REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Board of Governors

From: Amit Chakma

Date: November 15, 2012

Re: President's Report to the Board

I am pleased to provide the following update on important developments and achievements since the last meeting of the Board on September 25, 2012.

1. Government update: Western's Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) was submitted to Glen Murray, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (TCU), prior to the September 30 deadline. On October 15, Dalton McGuinty announced that he will be stepping down as Premier and that he had prorogued the provincial legislature. All legislation and motions before the House and Committees, including the latest compensation restraint legislation that was introduced a week earlier, died on the order paper. With a leadership convention scheduled for January to name his successor, the Premier also enacted a rule that anyone running for leader of the Ontario Liberal party must resign from cabinet first. Subsequently, Glen Murray stepped down as Minister and announced his entrance into the leadership race, and John Milloy (MPP Kitchener Centre) was sworn in as TCU Minister—a role he has served previously (2007-11) and one he is presently serving in addition to being Minister of Community & Social Services and Government House Leader.

In the meantime, the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) announced their expert panel and timelines for the review of SMAs submitted to the government by the province's 44 colleges and universities. HEQCO's goal is to provide its final appraisals to government by late February. A letter has also been received from Deputy Minister Deborah Newman regarding processes around SMA reviews and Tuition Framework consultations. Her letter states that a parallel review of SMAs will be conducted in addition to the one done by HEQCO. It remains unclear what the next steps will be once these reviews are completed under a new Minister.

Contrary to former Minister Murray's suggestion that a consultation would take place regarding a new tuition framework, TCU believes that this has already been done over the past year but invited submissions from the sector on tuition policy. TCU working groups have met with stakeholders on

technical issues. With a new Premier being selected in January, followed by a new cabinet, then potentially a Throne Speech and possibly a budget, and then a potential spring election, Western is participating fully in the various TCU and HEQCO consultations, and looks forward to working with Minister Milloy while he holds the portfolio.

2. Leadership review and recruitment update: On November 9, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) Janice Deakin announced that the Board's Senior Operations Committee had formally approved Dr. Linda Miller's re-appointment to a second term as Vice-Provost (Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies). Dr. Miller has served in this role since 2008 when the School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies was created, and her new term will continue through June 30, 2019. During the review process, Dr. Miller received strong endorsement from our campus community and we wish her continued success in this important leadership role.

In early October, an External Review was conducted for the Ivey Business School. Looking ahead, Decanal Selection Committees for Ivey and the Faculty of Social Science will continue their work to recruit successors for Deans Carol Stephenson and Brian Timney now that external search consultants have been engaged and advertisements have been placed in various media outlets.

3. Strategic Plan renewal: At the October Senate meeting, Provost Deakin made a presentation to outline the initial steps being taken to renew Western's strategic plan. Western created its first-ever Strategic Plan, *Leadership in Learning*, in 1995. That plan was followed by *Making Choices: Western's Commitments as a Research-Intensive University,* in 2001. And, most recently, *Engaging the Future*, originally approved by Senate and the Board in 2007, was modestly updated in 2010. Developing our new strategic plan will be very important from an engagement and consultation perspective, and will build on our institutional strengths which are based on the solid foundation laid in past strategic plans. Input from the campus community will be solicited and received by the Senate Committee on University Planning from now through February, with the aim of providing a final report to Senate and the Board for approval in fall 2013.

4. Student surveys: Western topped the *Globe and Mail's* annual University Report, published October 23, for the 11th consecutive year in the category for research-intensive universities. Western received an A for "most satisfied students"— the only A awarded in the large universities category (more than 22,000 students). Overall, in the survey of more than 31,000 undergraduate students across Canada, Western topped 11 of 19 categories—six led outright and five tied. These categories included such areas as instructor's teaching style, buildings/facilities, residences, recreation/athletics and work-play balance.

And earlier this month, the University's internal Report on the Survey of Graduating Students for 2011-12, suggests 92.6% of recent graduates would recommend Western to a friend. That number was up almost a full point from last year's mark of 91.7. The survey was distributed to 5,556 undergraduate, certificate and diploma students who were expected to graduate in fall 2011 or spring 2012 convocations. Of these, 855 questionnaires (15.4%) were returned. It remains gratifying to see our students continue to express satisfaction with the high-quality education they receive at Western, and all credit belongs to the exceptional students, faculty and staff we attract to campus.

