

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY PRINCIPLES FOR ACADEMIC PLANNING 2001-2006

Laurentian University's mandate is to provide a high-quality educational experience in English or French to students from Northeastern Ontario and beyond. In addition, the university is mandated to foster pure and applied research. These two interrelated mandates must continue to guide its development.

What follows is an outline of the principles of an academic plan that reflect the institution's mandates while at the same time coming to grips with the major financial challenges currently facing the university. One of the goals of these principles is to reduce costs at the institution whilst generating new revenues by increasing enrolment in programmes, especially from students from beyond our normal catchment area. This is crucial given that the demographics projections for Northeastern Ontario no longer work in our favour.

I. PROGRAMMES

- 1) Laurentian will offer programmes:
 - , that no university can afford to exclude; these programmes, however, might not be offered in traditional ways;
 - , that are unique or have some distinctive characteristics that draw students to them;
 - , that respond to society's needs for significant technological skills;
 - , that need to be offered because of the university's location; in addition, the university will develop as a major institutional thrust health and health related programmes.
- 2) Priority in programme development will be given to units that work together to share human and physical resources;
- 3) Laurentian University will continue to develop a limited number of unique graduate programmes at the Master's and Doctoral level;
- 4) No new programmes will be approved for a unit without the deletion of programmes in the same unit that are no longer viable from a student enrolment point of view. Furthermore, units that already offer many streams, some of which may be weak from a student enrolment point of view, should consolidate their various offerings;
- 5) Electives with fewer than 10 students in English or 5 in French will not be offered if enrollment has continued below this corridor three consecutive times. This restriction does not apply to courses taught on a voluntary overload basis, or to 4th year or graduate courses.

II. RESEARCH

- 1) Faculty members will be encouraged to apply for grants from both the public and private sector. Grant applications that require matching funds from the institution will only receive such support if overhead payments are significantly greater than the matching funds required;
- 2) The institution must increase its SSHRC applications. Where appropriate, workload reductions may be granted to faculty members who secure outside funding. LURF funding will be given to faculty members whose research proposals have the possibility of securing funding from an outside source in the near future;
- 3) There will be a move towards a greater degree of cooperation between research centres that share common areas of investigation.

III. FACULTY RESOURCES

- 1) Laurentian now has the highest number of faculty per students enrolled in the province; it also has the second lowest number of part-timers employed. It will be university strategy to move these figures closer to the provincial average. (If, over the course of time, total full-time faculty numbers per student drop to the provincial average, then it will be possible to pay remaining faculty, both full and part-time, higher salaries. Higher salaries will not only eliminate a long-standing grievance from the faculty association but, when it comes time to hire new faculty, Laurentian will be in a more competitive position).
- 2) Faculty who leave will be replaced in units/programmes experiencing demonstrable growth. Special consideration will be given to units with capped or limited enrolment.
- 3) There will be no faculty replacements in units/programmes that have not experienced such growth, except for viable programmes.

IV. GENERAL

- 1) Laurentian will continue to work closely with other post-secondary institutions (universities and community colleges alike) on projects which have both an academic and financial advantage for the institution.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) The Vice-President(s) Academic will be responsible for implementing these principles in co-operation with the Deans, the Director of Graduate Studies and Research, units, councils, ACAPLAN, and Senate. They will be required to report to Senate in September of each year on their progress in implementing these principles as well as any problems that they may be experiencing. Their report shall include recommendations for further action.