the ground level. The contractor is focusing on getting the building weather-tight as the fall and winter weather approaches. There have been weather related delays causing leaks into the building. The contractor is fast to respond, but notes that until the second floor structure is up and weather-tight water leaks will persist. Cy Rheault is being very proactive and fast to respond to all issues with the water leaks, but this has caused operational issues for the GLC. With the high amounts of rain there has been flooding in the GLC requiring day-to-day temporary closures. The roofing for the second floor is scheduled to begin September 28, with overall project completion still scheduled for December 1, as per the accepted proposal.

Student Recruitment: Domestic

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June 2014
Brent Krmopotich, Director, Domestic Recruitment

1. First Year Enrolment Update

Algoma University has had a successful year recruiting direct from high school (101) students. Overall the size of our incoming high school class grew by 5.5%. This number includes all campuses. When you strip out the University's extension programs, the incoming direct from high school class grew by 12.5%. We are happy with this growth compared to a provincial average of – 2.9%.

We have had less success attracting non-traditional (105) students this year. Overall new 105's are down 10.9%. Most of the decline can be attributed to smaller than expected classes at our extension sites. Our incoming 105 class at the Sault Ste. Marie campus is down 4.2%. Provincially, this cohort grew by 4.6% in 2014.

2. New CRM – Enrollment RX

The Domestic Recruitment and IT departments have been working together all summer on the implementation of a new CRM – Enrollment RX. The Recruitment portion of the CRM will launch on September 15th with the Admissions portion to follow on November 1st. The implementation has provided us with an opportunity to review business processes and improve work flows. We expect the new software to improve conversion rates of prospects to applicants as well as applicants to registered students.

3. Department Staffing

As usual there has been significant turnover in staffing over the summer. This fall we welcome two new staff members to our department - Ashley Shantz and Ian Brodie. Both are graduates of Algoma. Ian's role is a new experiment for us. Ian will be employed casually as our representative in Ottawa. This will allow us to have greater presence in a large market that we can't afford to travel to regularly. If we see improved results in the Ottawa market we will consider expanding this program to other urban centres.

4. Presentation Development/Video Production

The recruitment department has modernized our promotional presentation. In an effort to make the presentation more interactive we have hired a videographer to shoot video that highlights Algoma's strengths as a university. Thus far we have shot clips that highlight academics, residence life, coop, internationalization and study abroad. These clips will be inserted into a Prezi (rather than powerpoint) presentation to promote Algoma U. This modernization should provide prospective students with a more compelling reason to visit and ultimately choose Algoma U.

Extension Programming

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since June 1, 2014

Brian Leahy, Operations Director – Extension Programming

1. Algoma University @ Brampton

Although new enrolments in Brampton have dropped considerably, overall enrolment remains substantial. We continue to put measures in place to enhance student support and increase student engagement opportunities at this location. A new framework for departmental quality control has been established and we are actively taking steps to improve the level of qualitative and quantitative academic supports for our students. Thanks to the generous support of the Inzola Group, our students now have access to a space for spiritual meditation/prayer similar to the space available on our main campus.

2. Algoma University @ St. Thomas

The St. Thomas Steering Committee is currently finalizing a report for Academic Planning & Priorities, and ultimately Senate regarding opportunities to fine tune the program offering to better address the needs of prospective students in the St. Thomas area. The Thames Valley District School Board and the City of St. Thomas have expressed strong interest in working with us to promote and support a “retooled” program offering at this extension site.

One of the primary goals of the St. Thomas program was to create a pathway to students who would eventually study on our main campus. A preliminary review of Fall enrolment data has identified 7 FT students studying on our main campus who were introduced to Algoma through our St. Thomas initiative.

3. Algoma University @ Timmins

The hiring of two key personnel during the summer months will be instrumental in our ability to grow enrolment and enhance the program offering at this extension site, both areas of identified need. The FT faculty hire has strong ties to Northern College which will provide us with increased access to graduating students who could easily transition into university programming at this location. A few service enhancements have been adopted including provisions for students in Timmins to purchase textbooks and Algoma University merchandise at the Northern College Bookstore.

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

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June 2014

Jonathan Dewar, Director

1. Archive and Centre

The Centre hosted its third annual Shingwauk Gathering & Conference August 1-3, 2014. This year's theme was "Art and the Archive." There were over one hundred registered participants. The conference was also part of the Law and Politics course "Justice as Healing," which included two University of Toronto Concurrent Education program students – the second time this partnership has been established.

