

## **President's Message – January 2014**

Welcome to 2014 - the start of a new calendar year and the beginning of a new semester at the University of Regina. I trust you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season surrounded by friends and family.

I know that the year ahead will hold its share of triumphs – triumphs that will warrant our collective celebration. Undoubtedly, we will also face our share of challenges. I am confident that by working together, we can overcome the challenges that the year may present.

This year, we are undertaking an important initiative that will call for our collective efforts. As you may recall, in July 2009, the Board of Governors approved *mâmahowkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities*, the strategic plan that has guided the University over the past five years. Now it's time for a new plan and this semester, we will embark on a strategic planning process to help us create this new plan for the future.

The Board of Governors has endorsed Dr. Joe Piwowar, head of the Department of Geology, as the lead facilitator in the development process. Dr. Piwowar received his PhD in geography from the University of Waterloo and joined the University of Regina's Department of Geography in 2002. He was appointed as department head in 2011 and served as an associate dean in the Faculty of Arts in 2013. In 2006, he was appointed as a Canada Research Chair in Geomatics and Sustainability.

Dr. Piwowar has a wealth of experience in collaboration, having served on many University committees, including Executive of Council, the Sustainable Campus Advisory Group, the Advisory Committee on Academic and Research Computing, and the Council Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Studies.

I am excited for Dr. Piwowar to start this work. I'm confident that the new strategic plan will serve as a guide for our actions and decisions and define our university's direction moving forward. I am also confident that openness and inclusiveness will be the hallmarks of this initiative, as Dr. Piwowar and the other members of the yet-to-be established facilitation team intend to consult widely with both internal and external stakeholders. We will welcome input from all who wish to contribute.

I know this process will feature an extremely far-reaching dialogue. From these many perspectives, the facilitation team will recommend to the Board of Governors a vision for the future of the University.

I urge you to engage with this process and 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 sets us on the path towards a bright future. Together, we will develop a plan that responds to and leads change. We need to hear from you – our students, faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, community partners, neighbours,

parents, donors and friends – as we write the next chapter in the history of the University of Regina.

Dr. Vianne Timmons  
President and Vice-Chancellor