The Board, at its meeting on September 27, 2011 approved the President's Priorities outlined below:

President's Priorities for 2011-12

At the beginning of each academic year, I outline the high-level priorities I plan to pursue in the year ahead. These priorities are informed by input gathered from individual colleagues and groups within our campus community, as well as from key external stakeholders who play important roles in helping to secure Western's success. During the previous two years, I have articulated my priorities in general terms with a view to setting broad directional goals. For my 2011-12 report, I build on those directional goals but provide some sharper focus to my operational priorities.

1. Strengthen Western's reputation for academic excellence

- Enhance global recognition of core academic and research area s
- Build upon our identified signature areas of teaching and research strength
- Identify and nurture emerging areas of strength
- Encourage and support inter-disciplinary and inter-faculty initiatives
- Establish niche graduate programs that draw on our areas of strength

2. Build internationalization initiatives and strategic partnerships

- Develop and refine strategies for increasing international undergraduate student enrolment toward and beyond levels on par with our peer institutions
- Increase opportunities for study-abroad and international exchange
- Expand international partnerships, with focus in countries/regions including China, Brazil, Germany, and East Africa, to develop new research/learning opportunities
- Engage our alumni—at home and abroad—in identifying, developing and supporting international initiatives and strategic partnerships
- Exploit the potential our Advanced Manufacturing Park provides for strategic partnerships with industry and other academic/research institutions

3. Execute capital plans in support of quality and strategic growth

- Begin construction of new 1,000-bed residence to support strategic enrolment growth and maintain capacity to ensure our first-year residency guarantee
- Begin construction of new Family Medicine facility on the Westminster grounds
- Begin construction of the WindEEE Dome and International Composite Research Centre at the Advanced Manufacturing Park
- Occupy Phase 1 of the new Ivey business school, and begin Phase 2 construction
- Complete renovation of Physics-Astronomy building
- Plan renovations of the former Ivey building for new academic purposes
- Plan renovations of Talbot Hall for the Don Wright Faculty of Music
- Complete renovations of Stevenson and Lawson Halls

4. Increase fundraising activity in support of academic priorities

- Identify and articulate compelling institutional aspirations that have strong potential for alignment with philanthropic interest and opportunity
- Strengthen internal campaign support structures and volunteer engagement
- Re-position and formally re-launch Western's fundraising campaign
- Focus on opportunities to increase the number of endowed research chairs by leveraging Western's matched giving program

5. Raise Western's local, provincial, national and international profile

- Develop and execute tactical plans emerging from the strategic communications and institutional branding review
- Strengthen existing and cultivate new relationships with all levels of government, including outreach to local community organizations and international stakeholders
- Pursue and accommodate public speaking and media opportunities