

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors
From: Amit Chakma
Date: September 23, 2014
Re: Priorities for 2014-15

Each September, I outline high-level priorities to pursue in the academic year ahead that will help achieve the broader teaching, research and service mission of our university. These priorities are informed through my ongoing interaction with individual colleagues and groups within our campus community, as well as with key external stakeholders who play important roles in Western's success. My 2014-15 report continues this tradition.

This year, my overarching priority is to ensure that appropriate steps are undertaken to implement our recently approved Strategic Plan, "Achieving Excellence on the World Stage." By design this plan is aspirational in nature. As such, translating its aspirations into actionable items will require significant attention on the part of our leadership team. Our Strategic Plan has four key pillars: 1) Raise our expectations by creating a world class research and scholarship culture; 2) Lead in learning by providing Canada's best education for tomorrow's global leaders; 3) Reach beyond campus by engaging alumni, community, institutional and international partners; 4) Take charge of our destiny by generating and investing new resources in support of excellence. Work on the first two pillars is well advanced through the leadership of the vice-presidents, especially the Provost and the Vice-President (Research), and other members of the senior leadership team who have responsibility for implementing particular elements of the plan. I will continue to focus on these two pillars at a high level, but, by virtue of the external leadership role of my position, I'll be devoting considerable time to the latter two pillars with a special emphasis on building and strengthening partnerships with both public and private sector partners.

The following are continuing priorities from previous years.

1. Build Western's capacity to attract the best students from across Ontario, Canada, and around the world through the high quality, innovation, breadth and reputation of our academic programs, research, scholarship, and outstanding learning environment.
2. Cultivate a more research-intensive culture through continued emphasis on graduate enrolment expansion, development of innovative course-based Master's programs, and strategic investment in interdisciplinary areas of strength.
3. Strengthen Western's internationalization efforts through increased engagement with alumni, community and institutional partners in all areas of our teaching, learning, research and service mission.
4. Monitor and contribute to Ontario's post-secondary education policy discussions while anticipating and managing the impact of policy shifts that may emerge.

5. Play a leadership role in advocating for greater public support of the post-secondary research and internationalization agendas with the Federal government.
6. Review and manage resource allocation and utilization in light of the changing fiscal and education policy environment while pursuing income diversification strategies, with a particular focus on the development of Western's next four year fiscal plan.
7. Raise Western's visibility through media, communication, public affairs, and events activities.