Western

President & Vice-Chancellor

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Board of Governors

From: Amit Chakma

Date: September 18, 2012

Re: 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 June 21, 2012.

1. <u>Government update</u>: In late June, the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities (MTCU) released a discussion paper titled, Strengthening Ontario's Centres of Creativity, Innovation and Knowledge, which highlights the government's vision and priorities for reshaping the post-secondary education sector in Ontario. The paper covered three broad themes: putting students first, meeting the needs of the creative economy; and focusing on productivity, innovation and sustainability. Over the summer, the MTCU also hosted a series of consultation sessions—several led by Minister Glen Murray himself—inviting stakeholder groups to discuss issues and questions raised in the paper. Western was represented by members of our senior administration at these sessions, which focused on topics including quality teaching and learning outcomes; experiential learning; technology-enabled learning; and expanded credential options and supplements. Written submissions in response to the paper were also invited from colleges and universities, student and faculty associations, and sector associations including the Council of Ontario Universities.

During the same timeframe, MTCU also asked all colleges and universities to submit an eight-page document by September 30 that outlines their respective institution's vision, key strengths, and top three priority objectives, as a means of establishing "strategic mandate agreements" (SMA) between each institution and the province. In preparing Western's submission, we have consulted with the Deans and other academic, faculty, student and staff leaders to ensure it accurately reflects our institution's strategic direction while acknowledging the government's desire to enhance efficiency, access and quality within Ontario's PSE sector.

2. <u>Leadership review and recruitment update</u>: In August, External Reviews were conducted for the School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies and the Faculty of Social Science, and an External Review is scheduled for the Richard Ivey School of Business on October 9 and 10. Through the External Review process, members of the campus community are invited to share their views on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges facing the Faculty or School, and to comment on the kind of leadership required to succeed during the next five to ten-year period. Search firms have now been engaged to assist the Decanal Committees for Ivey and Social Science.

3. <u>International Education Panel</u>: On August 14, I was pleased to submit the final report of the Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy to the Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister of the Asia-Pacific Gateway, in support of the federal government's Global Commerce Strategy.

During our panel's months-long consultations, I was struck by Canada's capacity to welcome international students and the social and economic benefits they bring to post-secondary institutions, to local communities, and to the nation as a whole. We heard this message across the country. As a result, our 122-page report—titled "International Education, a Key Driver of Canada's Future Prosperity"—outlines a vision for Canada to successfully attract top talent from around the world to study, conduct research and

increase collaboration between Canadian and international academic institutions. Key highlights of the report include:

- Double the number of international students choosing Canada from 239,131 to 450,000 by 2022 without displacing any domestic students;
- Create 50,000 opportunities per year for Canadian students to go abroad for study and cultural exchanges;
- Introduce 8,000 new scholarships for international students, co-funded by the Canadian government;
- Improve education visa processing to provide consistent and timely processing for high-quality candidates;
- Target promotional efforts towards priority markets, which include China, India, Brazil, the Middle East and North Africa, while maintaining traditional markets like the United States, France and the United Kingdom.

The report now rests in the hands of the Minister to determine if and how its recommendations may be implemented, and Western will continue its advocacy for continued investment in opportunities for international education.

4. Vanier Canada Scholars: Eight Western students have been named among this year's 167 recipients of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship—Canada's most prestigious scholarship for doctoral students. Launched in 2009 to attract and retain world-class doctoral students, the program helps establish Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. The scholarship, worth $50,000 per year for three years, is available to both Canadian and international PhD students studying at Canadian universities. This year's Western recipients include: Adrienne Elbert (Biochemistry and Pediatrics), Matthew Meyer (Epidemiology and Biostatistics), Krista Vincent (Anatomy and Cell Biology), Jorge Emilio Roses Labrada (French Studies), Maricarmen Vega (Bioarchaeology), Anna Matejko (Developmental Psychology), Susan Huang (Medical Biophysics), Daniel Langohr (Biomedical Engineering).

5. Royal Society of Canada Fellows: Western Philosophy professor Robert Stainton and Chemistry professor Tsun-Kong Sham have been named among the 71 newly elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). Election to the academies of the RSC is the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the arts, humanities and sciences. Founded in 1882, the RSC's mission is to recognize scholarly, research and artistic excellence, to advise governments and organizations, and to promote a culture of knowledge and innovation in Canada and with other national academies around the world. This year's new fellows will be inducted during a ceremony on November 17 at the Ottawa Convention Centre.

