

President's Message – March 2013

In my February message, I encouraged everyone to think about how we can advocate publicly for our University. As March approaches and we are working hard to prepare a variety of budget scenarios, this month's message is a continuation of that theme.

We exist as an educational institution through two primary sources: the investment of public funds and tuition. It is imperative that these financial resources always be managed with respect and transparency.

The University has policies in place to ensure responsible financial management, and to demonstrate to our students and to the public that our processes are fair, accountable, and respectful of those who have placed their trust in us.

All faculty and staff must adhere to these policies, with no exceptions. With this in mind, I would like all of you to review one policy in particular – that on Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment, which may be found at <http://www.uregina.ca/presoff/vpadmin/policymanual/hr/2014002.shtml>. It is critical that all employees follow the guidelines set out in this and our other policies, and I will have zero tolerance for those who do not do so.

Public confidence in universities' management and stewardship of funds is critical to the future investment in – and even the very survival of – universities themselves. As University employees, it is our privilege to help educate the next generation of leaders – and with that privilege comes a great deal of responsibility.

As President of the University of Regina, I have great pride in our employees and our work, and I can confidently say we have policies and processes in place to ensure the responsible use of public funds. I need your support to ensure that these policies are being followed to the letter.

I also need your support to reassure members of the public, government and our students that their investment in our institution is being managed responsibly. Across the country, universities are experiencing fiscal pressures not seen since the 1990s. As we deal with those pressures, public scrutiny of university activities will understandably be even more vigilant. I know that together we can confidently rise to this challenge, and demonstrate excellent value for the public funds entrusted to us.

I appreciate everyone's cooperation and diligence in knowing, understanding and following all of our University of Regina policies.