Message from the President – February 2009

We see the evidence all around us – the emergence of a “new Saskatchewan” as the province changes culturally, economically and demographically. We also see evidence of change in our own University of Regina community. New facilities have been constructed. Enrolment patterns are changing. Research innovation is growing. Technology continues to advance. And, perhaps most importantly, a generation of students with new interests, needs and backgrounds bring with them educational expectations that we must meet and exceed.

In this environment, the University of Regina must not only respond to change, but must lead it. In order to do that, we need a clear vision of our future, and a clear plan to get there. At the same time, we must remain accountable to the public and our funders, and have a means by which we can evaluate our progress.

In January, the University embarked on a strategic planning process to help us create a new plan for the future – a plan that will define what our university will look like in five years and beyond, and will guide our actions and decisions.

Openness and inclusiveness are at the heart of this six-month strategic planning initiative. I’ve asked Dr. Thomas Chase, dean of the Faculty of Arts, to lead a broadly-based facilitation team that will consult widely with both internal stakeholders and with members of the communities that surround and support us. The members of the team are listed below. Associate Vice-President Brian Christie and his staff in the Office of Resource Planning will also provide support.

During our consultations we will hear from all who seek to engage us. From these many voices – your voices – the facilitation team will strive to synthesize a vision for the future of the University and present it for discussion and revision.

From February through April the facilitation team will hold stakeholder meetings. A strategic planning website has been launched to keep you informed and to provide a forum for your feedback. You can find the site at www.uregina.ca/home/strategic/.

Once stakeholder consultations are complete, the team will create a draft plan to be circulated for comment, reflection, and revision. A final version of the plan will be presented for approval by Executive of Council and the University Senate, followed by final approval by the Board of Governors.

I invite you to help us set a bold, new course for the University of Regina, one that is rooted in our history, draws on our strengths and positions us for a bright future. Together, we will develop a plan that responds to and leads change, and places the University at the centre of the new Saskatchewan. We need to hear from you – our students, faculty, staff, alumni,
retirees, professors emeriti, community partners, neighbors, parents, donors and friends – as we write the next chapter in the history of your University.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING FACILITATION TEAM:**
(Please visit [www.uregina.ca/home/strategic/](http://www.uregina.ca/home/strategic/) for full list of names)

Bruce Anderson, Regina Chamber of Commerce

Charlene Banjac, U of R Alumni Association representative

Kevin Bolen, Elected Administrative, Professional, Technical (APT) representative

Philip Charrier, Faculty representative

Thomas Chase, Chair

Brian Christie, Associate Vice-President (Resource Planning)

Jo-Ann Episknew, Federated Colleges representative

Jamie Mellor, CUPE representative

Ahmed al Sabaawi, U of R Graduate Students’ Society (URGSS) representative

Jess Sinclair, U of R Students’ Union (URSU) representative

Lisa Workman, Community Representative