

President's message – November 2014

Members of the University of Regina community,

Yesterday the Board of Governors unanimously approved the University of Regina's 2015-2020 strategic plan. Prior to Board approval, an earlier draft of the plan was endorsed in principle by University Council at its September meeting, and an updated version was endorsed in October by both University Senate and Executive of Council.

This approval is an important step forward for the University of Regina, because the development of a strategic plan is one of our institution's most collaborative processes. Through the input of hundreds of people from the University community and beyond, the strategic planning process has produced a document that reflects who we are, and perhaps more importantly, defines who we want to be. It clarifies our sense of identity and sets our internal course as well as the direction we will take with our external partners.

In short, we have a renewed vision for the University of Regina because we have all worked together. This is *our* strategic plan, and it is a fitting successor to our previous one, entitled *mâmahohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities*.

mâmahohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities, has served us well over the past five years, and has helped guide us to some significant milestones. Chief among those is the continued evolution of our academic programming, including the establishment of a successful collaborative undergraduate Nursing program. We have also seen record enrolment during the past five years – including record growth in the number of self-declared Aboriginal and international students at our University. Our Co-operative Education program has grown dramatically in recent years, and the UR Guarantee program has provided yet another experiential learning opportunity to keep our students engaged and help prepare them for life after graduation. A comprehensive listing of what was accomplished through the implementation of *mâmahohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities* may be found at: <http://www.uregina.ca/strategic-plan/2009-14-strategic-plan/accomplishments.html>.

With a new strategic plan in place, now it is time to build on those achievements by implementing the plan and bringing our shared vision to life.

That vision is focused on three strategic priorities: student success, research impact and commitment to community. The University community has advocated, for example, that we provide the required supports to meet the needs and ensure the success of an increasingly diverse student population, and work together to ensure that our students are exposed to a variety of perspectives so they can reflect critically on their assumptions. In addition, the plan highlights the need to strengthen our support for student and faculty research, foster research that has a positive impact on our world, and promote the achievements of our researchers. At the same time, the plan calls on us to focus on our communities with renewed vigour and direct our attention to institutional and personal well-being through actions, initiatives and partnerships that address real needs in our communities.

The plan also contains two important areas of emphasis that are crucial to our institutional priorities – Indigenization and sustainability. Rather than existing in isolation, these themes permeate the entire strategic plan, and in many cases will inform our actions as we work toward the objectives we have set for ourselves.

On behalf of the entire University community, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Strategic Plan Facilitation Team:

- Chair: Joe Piwowar, Canada Research Chair (Geomatics and Sustainability)
- Michelle Beitel, Contract and Research Officer (Office for Research, Innovation and Partnership)
- Cory Butz, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Faculty of Science)
- Kate Cushon, Communications and Programming Developer (Centre for Teaching and Learning)
- Bonnie Dobson, Faculty Administrator (Faculty of Nursing)
- Gina Grandy, Associate Professor (Paul J. Hill School of Business and Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business)
- Larena Hoeber, Associate Professor (Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies)
- Gwen Keith, Past President (University of Regina Alumni Association)
- Kelly Kummerfield, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources)
- Chris Oriet, Associate Professor (Department of Psychology)
- Wes Pearce, Associate Dean (Faculty of Fine Arts; Elected by Council)
- Shauneen Pete, Associate Professor (Faculty of Education) and Executive Lead, Indigenization
- Lisa Watson, Associate Professor (Paul J. Hill School of Business and Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business)
- Dipo Ziwa, Undergraduate Student (former member of University of Regina Students' Union Board of Directors)
- Advisor: Brian Christie, Associate Vice-President, Office of Resource Planning

The members of this team devoted countless hours to the strategic planning process, and all of us owe them a tremendous debt of thanks.

In addition, I want to thank the entire University of Regina family – students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends – for helping bring our new strategic plan into being. Through your input and support, you are making a difference, and I look forward to working with you to realize our shared vision for our University in the months and years to come.

In the coming weeks, we will be announcing the name of the strategic plan, as well as details of a formal launch event to which the entire University community will be invited. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to read the plan, which may be found on the University website at: <http://www.uregina.ca/strategic-plan/2015-20-draft-strategic-plan.html>.

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor