

**Office of the President**

**To: All staff and faculty**

**From: Feridun Hamdullahpur, President**

**Date: May 2, 2011**

**Re: The President's Quarterly  
Waterloo Community Update**

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Spring is the perfect time of year to take pride in our accomplishments and celebrate the successes of our students and researchers. The quality of our undergraduate and graduate teaching and scholarship and the commitment of our faculty and staff are remarkably high.

The world is taking notice. According to the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings released in March, the University of Waterloo made it into the top 100 ranking (91<sup>st</sup>) on the strength of its reputation in teaching and research.

We can take this achievement as a vote of confidence without becoming complacent. Our objective is clear – we want Waterloo to make an impact and be in a position to create talent and knowledge in ways that benefit the future of our community and our country.

With that in mind, we are gearing up to take a close look at our Sixth Decade Plan, to reconfigure and restructure it so that it better addresses our priorities and plans. Further teamwork and innovation in all aspects of our planning and operations will enable us to achieve a distinguished place as a world-class university.

**Board of Governors Meeting**

The Board of Governors met on Tuesday, April 5, 2011. My presentation to the board can be viewed and downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/accountability/documents/04-05-11BoardofGovernorsEnvironmentalScanupdated.ppt>

I would like to highlight a few important points.

We were relieved to hear from CECS director Peggy Jarvie that all ten of our co-op students working in Japan were safe and accounted for after the terrible earthquake on

March 11. On March 23 I had the opportunity to convey Waterloo's sympathies to Japanese Consul-General Tetsuo Yamashita during his visit to our city.

## **A Tale of Three Tuesdays – Budget updates**

### **Federal Budget 2011**

I believe it is worth highlighting a few points from the short-lived federal budget of March 22, if for no other reason than to suggest that we may see some of these items make a return in Ottawa at some point in the near future. As far as the education sector was concerned, this was a very exciting budget. The base budgets of the three federal granting agencies were increased by \$37M - \$15M annually to NSERC, \$15M to CIHR, and \$7M to SSHRC. An additional \$10M per year was added to the Indirect Costs program, which exists to help pay for the many ancillary costs associated with research activities. The budget also provided \$53.5M over five years to establish 10 new Canadian Excellence Research Chairs, and \$50M over five years to the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. Also included in the budget was a commitment to invest \$60M over three years to promote increased student enrolment in disciplines relating to the digital economy, \$100M per year to the Canada Media Fund, and \$10M over two years to develop an international education marketing strategy.

### **Ontario Budget 2011**

I noted in my last quarterly update that we were waiting on commitments from the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities on growth funding, and Ontario universities received our answer in the run-up to the provincial budget, which was delivered on March 29. The government will create 60,000 additional student spaces across the province by 2015, with 41,000 of those reserved for universities. The multi-year funding framework announced in the budget will invest \$309 million annually in operating grants. Also contained in the budget were commitments to increase international enrolment by 50 per cent, and \$50M over ten years to support the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.

### **University of Waterloo 2011-2012 Operating Budget**

The Board approved the 2011-2012 operating budget. It is a balanced budget, with a surplus of \$176,000, although Geoff McBoyle was quick to point out that the university spends about \$1.6M a day. This budget was crafted under the assumption that we would be receiving no additional funding for undergraduate growth from the province, so the announcement of new money for increased student spaces across Ontario was a welcome one. This budget included a two per cent reduction across all academic units amounting to \$4.3M, to be reinvested in three priority areas: student success, the student faculty ratio, and graduate student support.

## **Town Hall Meeting**

The spring Town Hall meeting was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Humanities Theatre. Provost Geoff McBoyle and I were able to engage faculty and staff members in a rewarding conversation on a number of topics. I encourage each and every one of you to consider attending one of our town hall meetings.

We experimented with a webcast so that our conversation could reach our growing family of satellite campuses, and we hope to take steps in the future to allow for real-time feedback and questions from abroad. For those of you unable to make it, the meeting was recorded and can be viewed here:

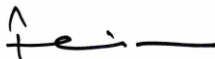
<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/documents/president/video/2011-04-Townhall-President.html>  
<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/documents/president/video/2011-04-Townhall-VicePres.html>

This town hall meeting was, I hope, the beginning of a broader conversation that both Geoff and I would like to have with the entire university community. It will be a conversation about many things, but first and foremost, it will be about the future of the University of Waterloo. We all have a stake in the university's future, and I believe it is time for all of us to invest in this future, together. How will we accomplish this? By hearing from you, at venues like the Town Hall, but also through conversations and personal contact.

## **Conclusion**

I realize that we are taking these bold steps to define our future within the context of the Sixth Decade Plan at a critical time for the university, especially in light of significant transitions at the senior leadership level. With searches underway for many of these positions, we are confident that Waterloo's situation will stabilize, and in the meantime, we will keep moving forward.

Dedication, ambition, and leadership are qualities that are not just reserved for a university's upper administration – they must be possessed by all the members of our community if we are to succeed in our goal to create an engaging intellectual environment that attracts, retains, and trains talented people and positions the University of Waterloo as one of the world's top 100 universities.



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University of Waterloo