Board of Governors
January 26, 2012

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: Board of Governors

FROM: Amit Chakma

DATE: January 26, 2012

SUBJECT: President's Report to the Board

I'm pleased to provide the following update on important developments and achievements since the last meeting of the Board on November 24, 2011:

1. **Government relations update**: Several important changes regarding provincial funding were announced in recent months that will impact Western. In November, the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation proposed the creation of a Southwestern Ontario Development Fund as part of the *Attracting Investment and Creating Jobs Act, 2011*. This new fund would provide up to $20M annually to entice private investment in the region with the help of public incentives. The government is now engaged in a consultation process (December through February) to determine the scope and details of how the fund will operate, which may represent an opportunity to foster more public-private partnerships between industry and universities.

   In December, the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation announced its cancellation of Rounds 6 and 7 of the Ontario Research Fund's Research Excellence program, as a well as a special round for the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities—representing a total reduction of $42M over four years. Western has been successful in competing for these grants in the past (e.g., $6M in last year's Round 5), and the program's cancellation leaves 17 Western projects for which new proposals had been developed to seek other potential funding sources.

   In January, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced details for how the Province's 30% tuition rebate would be implemented for full-time undergraduate students from families with a gross household income under $160,000. Beginning in September 2012, eligible university students will receive $1,600 toward their tuition, equaling a total provincial investment of $420M. For the current Winter 2012 term, eligible students will receive half the full-year benefit ($800). Among the off-sets used to fund this new tuition rebate, the Ministry has announced it will discontinue the Ontario Trust for Student Support Program, which has provided $1.4B to institutional endowments and student financial aid during the past 14 years.

FDA approves HIV vaccine for human clinical trials: Western's Dr. Yong Kang and his team of researchers captured international headlines in late December when the US Food and Drug Administration approved the HIV vaccine developed at Western to proceed with human clinical trials. This marks a significant milestone in Dr. Kang's decades-long search for a preventive vaccine, which is backed by funding from Sumagen Canada and holds the potential to save millions of lives around the world.

2. **Record attendance at Fall Preview Day:** More than 11,000 prospective students and their families converged on campus in late November as Western opened its doors to showcase Canada's best student experience. Registered attendance exceeded last year's record by 6%, while 1,350 faculty, staff and students volunteered their time to ensure this annual event was a success. 28 support units assisted in organizing activities that included Faculty welcome sessions, drop-in centres, tours, mini-lectures, student panels, research displays and demonstrations, and musical concerts.

3. **Leadership recruitment:** Search committees have been struck and their work is now well underway to recruit for three key senior administrative positions at Western: Vice-President (Research), Vice-Provost (International), and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Each search committee aims to announce respective appointments for these important roles in time that they will take effect in the summer of 2012.

4. **Federal Advisory Panel on International Education:** December and January have been busy months for the federal advisory panel I am chairing at the request of the Ministers of International Trade and Finance. Thus far, the panel has received input from leaders in government, industry, and the education sector spanning the country from Halifax to Victoria. In February, the panel will broaden its international perspective in Asia through a series of consultation meetings prior to writing our draft report, due in March.

5. **Canadian universities mission to Israel:** Earlier this month, at the invitation of Israel's Ambassador to Canada, I participated in a mission to Israel with colleagues from several other Canadian universities. During the trip, we met with senior Israeli government officials as well as presidents and leading faculty members at institutions including Technion, Tel Aviv University, the Weizmann Institute of Science, and Bar-Ilan University. The mission served to build new relationships that could pave the way to the development of educational and research partnerships.

6. **Western's new logo introduced online:** At the writing of this report, plans are underway to officially unveil Western's new Board-approved logo and visual identity to the world via a virtual launch featured on the University's website January 26.

7. **Joseph Rotman named Chancellor:** As I referenced in my oral report to the Board November 24, but wish to capture here formally in my written report, I am thrilled that alumnus Joe Rotman (BA'57, LLD'09) has accepted our invitation to serve as Western's 21st Chancellor. The renowned businessman and philanthropist will be installed during the October 25 convocation, beginning a four-year term through 2016. Joe succeeds John Thompson who has served with distinction in this role since 2008.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT
(November 19, 2011 – January 20, 2012)

November	19	London	Fall Preview Day
	21	Ottawa	International Education Panel
	22	London	The Honourable Michael Wilson Lecture
			Leaders Forum
			Branding and Visual Identity Sessions
			Lawrence Summers Lecture and Dinner
	23	London	Presidential Closing Luncheon and Visual Identity Preview
			Dinner with Lucille and Norton Wolf (Gibbons)
	24	London	Phone Call with Dan Mathieson (Mayor, City of Stratford)
			Interview with The Link Radio Program
			Board of Governors / Board Dinner
	28	Toronto	OCE Board Strategy Session
			Ivey Global Health Conference 2011
	29	Toronto	Public Policy Forum Breakfast and Roundtable
			2011 Leaders' Symposium
	30	Toronto	Bill Wilder/Grant Reuber
			AFP Luncheon
			Research Ontario Project Meeting
December	1	London	Phone Call with Susan Truppe (MP, London North Centre)
			Business Cares Food Drive Kick-Off
			Lunch with Andrew Forgione (USC President)

			Economics Department Meeting
	2	London	External Department Budget Meeting
			Honorary Degree Committee
	5	Ottawa	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	7	Halifax	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	8	Montreal	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
			AUW Trustee Conference Call
	9	Toronto	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	10	London	President's Holiday Open House (Gibbons)
	12	Edmonton	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
			Phone Call with Howard Alper (Chair, STIC)
	13	Vancouver Victoria	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	15	London	Teleconference International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	19	London	Teleconference Research Ontario Project
			Western Holiday Reception
	20	London	Sumagen/HIV AIDS Announcement
			Lunch with Dr. Dong Joon Kim (Vice Chairman) and Sangkyun Lee (Vice President) Sumagen
	21	Toronto	Geoff Beattie
			Testimonial Video Shoot for Joe Rotman (Life Sciences Ontario Award)
			Jim Flaherty (Minister of Finance)
January	4	London	Teleconference with Minister Murray (MTCU)
	5	London	Teleconferences (International Education Strategy

			Advisory Panel, Saskatchewan Officials, Manitoba Officials)
	6	London	Teleconferences (PEI Officials, NB Officials)
	7- 14	Israel	Israel Trip (with Ambassador of Israel to Canada, Mrs. Miriam Ziv)
	16	Quebec City	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	17	Toronto	Deputy Minister Newman, Assistant Deputy Minister Nancy Naylor (MTCU)
			International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	18	Toronto	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
	19	Toronto	International Education Strategy Advisory Panel
			Teleconference OCE Board of Directors
	20	London	Interview with Western News