6. Student enrolment projection: The current projection for "Nov 1" first-year enrolment is 4,830, including 465 international students. The overall enrolment target for 2012-13 is 4,800, and we are progressing well against our goal to enroll one in 10 undergraduates from outside Canada.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT
(June 25, 2012 – September 14, 2012)

June	25	London	Phone Call with Ted MacDonald (Chair, UK Board)
			Bangladeshi Student Association
	25-26	Grand Bend	Academic Leaders Summer Conference
		London	Phone Call with Michael Fine (IESP)
	27	Toronto	John-Derek Clarke (Senior VP), James King (VP Business Development) Certified General Accountants Association of Ontario
			Egizio Bianchini (Vice-Chair & Co-Head Global Metals & Mining, BMO Capital Markets)
			Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister Glen Murray
	28	Ottawa	STIC (Science & Technology Innovation Council) Board Meeting
		London	President's Office BBQ (Gibbons)
July	5	London	Phone Call with Chancellor Joe Rotman
			Major Syed Mahmud Hasan (CEO, Golden Trade International)
			Bill Tucker (2012 Chair, United Way), Chirag Shah
			Phone Call with Nancy Cromarty (Director, Student Services, West Point Grey Academy)
	7	London	Bangladeshi Student Association Picnic
	9	London	Phone Call with Ravi Gupta (WUSC)
	10	London	LEDC
			Telephone Interview with Boris Chassagne (Radio Canada International)
	11	Muncey	Oneida First Nations
	12	London	Sandy White (London Councillor)
			Phone Call with Sylvie Villemure (WUSC)
	13	London	Suzanne Corbeil (Executive Director, U-15)
			Phone Call with Michel Chaurette (WUSC)
	16	London	Nick Prigioniero (President, EK3) Visit and Tour
	18	London	Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin Lecture
			Lunch with Laura Gainey
	31	London	Phone Call with Chad Gaffield (SSHRC)
August	3	London	Minister Diane Ablonczy (State & Foreign Affairs) Visit
	14	Halifax	Release of the International Education Strategy Panel Report
		Halifax	Telephone Interview with Tamara Baluja (Globe & Mail)
	17	Florida	Telephone Interview with Carmel Kilkenny (Radio Canada)
	20	London	Telephone Interview with Kristen Shane (Embassy Magazine)
	21	London	Lunch with Max Blouw (President, Wilfred Laurier)

	21	London	Telephone Call with Suzanne Corbeil (U-15)
	22	London	Lunch with Mitch Baran (CEO Trudell Medical), Deans Stephenson and Strong (Gibbons)
			Laurie and Sandy Stanton (Stanton Farms) Visit
	23-24	Bayfield	Deans' Retreat
	29-30	Toronto	U-15 Executive Retreat
September	4	London	SMA Discussions with Student Leaders
			Baldwin Family Tree Planting and Lunch
	5	London	Presidential Review Committee
			Vice-President Research Selection Committee Dinner with John Capone (Gibbons)
	6	Toronto	Chancellor Joe Rotman
			Teleconference with STIC Committee
			Phone Call with Suzanne Corbeil (U-15)
	7	Toronto	COU Executive Heads
		London	Teleconference with SACIR (AUCC Standing Advisory Committee on International Relations)
			O Week Closing Ceremonies
	8	London	Feridun Hamdullahpur (President), Sallie Keller (Provost), George Dixon (VP Research), Waterloo University
	10	London	Richard Ivey School of Business Board of Directors
			Lunch with Alysha Li (USC VP of University Affairs)
	11	London	Campus Council
			Dinner with Kathleen and Bill Troost, Marta Witer, Ian Ihnatowycz (Gibbons)
	12	London	Senate Orientation
			Lunch with Adam Fearnall (USC President)
			Teleconference WUSC Executive Committee
			Announcement of Geoff Beattie Chair in Corporate Law
	13	London	International Library Space Partnership of the Asian-Themed Section of Taylor Library)
			Big Purple Couch Talk Show Interview
			Scholars Electives Kickoff Event
	14	Toronto	Breakfast with Minister Glen Murray
			Craig Smith (President & Broker, Ashlar Urban Realty Inc)
			Don Charter (President, Corsa Coal)