REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Board of Governors

From: Amit Chakma

Date: June 11, 2013

Re: President's Report to the Board

I'm pleased to provide the following update on important developments and achievements since the last meeting of the Board on April 25, 2013.

1. Clusters of Research Excellence: In late April, Western announced and began promoting the newly created $30-million Clusters of Research Excellence program. The program aims to attract top researchers from around the world by providing up to $5 million over five years to help establish and build up to four areas of interdisciplinary strength. Cognitive Neuroscience has been identified as the first of these clusters, leveraging Western's globally renowned Brain & Mind Institute, which leads efforts to understand consciousness, various cognitive disorders, and how our brains see, learn and think about the world. Up to three remaining clusters will be identified through ongoing strategic planning efforts over the coming year. Complementing the Clusters of Research Excellence program, Western has also announced the Western Research Chairs program, which will recruit up to 10 high-calibre researchers whose expertise complements one of the interdisciplinary clusters.

2. Internationalization: Four Western disciplinary areas — philosophy, psychology, accounting and finance, and economics and econometrics — have been ranked among the top five in Canada and top 200 globally, according to the third annual edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject. Released May 8, the 2013 survey evaluated 2,858 universities and ranked 678 institutions in total, including 23 Canadian universities and 30 disciplines based on academic and employer reputation surveys and academic citations per faculty member. Globally, Harvard ranked first in 10 disciplines, ahead of schools such as MIT, University of California (Berkeley), Oxford and Cambridge. Among Canadian schools, the University of Toronto topped the list (No. 11 globally), followed by McGill and UBC.

Among several international engagements undertaken by University leaders in recent months, I had the honour and privilege of accompanying Canada's Governor General David Johnston during his

state visits to the Republics of Ghana, Botswana and South Africa in May. Western has a proud history of involvement with the African continent through volunteer programs such as the Western Heads East HIV/AIDS initiative and a wide range of academic exchange programs for faculty and students. In fact, as home to The Africa Institute, Western has close to 200 faculty researchers, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows whose primary focus is Africa, in fields as diverse as waste management, ecosystem health, health policy, gender studies, linguistics, refugee studies, and transitional justice, to name only a few. Given our growing institutional connections and partnerships in Africa, this trip afforded me the opportunity to raise the profile of Canada's bilateral cooperation initiatives in the countries we visited.

3. Strategic Plan renewal update: After concluding initial consultations with faculty, staff, students, alumni and external stakeholder groups over the winter, the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) has prepared a first draft of Western's new Strategic Plan. *"Going Global"* has been provided in draft form to Senators, Board of Governors, and senior academic and administrative leaders for comment. The 14-page document highlights Western's commitments to increasing research and interdisciplinary activity, enhancing the student learning experience, internationalization, and revenue diversification. Once feedback on the draft document is gathered, a second draft will be posted to Western's website for review and comment from the broader university community. Further revisions will be made to the Plan with a view to obtaining approval from Senate and the Board on a final draft in November.

4. Student enrolment projections: Western is presently projecting a 2013-14 entering undergraduate class of 4,845—including approximately 300 out-of-province Canadian students and 575 international students—versus a total target of 4,900. While these are preliminary projections that are subject to change as we finalize offers and confirm acceptances, this will mark the fourth consecutive year that international enrolment figures have risen at Western, illustrating that we are making progress against our goal to admit one in 10 of our undergraduates from outside Canada. Given that minimum entrance standards have risen again this year, we anticipate that average entering grades will increase over last year's average of 88.2%, reflecting that Western continues to be a destination of choice for very high-achieving students across Ontario, Canada and abroad.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT
(April 14, 2012 – June 24, 2012)

