REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: Board of Governors

FROM: Amit Chakma

DATE: November 24, 2011

SUBJECT: President's Report to the Board

I'm pleased to provide the following update on key developments and achievements since the last meeting of the Board on September 26, 2011:

1. **Top marks in *Canadian University Report*:** For the 10th year in a row, Western has received top marks among Canada's large research schools in the *Globe and Mail*'s annual survey of undergraduate students. Western earned the only 'A-' grade for "most satisfied students" and was at the top of the class or tied for first in 14 of the report's 19 categories, including Quality of Teaching and Learning, Student Residences, and Campus Atmosphere. This decade-long achievement is a remarkable tribute to the collective and sustained efforts of faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors who contribute to the success of our campus community.

2. **Ivey opens Phase 1 of new building**: Western celebrated the grand opening of Phase 1 of the Ivey Business School's new $110-million building November 7. Among the 200+ in attendance were faculty, staff, students, alumni and officials from all levels of government. The event recognized financial contributions from the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program ($25M), the Ontario government ($25M), the University ($22.5M), and private donors ($37.5M). The unique design of this LEED-certified building reflects Ivey's prominent academic stature and will help to ensure Ivey continues to compete successfully with business schools around the world.

3. **Downtown London initiative:** Campus-wide consultations are underway to prepare a business plan due in early 2012 for how Western would propose to make use of City-owned properties located in downtown London. London City Council has agreed to enter into discussions with the University regarding our expressed interest in properties that include City Hall, Centennial Hall, Reg Cooper Square, Centennial House apartments, and nearby parking facilities. Western is exploring the potential to create a downtown Centre that would include some combination of graduate education, professional programs, continuing education, and service-learning activities.

4. **Government relations update:** The outcome of the October's provincial election returned a minority Liberal government that campaigned on a platform which included

three key planks related to post-secondary education: a $1,600 tuition rebate for qualifying students that will begin to flow through in January 2012; full funding for 60,000 new student spaces, including 40,000 in universities (including 6,000 graduate spaces); and creation of three new undergraduate campuses. Western congratulates all elected officials and will continue to work closely with key ministries in support of higher education priorities.

October also saw the release of a report authored by an expert panel reviewing the federal government's support of research and development. The report contained several recommendations that could impact university research, including the creation of an *Industrial Research & Innovation Council* to coordinate government-business innovation programs, and a call to transform all *National Research Council* institutes and business units over the next 5 years.

5. **Appointment to federal advisory panel:** I am honoured to have been asked to chair an expert panel tasked with guiding Canada's international education strategy as part of the next phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The panel will advise the federal government on attracting the best and brightest international students to Canada; strengthening Canada's engagement with emerging priority markets; expanding the delivery of Canadian expertise, knowledge and education services abroad; and promoting partnerships between Canadian and international education institutions. The panel's work is already underway to consult with provinces and territories, partners and stakeholders from the education sector across the country. I look forward to working with my fellow panel members, and we commend the government for recognizing the need for a comprehensive international education plan. Our panel is expected to report to the ministers of International Trade and Finance in early 2012.

6. **Collective bargaining update:** A first contract has been successfully negotiated with Western's 40 Postdoctoral Associates, who are represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Local 611. I wish to congratulate the negotiating teams on this achievement as it recognizes the important role that postdoctoral associates play in fulfilling Western's academic mission.

7. **Ontario University Fair:** 75 faculty, staff, and students representing Western and the affiliated university colleges attended the annual OUF in Toronto October 14-16, which attracted total attendance of more than 118,600 prospective university students and their family members. This annual event is a key component of our recruitment strategy to attract the brightest undergraduate students to Western, and it is estimated that more than 40,000 students visited our displays. At the writing of this report, we are also preparing to host thousands of prospective students on campus during our annual Fall Preview Day on November 19.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT
(September 17, 2011 – November 18, 2011)

September	17	London	Western Mustangs Football Game & Family Day
	19	London	LEDC President's Forum
		London	Rabbi Silberberg, Naomi Mazer (Hillel Western), Seth Freiberg, Daniel Israelson (Student Reps)
	20	London	David Frum Lecture and Book Signing
			David Frum Dinner (Gibbons)
	21	London	Dr. David Sylvester (Kings)
			USC Executive
			Mrs. Velma Howie (101st Birthday Celebration)
			Western Scholars Kick-off Event and Reception
	22	Toronto	COU Executive Heads Retreat
	23	London	Phone Call with Ambassador Miriam Ziv
	24	London	Western Serves 2011
	26	London	Board Retreat and Dinner
	27	London	Board Retreat / Board of Governors
	28	London	City of London Finance & Administration Committee
			Phone Call with Susan Truppe (MP London North)
			Senior Administration Welcome Reception
	29	London	Homecoming Press Conference
			Leaders Forum
			Alumni Association AGM
	30	Toronto	Research Ontario Advisory Group
		London	Schulich 130th Anniversary Reception

