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**Principal's Written Report
Queen's University Senate
March 25, 2014**

Government Update

Federal

- Together with the U15 and AUCC, Queen's is involved in the process of aiding the development of the program parameters for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund announced as part of Budget 2014. Our goal is to ensure that research excellence remains at the forefront of the program objectives. This new funding aligns with the emphasis on research preeminence in our own strategic framework document. Over the next couple of months, my executive head colleagues and I will continue to impress upon government officials the need to make the program both bureaucratically efficient and focused on nurturing true excellence.
- As we prepare for our 175th anniversary celebrations in 2016-2017 (following on the heels of Canada's sesquicentennial), we are considering many options to mark the occasion, including the possibility of a royal visit to the Queen's campus. I am continuing to explore the possibility of such a visit with federal and provincial government officials.

Provincial

- At the time this report was filed I was scheduled to attend the Premier's Summit on Talent and Skills in the New Economy on March 18. The half-day session brings together executive heads from universities, as well as CEOs from business, industry, think tanks and NGOs, together with the Premier and the Ministers of both Training, Colleges and Universities and Economic Development, Trade and Employment. The goal will be to address issues around labour market forecasting, identifying skills for the future, as well as identify opportunities for experiential learning and partnership development.
- Looking ahead, Provost Harrison and I are scheduled to speak with the province's strategic mandate advisor, Paul Genest, on March 26. We hope to discuss graduate allocations and the SMA process as we move towards the Ministry's end of March deadline for wrapping up the SMA process.

Strategic Framework

- The university's five-year Strategic Framework was formally launched at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 7. While this is a very different sort of document from others such as the Academic Plan and Strategic Research Plans (not least in its inclusion of measurable goals and outcomes for its various strategic drivers) it could not have been conceived without the prior work that went into the earlier planning documents, and in particular without the community's engagement – especially Senate's. Taken with the other documents, and with the Campus Master Plan (see below), it provides us with a concise framework for assessing our progress over the next five years, consistent with the overarching goal of being Canada's quintessential balanced academy.

Awards and Honours:

- On March 5, the Human Rights and Equity Office along with the Council on Employment Equity handed out their awards honouring members of the university community for their work advancing human rights, equity and accessibility at Queen's.
 - The Employment Equity went to the Queen's Black Academic Society (QBAS) for its efforts to improve the experience of black students at Queen's through discussion, collaboration, relationship building and mentorship initiatives.
 - The Human Rights Initiative Award went to CRFC Radio for its commitment to offering a diverse and multi-faceted programming schedule promoting music and news from the community's multicultural communities, as well as social justice and human rights programming.
 - The Steve Cutway Accessibility Award was given to Andrew Ashby, Queen's Accessibility Hub Coordinator, for his passion to create an environment where persons with disabilities are able to access a full, enriching and transformative Queen's experience.
- Associate Professor and RBC Fellow in the Department of Economics, Dr. Thorsten Koepl, has been appointed a Resident Fellow of the C.D. Howe Institute, and well as a member of its Monetary Policy Council. Dr. Koepl previously served as a member of the Monetary Policy Council from 2007-2012.
- A children's music album recently produced by Dr. Matt Rogalsky, a continuing adjunct professor in the School of Music, has been nominated for a Juno Award. The album, What's the Big Idea?!? by local musician Gary Rasberry, has been nominated in the Children's Album of the Year category. The Juno Awards will be held on March 30 in Winnipeg.

Advancement Report:

- I'm pleased to report that with six weeks left in this fiscal year, we have nearly reached our annual target of \$50,000,000. In addition, we have broken through the \$400,000,000 milestone enroute to our 2016 goal of \$500,000,000.
- In the month of February, Queen's received the following gifts:
 - \$125,000 to support the Disraeli project
 - \$405,000 in the form of an estate gift for the Queen's Centre
 - \$180,000 for the Queen's Law Fund
 - \$150,000 for the Queen's School of Business Expansion
- Senators will see a further example of this year's success later in the agenda in the proposed Britton Smith Chair in Surgery.

Other business:

- After nearly a year and a half of study and consultation, the Board of Trustees approved the university's new Campus Master Plan at their meeting on March 7, 2014. The CMP will guide evolution at Queen's over the next 10 to 15 years, ensuring all campus improvements or development projects support our academic mission, enhance the campus experience, and promote the sound management of our facilities and resources.
- Nominations are currently open for the Queen's University Distinguished Service Awards. The annual awards recognize up to six members of the Queen's community for their outstanding contributions to the university. Faculty, staff, retirees, alumni and friends of the university are eligible for nomination. Nominations must be received by May 30, 2014. For more information email the University Secretariat at ucouncil@queensu.ca