



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## College of Arts and Science

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DEAN'S REPORT TO FACULTY COUNCIL

October 30, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Peta Bonham-Smith

Since the October 5 meeting of Faculty Council several opportunities for outreach and engagement have been taken up. In mid-October I visited Norway to take part in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on future development of the CaNoRock (Canada-Norway Student Sounding Rocket) / CaNoSat (Canada-Norway Satellite) student training and research program. I attended the signing ceremony on behalf of the University of Saskatchewan for this agreement that brings together three Canadian universities (Universities of Calgary, Alberta and Saskatchewan), the Royal Military College and several institutions in Norway; and has been sponsored by the Norwegian Space Centre and the Canadian Space Agency. During the visit I also met with contacts at the Universities of Oslo and Tromsø.

As has been the practice of previous Deans in this college, a visit to a regional college took place on 23 October. Joining me on this visit to Parkland Regional College (Yorkton) were Lorin Elias, Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Trevor Nerdahl, Manager of Student Recruiting and Transfer Credit. Through a guest lecture, meetings with the President, staff, instructors and students, and a tour of the main campus we were able to get a sense of the college and to hear from them their priorities and the opportunities and challenges we face together in this partnership.

In late October, I travelled to Calgary with Erin Walkey, Director of Advancement in the College. She and I met with approximately 10 donors and alumni who support a variety of disciplines across our college. As part of these meetings, I hand delivered endowment reports, that highlight the impact of the donors' support. We also toured the galleries at the University of Calgary and the new Canadian Natural Resources Limited Engineering Complex.

### **COLLEGE UPDATES**

#### **-Aboriginal-**

In the 2107-18 academic year, the College of Arts and Science has 1149 self-declared Aboriginal undergraduate students. This is 13% of our undergraduate student population, and more than double the number five years ago.

Work on the Indigenous Course Requirement is moving forward. The Indigenous Requirement Working group met for a full day in April to decide on a framework for the requirement. The group met through the summer months to flesh out this framework by deciding on Indigenous Requirement course criteria and a process for assessing courses. The Associate Dean, Aboriginal Affairs also consulted with all Department Heads as well as with all members of the Department of Indigenous Studies about the proposed framework. A committee has now been formed to assess existing college courses and is in the process of assessing the 26 courses submitted by departments. We expect to submit a full proposal for the Indigenous Requirement at the end of November, for consideration by Faculty Council in May 2018.

The new Aboriginal Student Achievement Program (ASAP) STEM Pathways was rolled out this fall, with the introduction of two new 90-level courses, CHEM 90 and PHYS 90, providing university preparation

for students who lack high school science pre-requisites, or who have been away from school for some time. BIO 90 will begin in Fall 2018. As part of STEM Pathways, ASAP will also offer second-year courses for the first time. The upper-year components of the program will be added in 2018 and 2019.

### **-Faculty Relations-**

#### *Aboriginal Recruitment Strategy Update:*

This year, the College aims to recruit two outstanding emerging or established Aboriginal scholars for fulltime, tenure-track positions at any rank in any scholarly discipline in the College. The Aboriginal Recruitment Committee (ARC) coordinates that initiative and its members are:

1. C. Greyeyes (Drama)
2. J. Handy (History)
3. S. Nickel (Indigenous Studies)
4. L. Wilson (Chemistry)
5. K. McWilliams (Physics and Engineering Physics)
6. J. Garcea (Political Studies)
7. K. Bidwell (Associate Dean Aboriginal Affairs)
8. L. Martz, Chair (Vice-Dean Faculty Relations)
9. D. Carriere (Human Resources support, non-voting)

The ARC has finalized a job advertisement and it is posted to the following sites:

- CAUT
- Universities Canada
- SaskJobs
- USask Careers
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society
- Chronicle of Higher Education.

Departments were asked to post this ad in academic discipline-specific outlets and to bring it to the attention of well-qualified Aboriginal colleagues. Review of applications will begin after November 27.

#### *CRC Searches:*

There are currently three (3) Canada Research Chair searches underway within the College:

- SSHRC Tier 2: Joint search between the College of Arts & Science, Edwards School of Business and the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (description under revision)
- NSERC Tier 2: Chemistry (Analytical Environmental Science)
- NSERC Tier 2: Computer Science (Network Security)

Applications from women and members of other underrepresented groups are especially encouraged for the NSERC Chairs. As these searches move forward, we will update at upcoming Faculty Council meetings.

#### **-Financial-**

Along with the College Plan Overview (to 2025), a multi-year financial plan for the college is due to PCIP by March 30, 2018. This must address strategies to move to a balanced budget in 2018-19, which will include maximization of savings from the voluntary exit plans (USFA, CUPE 1975, ASPA, Exempt). The college's projected annual operating deficit for the current year (2017-18) is approximately \$4.3M. Suggestions for additional strategies are welcome: [college.budget@artsandscience.usask.ca](mailto:college.budget@artsandscience.usask.ca)

Updated TABBS results will be available in November 2017. Along with the College Plan Overview (to 2025), these results will inform 2018-19 resource allocation decisions.

