



MAY 15, 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE SAINT JOHN AND FREDERICTON SENATES

An Exceptional and Transformative Student Experience

Engineering Design

On March 30, I attended our Faculty of Engineering's third annual Engineering Design Symposium. The Symposium showcased designs of 300 final-year engineering students. Local governments, companies, and non-profit organizations sponsor a large number of the design projects, allowing students to get hands-on experience in solving real-world design issues and challenges. Some of the projects included: [UNB students propose a way to recycle industry heat waste to warm a neighbouring school](#)

[UNB engineering students partner with city to solve dam issues](#)

[UNB engineering students develop interactive map to determine best locations for low-income housing](#)

This event is a great way to show our community the direct impact experiential learning is having on our students and the benefits our students have on the community.

Varsity Reds hockey player named a top Canadian university athlete

Congratulations to Varsity Reds hockey player Philippe Maillet who has been named winner of one of two 2017 BLG Awards, recognizing the top male and female university athletes in Canada. Mr. Maillet is the second Varsity Red to win a BLG Award, joining current UNB Hockey associate coach Rob Hennigar, who won in 2008. We're so thrilled that Philippe has been recognized as Canada's top male university athlete; it speaks to his passion and dedication for the game. It also is a proud reflection of the strength our university's athletic program.

Bliss Family Scholarships

On April 21, I had the pleasure of attending an event where siblings Bob, Tim, John and Iris Bliss announced that they had established a \$300,000 scholarship endowment to help ensure that more students can receive an education from UNB. Three Bliss Family Scholarships will be awarded to students in the bachelor of science in engineering degree program while the fourth will be awarded to a student who has completed a bachelor of kinesiology at UNB and is beginning the bachelor of education program. The Bliss siblings have had strong ties to UNB since they attended our Fredericton campus in the 1950's and we are grateful for this generous gift. This gift is part of the It Begins Here Campaign which places an emphasis on student support. Fully one-half of the campaign goal – \$55 million – will be dedicated to student financial support, funding scholarships, bursaries and programs to expand accessibility.

Top Applicants

On April 28, it was my pleasure to host the Top Applicants reception at Somerville House. On May 10, I attended the Top Applicants dinner for Saint John applicants at the Baird Dining Hall. These events are organized by the Student Recruitment team as a chance for our applicants with the highest averages out of high school to network with one another and, hopefully, begin a strong and lasting connection with UNB. The applicants I met were impressive and I was proud to welcome them to the UNB family.

I am told that this year the cohort of top applicants was so strong that we increased the cut-off for being invited to the event from 95% to 96% and many of the students who were invited had averages of over 100%.

Leadership in Discovery, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Computer Science Research Exposition

On April 7, I was pleased to bring opening remarks for the faculty of computer science research exposition. The event focused on opportunities for collaboration and the future of information technology in New Brunswick. It was a forum where researchers, practitioners, and users of information and communication technologies came together to learn and share new developments. This annual event demonstrates the strength of our faculty and speaks to UNB's position as a leader in groundbreaking research.

Financial Resilience and Responsibility

Tuition Review Task Force

The Tuition Review Task Force held its first meeting on April 25 and has focused their work in making recommendations related to undergraduate tuition on two fronts: the model we use to charge tuition and the price of tuition. The models that are being evaluated are tuition differentiated by faculty or program versus standard tuition across all faculties, and paying by term versus paying by course. Price-setting will consider the actual cost of delivering the programs, what our competitors are doing, and the demand for our programs. The task force will also review the international student differential fee.

MOU with province

Negotiations with the province regarding a memorandum of understanding have been progressing and we are hopeful we will have a signed MOU in the near future. Our position from the beginning has been that we could not sign an MOU that prevented us from balancing our budget in 2019-2020. Notably, the current version of the MOU we are working on will allow us to introduce a new undergraduate tuition framework for the 2019-2020 academic year which we anticipate (pending the results from the Tuition Review Task Force) will see our tuition rates differentiated by Faculty.

Building a Better University

President's Awards

Ceremonies for the annual President's Awards took place in Saint John and Fredericton in April. The President's Awards program was introduced in the year 2000 and since then we have recognized the contributions of over 230 employees for their very important contributions to this institution.

