Western

President & Vice-Chancellor

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Board of Governors

From: Amit Chakma

Date: January 24, 2013

Re: President's Report to the Board

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I'm pleased to provide the following update on important developments and achievements since the last meeting of the Board on November 22, 2012.

**1. Government update**: In the 2012 Provincial Budget, the government announced that operating grants to the university sector will be reduced by $28.6M in 2013-14 and $57.9M annually starting in 2014-15. The share of this reduction to be carried by individual institutions is determined on relative share of enrollment, which means Western can project an approximate $2.5M reduction in its 2013-14 operating grant. In offsetting and absorbing the impact of this reduction, the Ministry recommends each institution explore efficiencies that minimize impact on students and the government's key PSE policy priorities, including quality, improved learning outcomes, and innovation. Further, the Ministry is asking institutions to focus in particular on productivity and efficiency improvements that involve hiring, space utilization, collaborative purchasing, strategies to reduce energy costs, outsourcing, cost benchmarking, and changes in ancillary/support operations.

At the Federal level, Western is working through the U15 research universities group on a proposal for a new funding initiative to support Canada's innovation agenda by strengthening our collective position among the top league of global universities. Our goal is to promote the creation of a national program that would augment the existing suite of competitive government programs already in place to help Canada better attract and retain top academic talent, including outstanding international students. Principles of the proposal will focus on measurable excellence, ROI, multi-year performance-driven investment, and institutional accountability.

**2. Leadership update**: On December 10, I informed our campus community that Vice-President (External Relations) Kevin Goldthorp had accepted the role of Senior Vice-President, Advancement, and Foundation President at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. Kevin concluded that the interests of

his family and Western are best served by having a vice-president able to spend more time in London. While he will be greatly missed, I respect his decision and wish him all the best for continued success in his future role. Kevin's last day at Western is January 31, and the process to recruit his successor is underway with the appointment of a search committee, which we hope to conclude with an appointment within the calendar year. In the interim period, I will assume responsibilities for the External Relations portfolio, including the Campaign. I will be supported in these new responsibilities by a strong leadership and staff team, as well as the commitment expressed to me by our Campaign Chair, Geoff Beattie, and our volunteer campaign cabinet.

Meanwhile, Decanal Selection Committees for the Ivey Business School and the Faculty of Social Science continue their work to recruit successors for Deans Carol Stephenson and Brian Timney, each of whom are stepping down after two 5-year terms in their current roles. At present, each Selection Committee anticipates candidate interviews will commence in February.

**3. Strategic Plan renewal update**: A micro website to promote and encourage broad participation in the Strategic Plan renewal process was launched November 29 at http://president.uwo.ca/strategic_planning/index.html. The site invites written submissions from individual faculty, staff, students, alumni and other external stakeholders. Input to the plan — including meetings with key stakeholder groups such as Faculty councils, employee unions, student councils, and the Alumni Association—will be solicited and received by the Senate Committee on University Planning through February, with the aim of producing a draft report in the spring, and a final report to Senate and Board for approval in fall 2013.

**4. Enrollment update**: Figures released earlier this month by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) highlight that record numbers of high school students are applying to our provincial schools and that Western continues to be a highly popular choice among them. First-year secondary school applicants increased system-wide by 2.4% over last year, bringing the total to 92,554. The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) reports that since 2000, secondary school applicants have increased by 56.3% — a trend that is expected to continue. When factoring in non-high school applicants, the total number of first-year applicants rises to 117,700, system-wide. Western and our affiliated university colleges attracted a 1.4% increase in Ontario high school applications over last year, placing us third in total number of applications behind Toronto and Ryerson. At present, we are seeing a significant increase in applications from individuals other than Ontario high school students, but it is still early in the admissions cycle; data comparisons for that segment of our student body are best made in April. The COU also reports that 87.5% of Ontario university students who completed degrees in 2009 found employment within six months of graduation while 93.1% were employed within two years. Further, COU reports that Ontario university graduates earn approximately 53%

more annually than individuals with no post-secondary education.

