



September 13, 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO FREDERICTON AND SAINT JOHN SENATES

An Exceptional and Transformative Student Experience

Experiential Education

In November, 2016, a provincial task force on experiential education, chaired by UNB, produced a report to the New Brunswick university presidents and provincial government containing an implementation plan to significantly enhance the volume and quality of experiential education for students enrolled in New Brunswick's four universities. Its conclusions are similar to those found in the 2014 UNB Steering Committee report on Experiential Education entitled "Experiential Education: new opportunities for transforming the student experience". A President's advisory group was struck to review the recommendations of the recent 2016 report in light of the 2014 report. The advisory group's mandate was to:

- Identify alignments between the two reports
- Draft a high-level strategic vision for the roll-out of the eight recommendations that form the implementation plan found in the 2016 provincial report
- Identify potential models for implementation of the eight recommendations
- Produce a report to the President

The report was finalized and submitted to me in early September 2017. Thank you to the members of the advisory group for their excellent work on this important initiative: Laurelle LeVert (AVP Saint John), Kathy Wilson (AVP Academic (Learning Environment)), Joanna Everitt (Dean of Arts -SJ), Cynthia Stacey (Dean of Renaissance College), Shirley Cleave (Faculty of Kinesiology), Devon Moir (Co-op Program Faculty of Engineering), Erin Gillespie (Co-op Coordinator, Faculty of Business), and Sarah King (Graduate Student, Faculty of Education). Once the province-wide report is released to the public, we will be ready to respond with UNB's 2017 report.

Leadership in Discovery, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Purdy Crawford Postdoctoral Fellowships in Public Policy

On May 29, it was my pleasure to attend the launch of the Purdy Crawford Postdoctoral Fellowships in Public Policy. The launch was held in KC Irving Hall where it was announced that Sociologist Dr. Alison Luke is the inaugural Purdy Crawford/Stephen Jarislowsky Postdoctoral Fellow in Health Policy and Dr. Mikael Hellstrom has been awarded the first Purdy Crawford/TD Bank Postdoctoral Fellowship in Accessibility.

Chiropractic Health

In June, the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation and the Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation announced a partnership of \$1 million over five years in the establishment of the Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation Chair in Best Practices for Musculoskeletal Health at the University of New Brunswick. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Jeff Hebert to our faculty of kinesiology to take on this role.

Cannabis Chair

In August, we announced that the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation and Tetra Bio-Pharma Inc. each invested \$500,000 over five years to establish a Health Research Chair in Cannabis at UNB. The chair will focus on the study of biochemistry, medicinal use and pharmacology of cannabis. This research will expand UNB's commitment to research and innovation in the field of natural product and biomedical, health and life sciences – adding to its reputation as a leader in natural products research.

The McCain Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in Innovation

On September 5, I was delighted to take part in the announcement of the creation of a postdoctoral fellowship program focused on innovation. Thanks to a \$1.25 million gift from The McCain Foundation, the new fellowship aims to equip PhD graduates with the resources they need to transform their research into a product ready for market. The McCain Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in Innovation are designed to attract top early-career researchers to UNB. The inaugural recipient of the McCain Fellowship is Dr. Edward Cyr. He came to UNB from the University of Waterloo in May of this year, and immediately began building his research program at UNB's new Marine Additive Manufacturing Centre of Excellence.

Building a Better University

Celebrating our people

Please join me in congratulating several members of the UNB community on recent awards:

- Dr. Richard J. Currie, UNB's chancellor emeritus, has been named to the Order of New Brunswick for his accomplishments as a business executive and for his contributions to public education in the province.
- Dr. Greg Kealey, professor emeritus in history and former Vice-President Research and Provost, was recently named a member of the Order of Canada. The Governor General's office has stated that Greg was chosen "for his sustained academic contributions to Canadian labour relations history and for his administrative leadership of several universities in Atlantic Canada."
- Dr. Yun Zhang, a Canada Research Chair and professor of geodesy and geomatics, and Dr. Marcel LeBrun, a UNB engineering graduate and honorary degree recipient, have been inducted as Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honours presented to engineers in Canada.
- UNB featured proudly at the Startup Canada awards in Fredericton in September:
 - o Dr. Ali Ghorbani was honoured with the Senior Entrepreneur Award
 - o Dr. Dharendra Shukla received the Entrepreneur Promotion Award
 - o Jordan Kennie, a graduate of UNB's entrepreneurial programs and CEO of the Fredericton-based startup Stash Energy, was saluted with the Young Entrepreneur Award.

- Three members of our Student Services team have received among the highest honours in their respective fields:
 - o Sara Rothman, Senior Director of Academic Success, received the Award of Merit, the highest honour the Atlantic Association of College and University Student Services (AACUSS) gives to one of its members
 - o Rice Fuller, Senior Director of Health & Wellness, received the Award for Excellence in Student Services, which AACUSS is given annually to a member of AACUSS or a member's department within Student Services at a member institution that has demonstrated excellence over the previous year.
 - o Julia McDevitt, Senior Director of Conference Services, received the Rising Star Award from the Canadian University and College Conference Organizers Association (CUCCOA) as well as the Event Planner of the Year award from Meeting Professionals International (MPI).

Decanal Announcements

Please join me in welcoming three of our new Deans to the UNB community:

- Dr. Michael van Zyll de Jong as dean of the faculty of science, applied science and engineering. Dr. van Zyll de Jong comes to UNB from Memorial University.
- Dr. Luigi Benedicenti has joined UNB as professor and dean of computer science. Dr. Benedicenti comes to us from the University of Regina.
- John Kleefeld has joined UNB as professor and dean of law. Professor Kleefeld comes to UNB from the University of Saskatchewan.

I also wish to thank members of the UNB community who have recently agreed to serve as acting deans:

- With Ann Sherman's sudden passing, Kathy Winslow (an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Education) is Acting Dean of Education. We have started our search for a new Dean.
- With Dr. David MaGee as the Acting Vice-President Research, Dr. Gary Saunders is Acting Dean of Science.

Search Updates

We are currently searching for or preparing to search for several positions:

- The search committee for Vice-President Research is currently receiving applications.
- The search committee for Vice-President Saint John has met and is in the early stages of the search process.
- The search process for Dean of Arts (SJ), Dean of Nursing (FR), and Dean of Education (FR) will be underway this fall.

Financial Resilience and Responsibility

Tuition Review Task Force

The Tuition Review Task Force has been meeting all summer and is making progress on a recommendation for our tuition framework. The task force is made up of faculty, staff, and students from both campuses and will make recommendations on how we charge tuition and setting the price. With regard to how we charge tuition, the task force is evaluating options such as charging by term versus by course or by credit hour as well as charging the same tuition for all faculties versus differentiating by faculty or program. In terms of setting the tuition rate, the task force is considering the rates of other universities, costs associated with delivering programs, and demand for programs as well as other relevant factors. The original deadline of August 31 has been extended in order to align the work of the Tuition Review Task Force with the work of a financial modelling exercise we are undertaking with EY Parthenon. The final report is now expected in October.

Administrative Review

The first recommendation of the Administrative Review was to examine the administrative structure at UNB. We engaged KPMG to look at the organizational structure of the administrative units providing support to the academic mission. We received the final report in April and issued a University-wide call for feedback in July with feedback due on September 30. I encourage each of you to submit feedback to president@unb.ca.