

## President's Report to the Board

For the period from June 10 to Sept. 20, 2019  
Submitted to the TRU Board of Governors  
By Brett Fairbairn, President and Vice-Chancellor

This report summarizes progress to date on priorities of the executive team for 2019/2020. It also includes university highlights since the last reporting period.

### Priorities

#### Organizational development, leadership, people:

**Senior leadership searches**—TRU has made excellent progress in hiring for either upcoming or current vacancies in our senior leadership positions:

- **Dean, School of Nursing:** In July, we appointed Dr. Rani Srivastava as Dean of the School of Nursing, effective January 2020. Dr. Srivastava comes to us with a wealth of experience: she is currently the Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Canada's largest mental health teaching hospital; also an assistant professor at the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto; and an adjunct professor at York University in Toronto and Dalhousie University in Halifax.
- **Dean, Faculty of Education and Social Work:** Dr. Airini has been reappointed to a second five-year term as dean. Her first term has been incredibly busy with Airini overseeing an increase in enrolments, the creation of the faculty's Five-Year Academic Plan (2017-2022), and successful implementation of Knowledge Makers, a program designed to inspire Indigenous students to participate in research. These are but a few of the initiatives and successes TRU has benefited from under Airini's leadership.
- **Associate Vice-President, Open Learning:** Don Poirier began a five-year term as AVP for Open Learning on Aug. 1. Don served as interim AVP since 2017, and previously was the Senior Director of Partnerships. Don is leading the development of a new strategic plan for OL, a critical endeavor given Open Learning's position within our mandate and service to approximately half of our students.
- **Dean, Faculty of Adventure, Culinary and Tourism:** TRU was pleased to welcome Dr. Douglas Booth in July. Doug comes to us from the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand where he served as Dean of the School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences from 2007 to 2017 before returning to teaching.

- **Vice-President, University Relations:** In the spring, I launched the process to fill the position of VP Advancement which has been held on an interim basis by Global Philanthropic Canada through its President and CEO Guy Mallabone, and VP Pacific region Jeff Sadowsky. The search committee, comprised of members from TRU, has met once, established a new title for this position (VP University Relations) and developed position criteria on which the search consultant will base their recruitment.

**Accreditation**—TRU met the mark and ahead of schedule! We were thrilled to receive a letter July 3, 2019 from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities advising us we had achieved accreditation status. Several weeks prior, I had the honour of joining TRU’s accreditation team to make our “final pitch” before NWCCU. This achievement wouldn’t have been possible without the commitment of so many individuals who began and continued through this process over the past 10 years. Accreditation validates what we already know—that TRU is committed to student success through the delivery of quality education.

## Planning:

**Envision TRU**—While university operations typically slow down during the spring and summer months, such was not the case for the university’s process to develop a new vision. Envision TRU, which launched in March of this year, completed Phase 1 discussions in early summer. Between March 27 and June 30, approximately 1,600 people participated in five different ways: through the online engagement platform Thoughtexchange, 41 small group discussions, written submissions, and by volunteering for an advisors’ network or as facilitators for the face-to-face discussions. These forums were open to students, faculty and staff as well as to community members, extending to our rural and remote areas, and globally through online discussion.

We heard people’s thoughts on what they valued about TRU and what they thought we should focus on for the next ten years. Their input indicated broad consensus on areas of value at TRU such as: student success, valuing employees, pursuing indigenization, diversity, interculturalization, the role of TRU in the communities we serve, pursuing sustainability and valuing research.

Small-group and online discussions moved into Phase 2 on July 1 and will wrap up on Oct. 5. Phase 2 is taking a deep dive into ideas and comments generated in Phase 1, and providing an opportunity to identify gaps in what had been said so far.

Envision TRU will continue through the fall and winter, culminating in a new, short, compelling vision statement to convey and inspire the kind of university and world we aim to create. Along with the new vision, we will present an updated statement of values and identify a new, short list of strategic priorities to work on in the next five to 10 years.