April	16	London	Lunch with Andrew Forgione (USC President)
			Honorary Degree Committee
			Dr. Roopa Desai Trilokekar (Faculty of Education, York)
	18	London	Vice President Research Selection Committee
			IBM Announcement
			Board of Governors
	19	London	President's Scholarship Recipient Phone Calls
	20	London	Mike Strong (Dean, Schulich)
	24	Ottawa	International Education Strategy Panel
	25	Brazil	Dinner with Governor General David Johnston
	26	Brazil	AUCC Conference on International Education
	30	Bangladesh	Mr. Alnoor Maherali, Mrs. Shaheen Islam (Canadian High Commission)
May	2	Bangladesh	AUW (Asian University for Women) Board of Trustees
	5-6	London	Vice President Research Selection Committee
			U15 Teleconference
	7	Toronto	STIC (Science & Technology Innovation Council) Conference Call
			Lunch with James Bradshaw (Globe & Mail)
			Dr. Rob Leone (MPP Cambridge)
			Karim Bardeesy (Premier's Director of Policy), Kim Munro (Policy Advisor Education)
			Deputy Minister Deborah Newman
			Queen's Park Alumni Reception
	8	Ottawa	Education and Innovation Discussion and Reception with Israeli President Shimon Peres
	9	London	International Education Strategy Panel Teleconference
	10	Toronto	Research Ontario Expert Panel Teleconference
		London	Minister Gary Goodyear Phone Call
	11	London	Opening Remarks at The First Collaboration Conference on Leadership
			Senate
	14	London	Opening Remarks at Spring Perspectives on Teaching Conference
			COU Budget & Audit Committee Teleconference
	15	Ottawa	Killam Prize Ceremony & Dinner
	16	London	Kasi Rao, Barbara Smith (Exec Director National Youth Orchestra), Betty Anne Younker (Dean, Music)
	17	London	Melanie Lynn Caco (Student)
	17	London	Photoshoot "Pay it Forward Bracelet" Campaign
	18	London	Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference

			Teleconference
			Schulich Convocation & Honorary Degree Luncheon
	22	Toronto	Chancellor John Thompson
			Fundraising & Donor Relations Committee Meeting
			Perry Dellelce (Managing Partner, Wildeboer Dellelce LLP), Geoff Beattie
	24	Hong Kong	Lincoln Yu (Director, SBI Development)
	25	Hong Kong	Ivey Announcement with University of Political Science and Law and Signing Ceremony
	26	Hong Kong	Ivey EMBA Graduating Class Dinner
	27	Hong Kong	Ivey Convocation and Honorary Degree Dinner
	28	Hong Kong	Ken and Catherine Chu (CEO and Chairman Mission Hills)
			Ivey Advisory Board
			Simon Leung (Chairman & CEO, Microsoft)
	29	Sydney	University of Sydney Visit (Vice-Chancellor's Office)
			University of New South Wales Visit (Vice President's Office)
			Macquarie University Visit (Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost's Office)
	30	Gold Coast	Bond University Visit
	31	Sydney	Jack Cowin (Chairman, Competitive Foods Australia)
			Jonathan Lerner (Founder and Director, Envy Group Pty Ltd)
			Alastair Sloan (Director, Red Centre Capital)
			Paul Mirabelle (CEO and Executive Director, Life Audiology Pty Ltd)
			Australian Alumni Event
June	4	London	40th Anniversary of D B Weldon Library Celebration
			Henry Barnett Honorary Degree Luncheon
			Hospitality Recognition Ceremony (Gibbons)
	5	London	Bill Thomas (KPMG)
			Coaches Appreciation Dinner
	6	London	Opening Remarks at Canadian Materials Science Conference
			London Free Press Telephone Interview
			CTV London News Interview
			WUSC Executive Committee Teleconference
			Professor Emeritus Receptions (Gibbons)
	7	London	USC Executive (Incoming Members)
			STIC Teleconference
			Free FM Telephone Interview
			Long Service Awards (Gibbons)
	8	London	Senior Admin Travel Strategy Meeting
			Senate
	9	London	City of London Investment and Economic Prosperity Committee

	10	London	Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference Panel
	12-20	London	Spring Convocation Ceremonies
	21	London	Board of Governors
	23	Victoria, BC	WUSC Board of Directors