Resource allocation decisions are expected in April 2018, following the release of the Provincial Budget.

Tuition and fee decisions for 2018-19 will be deferred to March 2018 from November/December as in recent years. Consultations with the ASSU and a student town hall will be held over the next month.

#### **-Planning-**

The current draft and the timelines associated with the University's Plan to 2025 are at: <http://www.usask.ca/plan/>

I encourage everyone in our college community to give their feedback about the plan draft by:

- attending meetings of University Council
- emailing the central planning group at [strategic.plan@usask.ca](mailto:strategic.plan@usask.ca)
- speaking with Andrea Wasylow, our college planner ([andrea.wasylow@usask.ca](mailto:andrea.wasylow@usask.ca); -4249)
- emailing me directly at [officeofthedean@artsandscience.usask.ca](mailto:officeofthedean@artsandscience.usask.ca)

The provost has indicated that the University Plan will be going for final approval in spring 2018 by all three governing bodies of the University Council, Senate, and Board of Governors.

Colleges have been asked to complete draft templates for our strategic plan framework and overview, due to the provost's office by January 10, 2018. These short documents will list the college's goals for alignment with the University Plan's three commitments: courageous curiosity, boundless collaboration, and inspired communities. Colleges are also to identify other college-specific goals.

Very wide consultations have taken place in our college over the last planning cycle, and are ongoing. The results will be distilled, and framed as a continuum to the priorities we set and accomplished in our last college plan. I will be creating a College Planning Committee this term, and it will begin meeting next term to determine stakeholders and a consultation strategy, to elucidate and refine the college's strategic plan, to create a communications plan, and begin to foresee an implementation plan to begin in fall 2018.

The Dean's Executive Committee and the Committee of Department Heads have agreed that given the tight timeline of January 10 for the initial drafts, the Expanded Dean's Executive Committee will complete the framework and overview forms in conjunction with the Committee of Department Heads.

By March 30, 2018, colleges will provide revisions to these documents, as well as our multi-year financial plan.

In the spring (exact date TBD), deans will have planning and resource allocation meetings with the provost, which will include discussion of targets, metrics, and goals to 2025. PCIP resource allocation decisions for 2018-19 will be communicated to colleges in April 2018. The university's annual budget for 2018-19 will go forward for decision to the Board of Governors on June 25, 2018.

Final strategic plans from colleges are to be submitted to the provost's office by September 17, 2018, and these will support the University Plan.

### **-Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work-**

#### *RSAW Plan*

The plan is in progress and on track to be completed by the end of this term. The working group has provided feedback on an early draft and will review a revised version soon. This version will then go to the November meeting of the RSAW Committee for input and, following that process, will go to faculty with a mechanism to provide feedback by the end of November. The intent is to present the plan, for information, to the December college faculty council meeting.

#### *Tri-council Award Updates*

NSERC Strategic Partnership Grants (SPG):

- Tim Kelly from Chemistry was awarded \$412,500 over 3 years.
- Ian Stavness from Computer Science is a co-applicant in another successful application, led by UBC.
- Stephen Urquhart from Chemistry is a co-applicant in a successful application led by INRS in Quebec.

NSERC Discovery Grants:

The deadline for submitting NSERC Discovery Grant applications to UnivRS is October 25 (NSERC Deadline is Nov-1). At the time of this report, there were 20 NOI's submitted. An update of the final number of applications will be provided at the next meeting.

NSERC Research Tools & Instruments (RTI):

The deadline for submitting NSERC RTI applications to UnivRS was October 19 (NSERC deadline is Oct-25). At the time of this report, there were 11 intentions to submit an application (8 have been submitted through UnivRS). An update of the final number of applications will be provided at the next meeting.

#### SSHRC Insight Grant Updates:

The SSHRC deadline for submitting an Insight Grant was October 15. A total of 9 NOIs were submitted through the College of Arts & Science. Of these, 8 completed applications were submitted, with 5 of the 8 submissions participating in the U of S internal review process.

#### SSHRC Insight Development Grant Updates:

The upcoming Insight Development Grant competition will have a college submission deadline of January 22nd (SSHRC submission of February 2, 2018). NOIs were due October 30 but are still being accepted, with an internal review draft submission deadline of November 20.

Workshops in support of SSHRC grants (targeted towards IDGs) are being offered for interested faculty on the following topics and times:

October 31 at 1:30 PM: Methodology Workshop

November 2 at 1:30 PM: Budget Justification

November 7 at 9:30 AM: Student and HQP Training

November 9 at 12:30 PM: Knowledge Mobilization

More information can be found on the Research webpage calendar, or by contacting your research facilitator.