



TO: Board of Governors  
FROM: Amit Chakma  
DATE: June 15, 2011  
SUBJECT: President's Report to the Board: June 2011

I'm pleased to provide the following update on key developments and achievements since the last meeting of the Board on April 28, 2011:

1. **"Putting Students First":** Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, John Milloy, has unveiled the Province's new five-year plan for post-secondary education titled "Putting Students First," which builds upon Ontario's 2005 "Reaching Higher" plan. The new plan's key goals include: expanding credit transfer opportunities; developing more collaborative and joint college/university options; supporting online learning through the Ontario Online Institute; pursuing new teaching quality and experiential learning initiatives; increasing the number of international students who study in Ontario; and adding 60,000 new student spaces (including 6,000 graduate spaces).

Minister Milloy has also communicated the potential for exploring how the funding formula for Ontario universities might be changed to take a more system-wide approach that recognizes the particular strengths of individual institutions and supports quality initiatives as well as growth. In addition, for the first time in the Province's history, post-secondary institutions will be considered as part of the government's long-term capital funding commitments. These are positive signals for Western and our sister institutions, and we look forward to engaging further with the government to advance these important goals.

2. **Student enrolment:** The acceptance rates of our offers to qualified first-year students for 2011-2012 has increased overall relative to last year, and we are presently projecting an entering class of approximately 5,100 for the coming academic year. This compares to our initial projections that estimated an overall increase from our previous first-year intake target of 4,350 up to 4,800. Key growth areas include health sciences, biological and medical sciences, social science, and management and organizational studies. It should also be noted that 600 fewer offers were extended this year compared to last, and the cut-off for entering grades was raised from 81% to 82% with a view to maintaining and strengthening the quality of our undergraduate student body. As well, our admissions team is working hard to retain those international students who have accepted offers so far and we appear to be tracking well against our international enrolment target for 2011.

This is a very good news story for Western that can be attributed to several factors. Our university continues to attract positive media coverage on several fronts that strengthens our reputation, including our ninth consecutive top ranking among Canada's large research-intensive schools in the annual *Globe and Mail* survey of undergraduate university students. In addition, our faculty, administrative support units, and recruitment and admissions staff have all done an outstanding job

in engaging prospective students and their families to demonstrate that Western is an excellent choice for pursuing their undergraduate education.

3. **International rankings:** Western's departments of Philosophy, History, Geography, and English were each recently named among the best in the world according to QS World University Rankings, which are based on academic and employer reputation surveys as well as research citations. The top-200 list of universities offering Arts and Humanities degrees placed Philosophy and History among the 100 best in the world, English among the top 150, and Geography among the top 200. In previously released QS rankings for disciplines in the Life Sciences & Medicine, Western's department of Psychology ranked among the top 100. Other Western departments that fared well in the QS rankings include Computer Science & Information Systems and Civil & Structural Engineering, each of which placed among the top 150 in the Engineering and Technology category, while Mathematics placed among the top 150 in the Natural Sciences category. This kind of recognition raises Western's profile on the international stage and helps us attract the best students and faculty to our campus.
4. **International education:** Senate has approved, and is recommending to the Board, the creation of a new senior administrative position to focus on enhancing the international presence on our campus. The new role of Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (International Education) will report jointly to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Research & International Relations). Specific responsibilities of the incumbent, once hired, will include international student recruitment, international student services, education abroad, and education partnerships. In developing the new position, models provided by several leading research-intensive universities in Canada, the U.S. and Australia that have been successful in their internationalization efforts were considered for what might work best within the Western context.
5. **International partnerships:** A new cooperation agreement promoting scientific research projects between Western, the University of Toronto, and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) was recently announced in Ottawa. As one of Brazil's main research-funding agencies for science, FAPESP's mission is to foster scientific research in all fields of knowledge by awarding scholarships, fellowships and grants to investigators linked to higher education and research institutions in the State of São Paulo, Brazil. In 2010, FAPESP approved 11,555 projects worth \$500 million (U.S.), up 5% from 2009.

As well, Western recently consolidated its research strengths on the world's second-largest continent with the opening of a new institute. With the goal of advancing scholarship and policy development activities related to society, politics, economy, culture and health, Western's Africa Institute celebrated its official opening May 3 at an event hosted by the University of Nairobi (Kenya). Through agreements with close to 40 African universities, the institute will promote research by bringing international scholars to Western, creating symposiums, publishing papers, and providing opportunities for study and research in Africa.

