

## **Principal's Written Report**

Queen's University Senate

30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

### **COU and Government Update**

The biannual meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities occurred in Guelph this month. This meeting includes the Executive Heads and Academic Colleagues. Academic Colleague Patrick Oosthuizen will be providing an oral report on Council at Senate. Issues discussed at the Executive Heads Roundtable the previous day included:

- Next steps on the Strategic Mandate Agreement process now that HEQCO has produced its report. Executive Heads are advocating for bilateral discussions on the proposed agreements with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities as was initially envisaged and that these can proceed as soon as possible in view of the elapsed time of seven months since these Proposed Mandate Statements were submitted.
- Concern about the decreased revenue as a result of the government's efficiency targets, the claw-back of fees from international tuition and new tuition framework. While the new tuition framework is a compromise that provided some relief for students in the form of lower annual increases to fees than in the recent past, in combination with other government decisions, it further affects the universities' revenues that are provided either directly or indirectly by government. We continue to advocate for offsets to this reduction in revenue that will allow us to continue to deliver quality programs for students.
- Ongoing discussions with the government regarding Pensions in the University Sector while many institutions face significant challenges in meeting upcoming solvency payments that will have a serious impact on budget available for the core mission of teaching, scholarship and research.

### **U15**

Canada's U15 group of research-intensive universities will be launching a website next month. I have been asked to write one of the first blog postings on this site. I will be writing a piece on Immigration policy as it affects potential students and faculty recruitment. In the future, other Executive Heads will be blogging on particular issues of interest and on policy issues that affect universities. The heightened profile of the U15 that results from the launch of the website and the group's secretariat earlier this year will increase our ability to advocate nationally on the research agenda and on national higher education policy, and to publicize the value that Canada's research-intensive universities bring to the nation. I will be attending the spring meeting of the U15 in Calgary on May 2-3.

### **Advancement Update**

Momentum on fundraising continued this past quarter as we reached our fiscal fundraising goal of \$60 million – to date, benefactors have contributed more than \$66 million in this fiscal year.

Some examples of recent notable donations have been made to:

- the Friends of the Queen`s University Archives Fund;
- the Hatch Aboriginal Scholars Award; and
- the Centre for Innovation in Global Engineering Fund.

In the past few weeks, we have also received a multimillion dollar donation to support the university`s priorities on mental health.

As we near the end of this fiscal year, of the total 12,000 donors who supported the university, more than 9,000 alumni donors have given back to Queen`s.

I have been traveling a great deal of late, mainly though not exclusively on Advancement related activities that have taken me to Boston, New York, Calgary, and Los Angeles as well as Toronto. I will be joining a Matariki Network delegation in Beijing in May, via a stop in Hong Kong where we have a number of alumni who have not been visited by a principal for over a decade.

### **University Council Reform**

Since last we met, the vote to approve a new mandate for University Council has been completed and was passed with 92 Councillors in favour and 11 against. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, a Special Meeting of University Council has been called to approve electronic voting for a resolution to pass by-laws that will put into effect the new mandate. All Senators as Councillors will be eligible to participate in this vote and I encourage you to do so. Voting will take place, subject to the passage of the resolution at the Special Meeting, between April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>.