



Provost's Report to Council

January 2021

GENERAL REMARKS

As you know, the Provincial election brought a shuffle in Ministerial positions, including Advanced Education. The Honourable Gene Makowsky, alumnus of our College of Education was selected for this role. Over the last two weeks in January, groups of Deans met with the Minister and other officials to formally introduce him to the University and its academic portfolio. Three meetings, divided into broad government areas – Human Services, Economy, and Health Care – are scheduled. Each meeting included a theme including the university's teaching and learning mission, our contributions to the province's economic development, and wellness. In each meeting, a member of the senior leadership team welcomed the ministerial staff and set the stage, followed by each dean highlighting the contributions of their college, a general discussion, and Q&A.

These sessions provided a great opportunity for us as the university to introduce Minister Makowsky to our province's research intensive, U15 university and give him our perspective on the varied and myriad ways we contribute to the growth and success of the province and its people. It also provided us with the chance to begin to get to know the Minister better. In the coming months, additional conversations focusing on our research mission and contributions will be scheduled.

Related, now that the winter term is underway, we have resumed our regular calls with the minister and AE sector leaders from across the province. These meetings allow us to discuss recent and pending decisions on our campuses related to COVID operations, and plan for the future as vaccine rollouts continue. The President recently announced the continuation of hybrid course delivery for spring and summer terms, and we are working closely with the government and our sector partners as we turn our attention to the fall term.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

Edwards School of Business

In November 2020, the Edwards School of Business (Edwards) officially unveiled the Gordon Rawlinson Finance and Trading Room. Located behind a glass wall in the front lobby of Edwards, the room features 16 state-of-the-art Bloomberg terminals. The remote learning capabilities of the software have ensured Edwards students and faculty could continue to access resources and data as part of their Finance studies and research amidst COVID-19. The Bloomberg terminals were made possible thanks to a generous gift from alumnus Gordon Rawlinson.

University Library

On Monday January 4, the University Library welcomed hip-hop artist and USask alumna Lindsay 'Eekwol' Knight to the new position of Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence. A unique initiative in the province and the first-ever at the university, this new 6-week, online residency will provide an exciting opportunity for Lindsay Knight, the



Storyteller, to play a visible role in ongoing efforts to transform and decolonize the University Library. Through the residency, Lindsay will actively engage with library employees and the broader campus community highlighting, through her storytelling, Indigenous cultures, traditions, and knowledge, and facilitating learning about and from Indigenous people. Ultimately, the Storyteller will develop and deliver at least one project as part of the residency to be delivered during Indigenous Achievement Week in February.