5. **Canada Research Chairs**: In addition to eight Western faculty members who had their existing Canada Research Chairs (CRC) renewed for another term in October, we added two new Tier 2 CRCs—bringing the University's current total to 59. Congratulations go to Bipasha Bruah, CRC in Global Women's Issues, who develops theories, methodologies and analytical frameworks for conducting interdisciplinary research on gender and property ownership. Also to Girma Bitsuamlak, CRC in Wind Engineering, who combines the use of experiments and computer simulations to uncover the impact of hurricanes, tornadoes and downbursts on buildings and energy infrastructure.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT
(September 15 – November 14, 2012)

September	17	London	Phone Call with Chris Eaton (World University Service Canada)
			Mr. Art Zuidema (London City Manager)
			Michael Kirby Reception & Dinner (Gibbons)
	18	London	Next 36 Event
	19	London	BASICS (Principled Leadership and University Governance) Session
			Retired Academics Group Speakers Series
			Western Scholars Kick Off Celebration
	20	London	Psychology Department Meeting
			Videotaping of Carol Stephenson's Tribute
			Teleconference with OCE Board
	21	London	Senate
	22	London	Western Serves Event
			Family Football Game
	24-25	London	Board Retreat / Board of Governors
	26	London	General Dynamics Land Systems Canada Lunch
			Welcome Reception for Vice-President Research John Capone
	27	Toronto	COU Executive Heads Retreat
	28	London	Alumni Awards of Merit
	29-30	London	Homecoming Weekend
October	1	London	Schulich Accreditation Team
		Ottawa	STIC Measurement Working Group
			STIC Council Meeting
	2	Ottawa	STIC Council Meeting
	3	London	Alysha Li (USC VP University Affairs), Janice Deakin, Julie McMullin
			Captain Tristan Hadfield (Public Affairs Officer, National Defence) Presentation of Certificate
	3		Universitat Konstanz Delegation Lunch
			Phone Call with Suzanne Corbeil (U-15)
	4	London	Telephone Call with AUCC
			Teleconference with IBM Panel
	5	Regina	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Ceremony
	9	Paris	Canada Day in France
	10	Paris	Francois Bourguignon (Director, Paris School of Economics)
	11	Toronto	COU Executive Heads
	12	London	Phone Call with Suzanne Corbeil (U-15)
			Dr. Gordon McBean (Geography Department)
			Kamal Ahmad (Asian University for Women)
	15	London	Dinner with Dr. Paul Davenport (Gibbons)
	16	London	Michael Fine (International Education Strategy Panel)
	17	Toronto	Teleconference Campaign Executive Committee
			Lunch with Mr. Jordan Gnat (Managing Director, Scientific

			Games Products)
			Teleconference WUSC
			Ivey Business Leaders Award Dinner
	18	London	Meet with African Delegates and Guests
			Africa Institute Opening Remarks
			Serve Coffee for the “United Way”
			United Way Kick Off Event
			Teleconference for Ontario Economic Summit Event
	19	London	Kingsmill Plaque Unveiling Ceremony
			Senate
	22	Montreal	World Congress on Information Technology 2012 (WCIT 2012)
	23-24	Ottawa	AUCC Conference
		London	Convocation Dinner for Arthur and Sonia Labatt (Gibbons)
	25-26	London	Fall Convocation Ceremonies and Honorary Degree Dinners
	26	London	Lunch with Dr. Ursula Schaefer (Technical University of Dresden, Germany)
			Teleconference U-15
	30	London	Phone Call with Suzanne Corbeil (U-15)
			Rob Leone (MPP Cambridge)
			Lunch with Adam Fearnall (USC President)
			Campus Council
			United Way Retirees Reception (Gibbons)
	31	London	Phone Call with John Kelleher (RHB Group)
November	1	Toronto	Lunch with Andrew Federer (Managing Director & Head, RBC Capital Markets
			Law Alumni Awards of Distinction Reception
	2-3	Ottawa	WUSC Board of Directors and General Assembly
	5	London	Fraunhofer Project Centre Grand Opening with Minister Diane Finley
	6	Montreal	Karen McBride (President & CEO CBIE)
			Panel Discussion at CBIE Conference
	7	Niagara on the Lake	Ontario Economic Summit Conference (Panel Discussion)
		Toronto	Engineering Leaders Reception
	8	London	Pride Rally
			Convocation Volunteers Thank You Lunch
			Rotman International Advisory Board
			Teleconference U-15
			Rotman International Advisory Committee Dinner
	13	London	Breakfast with Richard Dicerni
	14	London	Opening Remarks for Canadian Space Summit
			Teleconference Fundraising & Donor Relations Committee