6. **Decanal selections:** Decanal Selection Committees have recently undertaken the initial stages of their work for the Faculties of Arts and Humanities, and Information & Media Studies, while the search for a new Dean of Law continues.
7. **National accolades:** Western recently received provincial and national accolades from the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC) as the *Most Supportive Employer Ontario*, and the *Most Supportive Employer in Canada* for 2011. The CFLC's mandate is to enhance the availability of reservists for their military duties by obtaining the support and co-operation of organization leaders in Canada. The Council encourages civilian employers and educational institutions to grant reservists time off on a voluntary basis, without penalty, to allow them to participate in military duties and training.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT**

(April 18 – June 17, 2011)

April	18	London	Mr. Chris Stamper, Brian Soanes (TD Bank) Phone Call with Tim Kwan (President, Sheppard Group)
	19	London	WUSC (World University Service of Canada) Conference Call Faculty Scholars Reception (Gibbons)
	20	Toronto	Chancellor John Thompson Mr. Joe Rotman, Michael Strong Toronto Lecture Series HFO Board of Directors (Health Force Ontario)
	21	London	Leaders Forum
	25	London	Shiva Singh (Faculty of Science)
	26	London	Phone Call with Jane Cousens (Senior Policy Advisor, MTCU) Distinguished University Professor Dinner (Gibbons)
	27	London	Campus Council
	28	London	Board of Governors Canadian Medical Hall of Fame 2011 Induction Ceremony
	29	London	Richard Ivey School of Business Advisory Board & Luncheon Chancellor Electoral Board Dr. Jianshe Yu (President, Guangzhou University)
May	2-3	Montreal	Canada-EU Innovation Forum Inaugural Meeting
	3	Toronto	Canadian Business Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
	4	Toronto	Lunch with Bonnie Patterson (COU) Deputy Deborah Newman (MTCU) Queens Park Alumni Reception
	9	London	LEDC Board Meeting Phone Call with Mahmuda Aldeen (Program Officer, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute) Saidur Chowdhury (SOGS President) Grad Student Teaching Awards
	10	Toronto	Dr. Peter Godsoe (Former Chair, Scotiabank) Dr. Bill Etherington Elizabeth Witmer (MPP Kitchener-Waterloo)
	11	London	Joe Ruscitti (Editor, London Free Press) Mike Tithecott (USC President) Brian Young (President, 3M Canada) Club 2000 Dinner
	12	London	Phone Call with Kasi Rao (U-15) Phone Call with Chris Eaton (WUSC)

			Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Roundtable
			KPMG Gift Announcement
	13	London	Lunch with Mr. Jim Thompson (Chair), Mr. Gord Thompson (President) Corlon Investments Ltd.
	14	Hamilton	South Asian Heritage Association of Hamilton and Region Gala
	16	London	Mayor Joe Fontana, Jeff Fielding (City of London)
			Phone Call with Jane Cousens (MTCU)
			Lunch with Italian Ambassador
			Long Service Awards (Gibbons)
	18	Toronto	Tim Hodgson (Bank of Canada)
			Mr. Peter Aceto (President & CEO, ING Direct Canada)
			Dr. Grant Reuber (Bank of Montreal)
			HFO Board of Directors
			Alumni Western Lecture Series
	20	Hong Kong	Dr. Timothy Tong (President, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
			Hong Kong Advisory Board Meeting
	21	Hong Kong	Ivey EMBA Graduation Dinner 2011
	22	Hong Kong	2011 Honorary Degree Brunch
			Convocation Ceremony
			Post-Convocation Reception
	23	Hong Kong	Ivey Advisory Board Lunch
			Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui (Vice-Chancellor & President, The University of Hong Kong)
	24	Singapore	Mr. David Sevigny (High Commissioner of Canada)
			Dr. Freddy Boey (Provost Designate), Dr. Sonny Lim (Director of International Relations), Dr. Wee Hou Chow, Nanyang Technological University
			Ms. Marlene Han (Canadian Alumni Network in Singapore)
	25	Singapore	Dr. Lily Kong (Vice-President, University & Global Relations) National University of Singapore
			Farewell Lunch for High Commissioner of Canada
			Mr. Alex Chin (Singapore Branch President), Mr. Chet Choon Woon (Ivey Singapore Chapter President)
			Singapore President's Reception
	30	London	Andrew Forgioni (Incoming USC President)
			WUSC Conference Call
			Phone Call with Paul Ledwell (OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development)
			Dinner with LHSC Board (Gibbons)
	31	London	Investment Committee Meeting
			Scott McLean (President & CEO, HTX Minerals)

			Professor Emeritus Receptions (Gibbons)
June	1	London	Labatt Announcement & Luncheon
	2	London	KCI Consultants
	2	Ottawa	OECD Reception and Opening Banquet
	3	Ottawa	Breakfast Reception for His Excellency Angel Gurría (Secretary General OECD)
			Innovation for Growth Breakout Panel Guest Speaker (OECD Conference)
	6	London	Teleconference with Minister John Milloy (MTCU)
	7	London	Deans' Meeting
	8	London	Ken Snowden
	8	Grand Bend	Academic Summer Leaders Conference
	9	Grand Bend	Academic Summer Leaders Conference
		Toronto	PBD Conference Panel Guest Speaker
	10	Grand Bend	Academic Summer Leaders Conference
	11	Ottawa	WUSC Board of Directors Meeting
	12	London	Ricardo Brentani (President of Sao Paulo State Research Funding Agency)
	13-17	London	2011 Convocation Week