

**University of Windsor
Senate**

5.8: **Report of the Provost**

Item for: **Information**

Forwarded by: **Robert Aguirre**

The Office of the Provost works collaboratively across the University to advance academic excellence. Guided by our strategic plan (Aspire: Together for Tomorrow), the office oversees long-range academic planning, teaching, and learning, faculty innovation, student life and academic success, enrolment management, and institutional analysis. We are committed to promoting equity, sustainability, and the rich diversity of our campus.

1) Campus Update—One-stop Student Service Centre

I am pleased to announce that the University will move forward with the creation of a dedicated service centre for students, graduate and undergraduate. The University of Windsor is one of the few universities in Ontario not to have adopted this model for the delivery of student services. While a location for the centre has yet to be decided, there is a consensus that it should be prominently located, close to parking, and easy to find. It should also have a virtual component, as many students would prefer to be “online, not in line.” Currently, the key services we provide to students (registrar, financial aid, advising, etc.) are dispersed across campus, leading students to wander from building to building and often to stand in long queues. This weakens our efforts to become a more student-centred campus, the effects of which are evident in surveys of student satisfaction. The creation of a one-stop centre also meets two key objects in the Aspire Strategic plan: 1) the foundational commitment of Improving Institutional Processes and Coordination of Services; and 2) the strategic priority of Ensuring a High Quality, Relevant Teaching, Learning and Student Experience for Everyone. I have tapped Ray Darling, our University Registrar, to lead the strategy and realization of this key university initiative. He is committed to building a broad, representative team (including students) to guide the work.

2) Campus Update—Replacement of legacy ECV system

There is wide consensus that the technology supporting the electronic CV is due for an overhaul. Based on a word processing document, the current interface involves a highly manual and labor intensive effort to update. Revising CVs quickly and easily is not possible, costing precious time for faculty members who are applying to granting agencies that require different formats. The data security of our current system is also not as strong as it needs to be. I have asked Dr. Erika Kustra, acting associate vice president, academic and Ms. Anne Mullen, academic initiatives officer for the provost, to lead an effort to find a twenty-first century solution. There are several promising alternatives. These systems, which have been adopted across leading universities in Canada, offer greater ease of use, smooth reformatting for granting agencies as well as tenure and promotion processes, and enhanced data security. This initiative also aligns with the Aspire foundational commitment cited above to improve institutional processes. Dr. Kustra is assembling a representative team and will report to the Senate as updates are available.

3) Campus Update—New Public Health curricular programming

As part of joint academic and research planning, the university will take steps in coming months to develop enhanced academic programming initiatives in public health. The provost and VPRI, from their respective portfolios, will work together to advance the creation of new curricular pathways at the graduate and undergraduate levels and to integrate these programs with already existing initiatives and the teaching and research efforts of faculty members across the university. A representative committee will be formed to inform the planning work in this exciting area of growth for the university.