

Principal's Written Report

Queen's University Senate

19th March, 2013

The main focus of my report this month is to provide some background regarding the progress on University Council Reform. I have also included brief updates on provincial government matters and advancement and schedule highlights since the last meeting are attached.

Government Update

The Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario has delivered its report to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on the strategic mandate agreements submitted by each university. We have been informed that the results are embargoed until Minister Duguid has had a chance to review the report. We are still awaiting a government decision on the tuition framework for next year and expect this by the end of March.

Advancement Update

While I am not in a position to report on specific gifts this month, I can pass on the news that the campaign target for this fiscal year of \$60 million has been exceeded two months ahead of schedule. As of the beginning of March, the annual total was \$61 million. I would like to acknowledge, again, the stellar work of VP Harris and his Advancement team in the ongoing success of the Initiative Campaign.

Reform of University Council

As Chair of the University Council Executive Committee (UCEC), I presided on March 5th over a meeting at which the UCEC unanimously endorsed a set of by-laws that had been drafted by the Secretary of the University to enact a proposed new mandate for University Council. The mandate itself had been enthusiastically endorsed at a UCEC meeting in January, as Senator Medves, a Senate representative on UCEC, reported at the February Senate.

Senators, as current members of University Council, will have received on March 8th, copies of the proposed new mandate for University Council as well as the draft by-laws to enact that mandate should it be endorsed. During the first week in April, all Senators, Trustees and elected Councillors will be contacted by email and asked whether they endorse the proposed mandate. If endorsed by a majority of those who respond, a Special Meeting of University Council will be called by Chancellor Dodge for April 24th in accordance with the current by-laws. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to pass a motion to allow electronic voting on the proposed by-laws. The electronic vote will enfranchise a significantly larger proportion of University Councillors than is possible for an in-person meeting and will provide all current Councillors with the opportunity to participate in the final steps leading to reform.

I would like to encourage each Senator to participate in this process by indicating whether you endorse the mandate in early April and by voting on the proposed by-laws between April 25th and May 6th.