President's Medals for 2017 were presented to Shirley Cleave and Nancy Nason-Clark. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding teaching, research and/or service over the span of a career.

UNB Distinguished Service Awards honours outstanding service, both at UNB and in the community. The Fredericton recipients were Faith Bradley-Sharp, Lorna Clyde, Lizabeth Lemon-Mitchell, Alicia McLaughlin and Lori Murray-Hawkins. The Saint John recipient was Li-Hong Xu.

The University Teaching Scholar for 2016 is Emmanuel Stefanakis. University Research Scholars are Viqar Husain and Edith Snook, UNBF and Christopher Grey, UNBSJ. A Special Recognition Award was also presented to Doreen Crilley.

Equity working group

Following the August 2016 Senior Leadership Retreat an Equity Working Group was formed. In accordance with the planning priorities identified at the retreat, the Equity Working Group seeks to enhance UNB's commitment to valuing, engaging and increasing diversity while bringing our commitments to equity, diversity and inclusion to bear as principles that shape all of our activities. The working group members are Sula Levesque, Human Rights and Positive Environment Officer; Gansheng Xu, Director of Recreation Services; Joanne Wright, Dean of Arts; Mark Walma, Assistant Vice-President Student Services; Rob Moir, Associate Professor Faculty of Business; and Meredith Henry, Counselor in

Student Services. This group has been working through the winter towards establishing a bi-campus Standing Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights; they are currently working on terms of reference for this standing committee.

Administrative Review

The Administrative Review Task Force (ARTF) was established by the President in September 2015 to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of University administrative units and processes and to ensure that all units support the mission and strategic direction of UNB. The ARTF included representatives from both campuses in both academic and administrative roles and issued its report with 8 main recommendations.

Status of Recommendations:

1. *Review UNB's organizational structure.* UNB engaged KPMG to carry out this review which involved interviews with key administrative personnel and a survey of the Deans. This was augmented with a series of workshops with a working group that consisted of primarily administrative staff from both campuses as well as one Dean from each campus. KPMG has issued a report from this work and the consultant will present the findings at the May Board meeting. The report will be released to the UNB community in May.
2. *Explore and implement opportunities to use technology more efficiently.* UNB launched Project FOCUS last Fall to examine and rejuvenate our financial information system. There are currently 4 sub-projects under this umbrella that range from implementing a new system to automate the management of contract academic employee contracts to defining the general ledger chart of accounts. Additional projects to automate specific processes will be added once much of the foundational work is completed. This includes the development of some significant policies such as ones governing signing (contracting) and spending (disbursement) authority at UNB. A full update on Project FOCUS is included in this report.
3. *Simplify the travel policy.* This is closely related to the Project FOCUS work. We hope to implement an on-line travel claim system once the signing and spending authority policies and other foundational ERP work is complete.

4. *Formalize Quality Assurance Reviews for administrative units* similar to what is done in academic units. This item was not deemed a priority because all units are engaged in a process of continuous improvement.
5. *Improve employee orientation.* This is currently being worked on by the Office of Human Resources and Organizational Development.
6. *Create a one stop shop for services.* This also arose in the work undertaken by the working group in recommendation #1. The VP Academic (Fredericton) who oversees Student Services and VP Administration and Finance will continue to advance this item on the Fredericton campus.
7. *Review the IT Tier 1 support model on the Fredericton campus.* There is a project underway being led by the ITS Department with a recommendation expected by Fall 2017.
8. *Review the budget models in Facilities Management (Fredericton).* There was some unexpected staff turnover in Facilities Management in January with both the Director and Manager of Financial Operations leaving. A review is now underway.

Project FOCUS

The project working teams have been making headway in the respective phases of their initiatives. The Enterprise Services and Systems Governance Committee continues to monitor Project FOCUS and the initiatives within the program to ensure they are aligned and coordinated with university strategies and priorities.

FOCUS Financials

Since August, the FOCUS Financials working team has consulted with more than 40 units across the university community on both campuses to acquire a greater knowledge of how others at UNB use the General Ledger and what they need in a revitalized system to enhance the information they use in decision-making and analysis.

