



Office of the Provost

Provost's Report to January 21, 2014, Senate Meeting

The 2014-2015 Queen's Budget

The development of the 2014-2015 budget is well underway. The shared service units (HR, IT, Library, Provost's Office, Student Affairs, etc.) submitted their budget and staffing plans in September, following which each unit made a presentation to the Provost's Advisory Committee on the Budget (PACB). With the benefit of advice from the PACB, budget allocations for these units were made. Faculties and Schools then developed their budgets and submitted them at the end of November. These budgets were presented to, and reviewed, by PACB in December. Work is now underway to determine final Faculty budgets, based on the budget submissions and advice from PACB. This information will be used to create the preliminary budget that will be presented to the Board of Trustees in March. The final (balanced) 2014-15 budget will then be presented for approval at the May meeting.

Productivity and Innovation Fund Update

Queen's University has received funding for three initiatives through the provincial government's Productivity and Innovation Fund (PIF), a one-time, \$45-million initiative to support innovation and enhance the learning experience at Ontario's universities and colleges. Submissions were assessed by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). Of the \$45 million, MTCU allocated \$23 million to single-institution projects and \$22 million to multi-institution projects.

Queen's submitted three proposals. Two proposals, one to enrich nursing education and another to reduce costs of administrative information systems, are multi-institution projects led by Queen's. The third proposal, an initiative of Queen's alone, will support active learning at Queen's. All three proposals were awarded funding.

Queen's is also working collaboratively with 10 other institutions on a variety of other PIF projects.

We recently submitted our interim reports to the Ministry on January 15, 2014, and will be submitting our final reports on June 30, 2014. Additional information can be found on the [Queen's News Centre](#) or on the [Government of Ontario's website](#).

Partnership with St Lawrence College

The Faculty of Arts and Science has been working in collaboration with St Lawrence College on the development of a program to offer a concurrent Bachelor of Music and Diploma in Music and Digital Media program. The proposal to offer this program is before Senate, so it is opportune to reflect on the progress that has been made since Queen's and St Lawrence College first signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2011.

The MOU committed the two institutions to several key objectives including creating new, relevant and strategic learning opportunities for students, and enhancing student wellness and the student life experience. Since that time, our commitment under this MOU has been a consistent theme in our academic planning. The primary commitment to enhancing the student learning experience, which arises from the Academic Plan, and which is embedded in our strategic framework and in our [Proposed Mandate Statement](#) to the provincial government, will be achieved through, *inter alia*, more joint credential programming, more experiential learning opportunities, and expanded learning outcomes, all of which a broad-based collaboration with St Lawrence College offers. As well, interdisciplinarity, the second pillar of our Academic Plan, is a fundamental feature of many of these collaborative opportunities. For example, in addition to the BMus/MDM Diploma program, the Faculty of Arts and Science is looking at several programs that could combine a BA or BSc with Business Administration, Biology with Biotechnology, Fine Art with Graphic Design, and a joint degree program in Musical Theatre.

All of these potential combined programs clearly speak to the first objective of the MOU, namely creating new, relevant and strategic learning opportunities for students. As well, our two institutions are partnering on a joint funding proposal to the Ministry of Research and Innovation to expand experiential learning through entrepreneurship for Queen's and St Lawrence students.

The goal of enhancing student wellness and the student life experience recently received a considerable boost with the success of a Queen's/St Lawrence College partnership that secured funding of \$1M over three years from the MTCU to create provincial standards for mental health disabilities through the development of documentation standards in the Learning Disability and ADHD area.

The considerable amount of dedication, effort and commitment by staff from both institutions in bringing these collaborations to fruition is to be commended. The experience of developing the underlying articulation agreement for the B.Mus/ Music and Digital Media Diploma has provided the framework for more collaborative programming, and is helping to resolve technical questions around application processes and issues related to credit transfer among institutions.