			Awards of Merit Alumni Dinner
October	1	London	Homecoming Activities
	2	London	Homecoming Activities
	3	London	Albert & Temmy Latner Foundation Gift Announcement
			Dinner for Latners and Bill Brock (Gibbons)
	4	London	Deans' Meeting
			Interview with Western News
			Interview with Rogers TV
			Professor John English (University of Waterloo) & Lecture
	5	Toronto	Mr. Mandy Shapansky (Chairman of the Board, CEO, Xerox Canada)
			Mr. Les Viner (Managing Partner Torys LLP)
			Lunch with Michelle and Pat Meneley, Steve Coxford
			Mr. Fred Waks (Senior VP & COO, Rio Can Real Estate Investment Trust)
	6		Phone Call with Minister Jim Flaherty (Finance)
	11	London	Phone Call with Alistair Summerlee (President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Guelph)
			Minister Flaherty Visit & Ivey Lecture
	12	London	Ken Snowden
			IBM Visit and Lecture with Bruce Ross (President, IBM Canada)
			Bruce Ross Lunch
			Photos with Professor Shunming Zhang (Renmin University of China) and John Whalley (Economics)
			National Scholars Reception

	13	Toronto	Patrick Deane (McMaster), Feridun Hamdullahpur (Waterloo), Government Relations Reps
			COU Executive Heads Round Table
			David Smith Award Dinner (Honoring Dr. Peter George)
	14	London	United Way Kick Off event
			Teleconference with Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Nomination Committee
			McIntosh VIP Reception and Exhibit Opening
	15	Niagara Falls	Oxford Learning Centres AGM
		Toronto	Ontario Universities' Fair
	17	London	Teleconference with COU Budget & Audit Committee
			Lunch with Andrew Forgione (USC President)
			Royal Society and Canada Research Chairs Reception (Gibbons)
			Conference Call with U-15 Group
	18	London	United Way Retirees Reception (Gibbons)
			Dinner with Dr. Lalji Singh (Vice Chancellor Banaras Hindu University)
	19	London	Teleconference with Michal Fine (DFIA)
			Videotaping for Annual Friendship Dinner
		Toronto	Ivey Society Cocktail Reception and Business Leader Award Dinner
	20	Toronto	Mr. Calvin McDonald (President & CEO, Sears Canada)
			Teleconference with WUSC (World University Service Canada)
			Law Alumni Awards Dinner

	22	Waterloo	Installation of President Feridun Hamdullahpur
	24	London	Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference
			UWOFA
			United Way Reception for Local Donors (Gibbons)
	25	Montreal	AUCC
	26	Montreal	AUCC
	27	London	Fall Convocation Ceremonies
	28	London	Fall Convocation Ceremonies
	29	London	Faculty of Health Science Professional Program Preview 2011
	30	London	Hanny Hassan Order of Canada Reception
	31	London	Group Photo for Globe and Mail Ad
			Campus Council
			Deb Matthews (MPP London North)
November	1	Ottawa	Minister Ed Fast (International Trade)
			International Education Advisory Panel
			The Canada-US Partnership Conference
	2		The Canada-US Partnership Conference
		Toronto	Second Annual Western Engineering Leader's Reception
	3	Toronto	John O'Leary (Education Policy Advisor, Premiers Office)
			Nancy Naylor (MTCU)
			Global Ivey Reception and Gala
	4	London	Bob Hamilton (Senior Associate Secretary, Treasury Board), Paul Boothe (Deputy Minister, Environment Canada)
			Bonnie Adamson (President & CEO, LHSC)
			Convocation "Thank You" Reception

	7	London	Ivey Grand Opening
			Chris Bentley (MPP)
			Joe Fontana, Jeff Fielding (City of London)
	8	London	Geoff Smith (Ellis Don)
			Phone Call with Ambassador Ziv
	9	Ottawa	International Education Advisory Panel
			Ottawa Alumni Reception
	10	Ottawa	Phone Call with Howard Rundle (President Fanshawe College)
			Alain Beaudet (President, CIHR)
			Gisele Yasmeen (Vice President Research, SSHRC)
			David Mitchell (President, Public Policy Forum)
	11	Ottawa	WUSC Board of Directors
	12	Ottawa	WUSC Annual Assembly
	14	London	LEDC
			Rob Dunlop (Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Canada)
			Bill Mantel (Director, Ministry of Research and Innovation)
			CFI Board Reception
			Promoted Faculty Reception (Gibbons)
	15	London	Chancellor Selection Committee
	16	Ottawa	Sean Speer (Director of Stakeholders and Economic Policy Advisor), Stephen Lecce (Office of the Prime Minister
			Presentation and Dialogue with AUCC
	17	Toronto	Research Ontario Advisory Panel