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Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

Report to Senate
November 22, 2011

Preamble

My fellow Vice-Principals and I have been working to formalize the decision-making process at the administrative level. The result is the Vice-Principals' Operations Committee, which will consider major operational issues and provide appropriate direction. The benefits include appropriate due diligence, clearer accountability, and an increased appreciation of cross-portfolio implications. My reports to Senate in future will mention the major operational decisions of this committee, and also acquaint Senate with activities within the Provost portfolio.

The Queen's 2012-2013 University Budget

The annual budget process is well underway, with units engaged in preparing their budget and planning submissions for 2012-2013. Submissions are required in November with follow-up meetings talking place throughout the fall and early in the New Year.

Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration), and I are making final plans for an open session with the Queen's community where we will make a brief presentation, and answer your questions, on the budget and planning process. Details will be available on the Queen's News Centre within the next few days. We encourage your participation as we continue to respond to our challenging financial situation.

Quality Assurance

The implementation stage for the new Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAPs) is well underway. Information about the province-wide transition to the new Quality Assurance regime and how it has affected approval processes for new programs and review of existing programs can be found on the enhanced QUQAPs portion of the Provost's website:

<http://www.queensu.ca/provost/responsibilities/qualityassurance.html>

Office of the Vice-Provost (International)

An important component of the work of the Vice-Provost (International) office is the coordination of agreements with foreign universities. This has been a particularly busy fall, with nine agreements signed, four of which involve new partners. Six other agreements with new partners and ten renewal agreements with existing partners are in process. These include memoranda of understanding, agreements for undergraduate exchange or graduate exchange, placement of students in practica, a double degree in the re-named Master of International Business Program (formerly Master of Global Management), and study abroad at the Bader International Study Centre. The activities encompassed represent engagement with institutions in 20 countries. An agreement for exchange of Commerce students with *La Universidad de los Andes* in Colombia represents the first exchange agreement for Queen's with an institution in that country.

Planning is in full force for the spring and summer terms of the new Queen's-Blyth Worldwide Program. Courses are offered at six sites, representing programming in seven countries (France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Costa Rica, Australia and New Zealand). The program is marketed to university students (primarily non-Queen's students), and lifelong learners.

University Rankings

Over the past several weeks a number of university rankings have released their annual reports. Notwithstanding our relatively high position in the rankings, we continue to state that these exercises are not well suited to provide primary guidance to potential students considering where to study, and that they are no substitute for campus visits.

National Survey of Student Engagement

A useful comprehensive set of data will soon be available from the [National Survey of Student Engagement](#) (NSSE) results. The survey provides insight into student participation in academic programs and extra-curricular activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development, measuring activities that have been demonstrated to be positively correlated with student success by engaging (i.e., motivating) students. My next report to Senate will explain how we propose to use these results for planning purposes.