## Sustainability:

**Campus Sustainability Plan**—The TRU Sustainability Office is in the midst of developing a new five-year sustainability plan for the university. The existing plan was developed in 2014 and much has been achieved. The university has reduced GHG emissions and exceeded its 2020 target, and installed 665 MMBtu of on-site solar panels, as well as diverted over 61% of all waste from the landfill by 2017. In 2018, TRU was recognized as the highest-rated university in the world under the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s global Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). With that, TRU became one of five institutions—and the first in Canada—to achieve a platinum rating. The new five-year plan is anticipated to be completed in early 2020.

## Land and facilities:

**Student housing**—The summer saw the completion of \$5 million in renovations to Upper College Heights (UCH), a property near the corner of McGill Road and Summit Drive, which TRU purchased in summer 2018 to expand affordable housing options for students. The money went towards updating 64 suites, installing Wi-Fi and new smoke detectors, as well as implementing a number of infrastructural improvements in all six buildings that comprise UCH.

TRU now has three housing options offering dorms and apartment-style living: UCH, McGill, and the “Rez” which incidentally, have just recently been renamed, as East Village, McGill Residence, and North Tower.

## Relationships:

TRU recognizes the value of relationships to our success as a university. Below is a highlight of some of the relationship-building activities undertaken by members of senior executive or employees over the preceding months.

- July 17—TRU received Katrine Conroy, BC Minister of Children and Family Development, who came to TRU Kamloops to make a research funding announcement related to early childhood education.
- July 18—Ginette Petitpas Taylor, federal Minister of Health, visited to meet with TRU researchers regarding HIV, with a particular interest in faculty member Bonnie Fournier’s research in Northern Uganda funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
- Sept. 4—Federal Minister of International Trade Diversification Jim Carr visited to talk to current and past students regarding international education, including study abroad.
- Envision TRU—Numerous engagement opportunities have occurred with team members acting on the principle of “going to where people are,” setting up focus

groups, meetings, and tables in various locations on and off campus. A few examples of engagement with external stakeholders:

- June 24—School District 73 Board of Education and students
  - June 29, July 27 and Aug. 31—Kamloops Farmers Market
  - July 9—Cariboo visit: Williams Lake Chamber, the T̓silhqot'in National Government, and Williams Lake community session
  - July 10, 11 and 17—community sessions in Kamloops
  - Sept. 12, 13—Cariboo visit: School District 27, Cariboo Chilcotin Aboriginal Training Center, and Williams Lake community session
- Marketing and Communications is developing our relationships with national media in order to build awareness and profile for TRU beyond our local region. Most recently, this has resulted in national CBC coverage of TRU's sustainability achievements.

## University Highlights

Universities are places of knowledge creation and transfer, and achievement. We have much to celebrate. Below represents a short listing of some of our recent activities and achievements. Much more can be found on [TRU's Newsroom](#).

- Recognition—TRU was awarded the national [Alan Blizzard Award](#) through the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education for its initiative Knowledge Makers. The program involves more than 40 TRU faculty, staff, deans and students working together to mentor Indigenous students in learning to conduct and publish research as Indigenous researchers. The award recognizes collaboration in teaching.
- Recognition—Members of TRU's Career and Experiential Learning department received the [Educational Institution Recognition Award](#) from the Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers for their work and leadership in growing career education.
- Recognition—TRU was named the [Sierra Club's Coolest School](#) for 2019, becoming the first Canadian school to take top spot. The honour recognizes TRU for the many ways it works to reduce our impact on the environment.
- Students—TRU's Bachelor of Education program grew in September thanks to an investment by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to open up seats specifically for [Indigenous students](#).
- Students—Youth in Kamloops had the opportunity to try out a trade through a [week-long summer welding camp](#) funded by LNG Canada and supported by instructors at TRU's School of Trades and Technology.