2. Research and Programming

The Centre was awarded a \$146,000 curatorial project grant from Canadian Heritage's Museum Assistance Program to conduct research and develop new content and exhibition design over the next 18 months. The curatorial project, "Healing and Reconciliation through Education," led by Jonathan Dewar, SRSC Director, and acclaimed Onandaga artist and curator Jeff Thomas, will see several strategic and highly visible public spaces at Algoma University transformed through a combination of professional gallery and museum practice to augment our telling of the history and present day story of Algoma University through of the following elements:

- The Turtle Island and Bawating 'forever' history;
- the history of the Anishinaabe;
- the history of contact between Anishinaabe and newcomers to Bawating;
- Chief Shingwaukonse's 'Vision';
- the history of Indian Residential Schools, nationally and regionally;
- the history of the Shingwauk Indian Residential School and Wawanosh School;
- the history of the Healing Movement, especially the Shingwauk Project, the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association, and the Shingwauk Gatherings;
- national commemorative exhibits;
- an art plan for the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and AU;
- and a celebration of Shingwauk and AU student and alumni successes under the theme of 'Shingwauk's Children.'

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.

The Centre has been asked to develop a course for public servants by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada. This next-level cultural competency course will focus on reconciliation in practice and will be funded by Health Canada.

3. Budget and Staffing

The Centre has been staffed since spring 2013 by a Researcher/Curator, a position made possible through the 2-year, \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* from the AHF. In the next fiscal year, the position will be transferred to the Wishart Library, ensuring that ongoing, permanent funding for the position is available.

Student Services

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June, 2014

Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

1. Student Services

- Developed and implanted and Early Alert program for Faculty to use as a tool to help identify students who are experiencing difficulties with their academics. The Alert, automatically notifies the Student Services Advisor who then follows up with the student to discuss a suitable plan to support.
- Developed and implemented the Algoma University Co-Curricular Record program. This program allows students to receive official documentation from the University which verifies their participation in such things as Student Government, clubs, committee work, attending events, volunteer roles and many other campus life activities.
- Developed a campus-wide initiative aimed at increasing and promoting participation in Campus activities, workshops and other services. Students will be encouraged to scan their student cards at participating events to get a chance to win an iPad at the end of the year. A file will be created from each event which will provide organizers with important student demographic information (name, age, program/year of study etc.).
- First Year Orientation “Frosh Week” was very successful, highlighted with an overnight camping trip to Camp Wakonda which had over 100 students participate in an evening of programming and outdoor experiences.

2. Residence

- Residence Life Staff took part in their annual training in late August prior to student arrival. The training focused on student health and included Mental Health First Aid Certification, tours of local support areas and presentations from Sociology faculty.
- As part of Residence Orientation activities, Aly Madhavji author of “How to Succeed at University” spoke to students about his experiences at university. His book is a free resource that many other institutions are providing students.
- A new initiative was introduced in Residence this year in hopes of increasing participation in events and promoting acts of community goodwill. Student will be awarded “Boomer Bucks” for attending events, going out of their way to help others, and maintaining a positive environment. The “Boomer Bucks” can be redeemed for Housing office merchandise or will have a cash value for residence events that carry a fee.
- Residence “Move In” for first year students occurred on Sunday August 31st as we welcomed our incoming class with fun games, a barbeque, and an outdoor DJ Dance party in the quad area.

3. George Leach Centre

- GLC Staff continue to operate the facility during construction with limited disruption to members. Where possible any disruptions are effectively communicated through an email distribution list, social media and press releases.
- A Fitness Equipment Request for Proposal was developed and posted for the acquisition of the required equipment to be housed in the new fitness and training area. The RFP closes on Sept 19th.
- The GLC has successfully transformed to a new Facility and Membership software program called EZFacility. This popular program is used by many fitness centres in the industry and streamlines our ability to manage data, track sales, and communicate with members.

4. Varsity

- All Varsity training camps are underway and teams have welcomed many new students to their respective teams. This season will be the first official OUA competition for our Men's and Women's soccer teams.

5. Ancillaries

- The Food Services Selection committee announced that Morningstar Hospitality was the successful bidder in the RFP process. On Aug 22 Morningstar Market and Eatery officially took over the food services operation at Algoma University and immediately proved why they were successful candidate by providing fresh, made from scratch, "Red Sealed" chef prepared menus. Feedback from students and staff has been very positive and the dining experience has been elevated. Morningstar was awarded a five-year contract and has plans for significant capital investment in the near future.
- PepsiCo was awarded a five-year renewal for the Beverage Rights at Algoma University. The renewal includes improvements to rebate programs, scholarships, sponsorship and a signing bonus.
- The bookstore had a very successful Fall start with 95% of titles on the shelves well before the first day of classes. This in part reflects the tremendous effort on faculty's part to have their adoption orders in on time with the bookstore manager.