MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PROVOST, TEACHING AND LEARNING

The wïcëhtowin Leadership Award will provide one award of $1,000 to a student who demonstrates achievement in leadership, participation and growth. One award will be made at the end of each of the first and second years of the program.

The wïcëhtowin BFA Entrance Award will provide two awards of $1,000 each to students completing the program who move on to a Bachelor of Fine Arts program.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING

Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)
PCIP met once in October. On October 19, PCIP discussed the communications plan for the 2016-17 Operations Forecast and Economic Impact Study, as well as began conversations for the 2017-18 Operations Forecast, due April 30, 2016.

PCIP also discussed resource allocations for colleges and units for 2016-17 and received an update on ongoing discussions with the Government of Saskatchewan regarding post-secondary education sector performance indicators.

2016-17 Tuition Consultation with colleges and schools
Annually, tuition rates are set for the following academic year. This process is informed by individual consultations with colleges and schools, supported by the office of Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA). IPA has begun consultation meetings with deans and senior financial officers to discuss tuition rate adjustments based on analysis of comparative information and assessment against the University of Saskatchewan’s tuition principles of comparability, affordability and accessibility, and quality. These meetings provide further opportunity to discuss operating budget expectations for the 2016-17 year, gain insight and commentary on the draft tuition policy document, and provide a high level update on the RCM project. IPA has had conversations with seven colleges and schools as of October 28.

Planning for 2016-17: Resource Allocation
- PCIP intends to manage the uncertainty surrounding the 2016-17 grant centrally.
- PCIP is proposing a consistent 1% increase to operating budget envelopes in 2016-17.
- This strategy will allow the university to refocus time during 2015-16 and 2016-17 toward finalizing the TABBS model and to prepare a full implementation plan addressing the implications/issues.
- The IPA will be facilitating conversations with deans and units about the challenges of decreased reliance on the operating grant and will assist in this transition as much as possible.
INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

University Rankings
In the fall of each year, various university rankings results are released to the public. Some rankings evaluate institutions in Canada (e.g. Maclean’s and Research Infosource) while others, such as Quacquarelli Symmons (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE), assess institutions worldwide. Rankings are relevant to us because they can allow us to track our performance in comparison to our peers. They can also have an impact on student and faculty recruitment, donor investment, government perceptions and stakeholder confidence in our university so it is important for us to pay attention to them. This fall, results have shown that the U of S has improved in some rankings compared to last year. Specifically, the Maclean’s results indicated that the U of S ranked 13th out of 15 comparator universities, a move up one spot from last year. This upward trend was consistent in other rankings such as Research Infosource (a move up to 11th place from 14th place last year) and within the QS and THE rankings. Moving forward, we will continue to pay attention to our position in the rankings and how we might improve in future years. The U of S task force on university rankings has been working in this regard with plans to complete their work early in the new year. A summary of this activity will be reported to University Council in a future report from the provost.

Unit Reviews
Three unit reviews that were identified as priorities for the 2015-16 year are proceeding according to plan. The site visit for the School of Environment and Sustainability was completed on November 8 (with reviewers joining us from the University of Waterloo, University of Colorado-Boulder and Arizona State University) and we expect to receive the report from the review team in December 2015. The site visit for the University Library review has been confirmed for January 20-22, 2016. With this, the review team has been finalized (consisting of representatives from the University of Alberta, Western University and the Association of Research Libraries) and we are now focusing on completing a self-study and other relevant information for the review. Finally, work continues on preparations for the review of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. We are in the process of assembling the review team, preparing for the self-study, gathering other relevant information and confirming the site visit dates. We anticipate that the site visit will occur in early April 2016. This unit review will be done in partnership with the University of Regina.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

College of Arts & Science
The college congratulates all of the graduates at the Fall Convocation ceremony, and honors our top students: Owen R. Nimetz (Three-Year Degree Medal); Mashid Chaharlang Bakhtiari (University Medal in the Social Sciences); Jennifer Baergen Regier (University Medal in Sciences); Britni Elizabeth Korte (University Medal in the Fine Arts); Alasdair Rees (Rose Litman Award and Dean’s Medal Award); Alana Maisha Closs (University Medal in Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree).

Convocation congratulations to Regan Mandryk (Computer Science), who won the New Researcher Award, and Marie Lovrod (Women’s and Gender Studies / English), who won the Award for Distinction in Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship. Fine arts alum Brian F. Gable (BA’70) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at Fall Convocation.
The first cohort of the **wichêhtowin Aboriginal Theatre Program** has commenced study in the two-year certificate program offered by the Department of Drama that trains students for careers in theatre, television, film and related industries. In Cree, wichêhtowin means: “we live together in harmony; we help each other; we are inclusive.”

Arts & Science alumnus **Lindsay (Eekwol) Knight** (BA’10, MA’13)—a nationally-renowned hip-hop artist—performed at the recent Indigenous Women Gala.

**Guy Vanderhaeghe** (BA ’71), Arts ’72, MA ’75, DLitt ’97 won his third Governor General’s Literary Award for fiction for *Daddy Lenin and Other Stories*.

We congratulate our alumni who recently won Alumni Association Achievement Awards: **Mark Boots** (BSc’08) for his innovative developments in research and application of technology for social change; **Richard (Rich) Burton** (MSc’71, PhD’75) for his contributions to education and research; **Namarta Kochar** (BA’00) for her volunteerism and community service; **Ryan Meili** (BSc’00) for his significant contributions to public and Aboriginal health, and the medical profession; **Jennifer Pereira** (BA’01) for her community leadership and contributions to her profession; **Richard (Dick) Rempel** (BA’58) for his leadership in teaching and learning and his ongoing dedication to telling the story of the university and its people; **Lynne Van Luven** (BA’68) for her service to the arts, literature and education; **Janet Verjovsky** (BA’64) for her leadership and service to teaching and education; **Kwok-Keung (Peter) Wong** (MSc’75) for his significant contributions to business and industry, dedicated public service and philanthropy.

**Jill Gunn**, associate professor from the Department of Geography and Planning and associate faculty member of the School of Environment and Sustainability, will be joining the College of Arts & Science dean’s office in the role of Acting Vice-Dean Academic while Gordon DesBrisay is on administrative leave from January 1 to August 31, 2016.

Warm congratulations to **Peter Stoicheff**, professor in the Department of English, and former Vice-Dean and Dean, on his installation as the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**

**College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Receives International Recognition with AAPS Video Selection**

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition was one of ten pharmacy schools selected in a global search for this year’s American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists video series. The video will be viewed at the 2015 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition as part of the AAPS TV initiative, which will broadcast throughout the conference. This conference is attended by over 10,000 pharmaceutical scientists from around the world, and this video will give our college international exposure. This prestigious opportunity was granted to the college due to our strengths in research and the leadership opportunities we provide to our students.

In September, a camera crew visited campus to conduct interviews with Drs. Kishor Wasan, Yvonne Shevchuk, Ildiko Badea, and pharmacy students Darren Bogle, Kelsey Joorisity, and Steven Kary. These six people proudly represented the college’s leadership, research, and student experience. To view our college’s video, please click here.
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH

The research highlights for the month of November are reported in the attachment by the office of the vice-president, research.