5. **Premier's trade mission to China**: In mid January, Western Vice-Provost (International) Julie McMullin and I had the privilege of traveling with Premier Dalton McGuinty to China to promote research and educational partnerships with Ontario. During our travels, we visited Nanjing University where I signed a new faculty exchange agreement with that institution. The agreement will provide Western faculty members from any department or field the opportunity to teach and work at NU for up to one full academic year. In turn, Western will host NU faculty for the same time period. NU is one of China's top-ranked comprehensive universities, with strengths in science, medicine, engineering and technology, social sciences and management, arts and humanities – and where we already enjoy student exchange opportunities through the Ontario Jiangsu Student Exchange Program. During the trip, we also visited Soochow University where we toured the newly established Western-Soochow Centre for Synchrotron Radiation Research, co-led by Western Chemistry professor and Royal Society Fellow, T.K. Sham. Dr. McMullin also gave a short presentation about Western's water research to a group of about 40 potential industry and research and development partners.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT**

(November 15, 2012 – January 19, 2013

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| November | 15 | Toronto | Bill Morneau (Executive Chairman and CEO, Morneau Shepell) |
| | | | Doug Steiner (Principal, BEWorks) |
| | | | Alumni Reception and Celebration |
| | 16 | London | Senate |
| | | | National Scholarship Recipients Reception (Gibbons) |
| | 17 | Ottawa | Royal Society Induction and Awards Ceremonies |
| | 19 | London | Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board for Faculty of Engineering |
| | | | Adam Fearnall (USC President) |
| | | | Bruce Archibald (President FedDev) |
| | | | Leaders in Innovation Dinner |
| | 21 | London | Teleconference STIC |
| | 22 | London | Board of Governors Meetings & Dinner |
| | 23 | London | Interview with Radio AM980 |
| | 27 | London | Gazette Interview |
| | | | Teleconference U-15 Executive |
| | | | Kevin Sullivan (GMP Securities, Deputy Chair) |
| | 28 | London | Jack Malkin, D. J. Schneeweiss (Consul General of Israel) |
| | 29 | London | Honorary Degree Committee |
| | | | Leader's Forum |
| | | | Royal Society/Canada Research Chairs Reception |
| | 30 | London | Business Cares Food Drive Kick Off |
| | | | Lunch with Tiff Maklem, Holly Maklem |
| December | 6 | Toronto | Grano Series Event with Bob Woodward |
| | 7 | Toronto | Senate |
| | 10 | Toronto | Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty |
| | | Ottawa | U-15 Dinner |
| | 11 | Ottawa | U-15 Meeting |
| | | | STIC Council Meeting |
| | 12 | Ottawa | STIC Council Meeting |
| | 13 | London | Andrea Horvath (NDP Leader) |
| | | | Howard Rundle (President, Fanshawe College), Anne-Marie DiCicco Best (Public Affairs) |
| | | | Dinner with Deb Mathews, Adrian Owens (Gibbons) |
| | 15 | London | President's Holiday Reception (Gibbons) |
| | 17 | Toronto | Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation (MEDI) Session (2013 Mission to China) |
| | | | Campaign Executive Committee |
| | 18 | London | Alumni Board Meeting |
| | | | External Holiday Reception |
| | 19 | London | Phone Call with Paul Davidson (AUCC) |
| January | 8 | London | Senior Alumni Program |

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| | | | Campaign Video Shoot |
| | | | Teleconference U-15 |
| | 9 | London | PVP / USC Meeting |
| | | | WUSC Executive Committee Meeting |
| | 10 | London | St Andrews Exchange Program Luncheon |
| | | | External Staff Meeting |
| | | | Teleconference Foundation Western |
| | 11-16 | China | Premier’s China 2013 Trade Mission |
| | 17 | London | Photoshoot |