Based on the findings uncovered through this discovery, the working group made the following recommendation to the FOCUS Financials Steering Committee:

1. Define Standards for UNB's General Ledger structure and use
2. Implement Online Approvals, Procurement and Check Requisition through Self-Service
3. Implement Project Accounting Self-Service
4. Investigate Financial Reporting Options (internal & external)

These key recommendations were accepted by the FOCUS Financials Steering Committee in the spring of 2017. The most significant recommendation is defining the standards for the general ledger structure and use, which will serve as a foundation for the remaining recommendations. As such, the project team is currently dedicating their efforts to defining these standards. The Steering Committee is committed to securing resources within their respective units to ensure the work on this recommendation is completed prior to June 30.

Work on the second recommendation, implementing online approvals, procurement and check requisition through self-service, is scheduled to begin in the summer. This work is contingent on the Contracting/Signing Authority and Spending Authority policies, which are both in the early stages of the approval process.

FOCUS Awards

The FOCUS Awards initiative is designed to create an efficient, streamlined process from discovery and application, to awarding and publication of awards and scholarships at UNB. The Steering Committee and working team are busy planning for the next phase of the project.

The FOCUS Awards Project will host a workshop to examine the lifecycle of an award at UNB. This is an opportunity for all units involved in the award process to explore what the university does day-to-day with awards, including the data captured, how processes interact, and the tools currently being used to manage the awards cycle. Following this session, another workshop will be held to explore how the Financial Aid Module within Colleague works.

These two sessions will give the project the foundation to identify what areas Colleague can fulfil and what gaps exist. These workshops will also ensure the project team is aware of the data Colleague is capable of providing to a third-party system. Integration with Colleague will be necessary for any solution which may need to be purchased.

Work on FOCUS Awards was paused during March and April due to blackout dates for business units. Preparations are underway for the full-day session, which is scheduled to occur following Encaenia.

FOCUS CAE

FOCUS CAE is an initiative designed to improve the process of administering contracts for UNB's Contract Academic Employees, as the current processes are lengthy and hard to maintain. A new online CAE contract system was launched in January 2017.

The CAE contract management process is currently being used throughout campus for summer session courses. In June, there will be a refresher session on using the system for departmental administrative assistants in an effort to prepare them for creating contracts for the fall and winter course offerings.

FOCUS Continuing Education

The objective of FOCUS Continuing Education is to improve the student registration experience for non-credit programs and courses through modernizing registration and communication tools, and updated service-efficient integration.

FOCUS Continuing Education is currently paused while the team conducts tests on the software's regulatory reporting functionality.

Academic Planning

On May 1, campus conversations were held on each campus. Members of the Academic Planning Committees from Fredericton attended the Saint John conversation in the morning and members from Saint John attended the Fredericton conversation in the afternoon. The purpose of the campus conversations was to share what the committees had heard from the faculties thus far and seek further feedback from the broader community. With this purpose in mind, both sessions were productive. The sessions were well-attended and the committees received valuable input from a wide cross-section of members from our community.

The committees will report to their respective Senates on May 15 and those updates will include the briefing documents that were provided to both campuses with an overview of the contributions and criticisms heard during the campus conversations. The committees will continue to work through the summer and present university wide reports to Senates this Fall.

Communications

In addition to media relations, the Communications Office provided strategic communications, media relations, writing and event management or support on several files, including:

- Alumni News Spring edition
- Engineering cardboard boat races
- Computer Science research expo
- Women for 50% event
- Student with measles
- Deans of Arts and Law announcements
- Graduate School Three-minute thesis Eastern regional competition
- Bliss Family Scholarship event
- Parks Canada Summer Program
- Project FOCUS
- Spring Encaenia and Convocation
- Sir Max Aitken Pool closure communications
- Op-ed and commentaries published in media:
 - Universities as an economic engine
- Various series, lectures and related events
- Numerous news releases, speeches, obituaries, special announcements

Number of media inquiries received in April 2017: 57

Month	Stories pitched	Stories picked up	Success Rate (%)
March	31	22	71
April	15	11	73