LETTER FROM KIRK ANDERSON

It has been an exciting fall and in many ways a challenging one. As is normal for us it started quickly and continued at a very hectic pace. We are a faculty in transition with new guiding frameworks, new leadership team members and new faculty.

Over the past few months, after considerable effort and discussion, we’ve put together three important guiding documents.

**Guiding documents:** The *Academic Program Review 2014 Action Plan* (APR 2104), the new *Four Year Faculty Staffing Plan 2015 - 2019* and the new strategic plan for 2015 to 2020: *Strength Through Collaboration 2020* (STC 2020) will contribute to a synergy of change in the faculty.

This past summer we published an annual report for the first time in a number of years, and you can find it on our website at [https://www.mun.ca/educ/home/AnnualReport2015.pdf](https://www.mun.ca/educ/home/AnnualReport2015.pdf). I hope you enjoy it.

Earlier in the fall we welcomed Ms. Gina Jackson as our new senior administrative officer, who replaces the nearly irreplaceable Ms. Bernadette Powers. Bernadette is not lost to us however; she’ll be working for us in Labrador with the Inuit bachelor of education (IBED) program as a research associate.

This past fall we also had two new associate deans, Dr. Heather McLeod and Dr. Rhonda Joy, join our administrative team.

For the first time in a number of years we applied for a Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Social Justice, and though we weren’t successful this time around we did learn from the process. We’ll look at opportunities for CRCs in areas such as social justice and diversity, early learning, STEM-SEA, etc.

In 2016, we’ll highlight research in the faculty through a series of profiles that will feature our excellent researchers.

**Many thanks:** Heartfelt adieus to Drs. Bruce Sheppard, Marc Glassman and Dr. George Hache for their contribution to this wonderful place. They retired at the end of December and we want them to know their efforts are deeply appreciated. We will miss them and hope to see them often.

I would like once again to commend all of you for your many contributions in 2015, and look forward to working with you in 2016. I also want to welcome new faculty members Dr. Saiqa Azam, Mr. David Gill, and Leslie Redmond. Dr. Darron Kelly will join us in May, along with several others in 2016.

I look forward to next year as we continue to advocate for change and improvement to education across this province and indeed in this country.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday with your family and friends,

Yours respectfully, Kirk
The fall 2015 issue of *The Scribbler* brings together reports from October, November and December faculty council meetings.

**Oct. Faculty Council:**

**Dean’s Report**

Dr. Anderson highlighted potential opportunities for international collaborations with Norway and Finland, and mentioned that a small delegation from the Faculty would be going to Ireland next month. Dr. Amarjit Singh also commented about opportunities in India.

The dean mentioned that the Inuit bachelor of education (B. Ed) Program has started and is going well, with 15 students currently enrolled.

The dean will travel across the province as part of the NLTA Presidential Panel and encouraged all council members to attend the St. John’s and Mt. Pearl sessions.

The Dean’s Undergraduate Award (Grenfell Campus) was presented for the first time at the Fall Convocation in Corner Brook; the St. John’s award will be awarded at Fall Convocation in St. John’s to Blair Tulk posthumously;

**Committee on Undergraduate Admission Status**

The Dean has asked Dr. Trudi Johnson to chair this committee. The Committee will look into creation of part-time status for undergraduates students in P/E and I/S, possible program consolidations, and entrance requirements (i.e. should we interview?)

**Committee for a Diversity Perspectives Doctoral Cohort**

This committee would consider how to recruit and deliver a doctoral program to a group of students from marginalized and underrepresented perspectives (Aboriginal leaders, others)

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**Nov. Faculty Council:**

**Undergraduate report:**

Dr. Heather McLeod reported that during the fall semester she’s been dealing with regular work in the Undergraduate Office as well as a student issue that is now under control.

The dean has asked Dr. McLeod to continue as interim associate dean until the search for a permanent replacement has concluded. He also asked for feedback from faculty on this extension.

**Graduate programs:**

Dr. Rhonda Joy reminded council members about the Dean’s Awards, and is sending out a call for nominations.

She also reported that 277 applications for graduate programs have been received in advance of the Feb. 1, 2016 deadline; two PhD students recently completed the program and two more are in the midst of this process. Two PhD students have received awards.

Dr. Joy will continue as interim associate dean until the search for a permanent replacement has concluded.

**Dean’s Report:**

Dr. Anderson welcomed the new administrative team, Ms. Gina Jackson, senior administrative officer, Dr. Rhonda Joy, associate dean (graduate and research) and Dr. Heather McLeod, associate dean (undergraduate) and thanked members of the outgoing administrative team for their service; Ms. Bernadette Powers, Dr. Tim Siefert and Dr. Gerald Galway.

The Faculty hosted a number of events in September, including an orientation meet and greet reception, a MUN-Education walk and for the first time ever, a cricket match!
The Faculty of Education Annual Report is printed and highlights the work of Faculty to offices across campus and in other locations.

A new four-year plan will soon be ready for the provost's office. Submission of this document is necessary before any new hiring can take place.

He noted that hiring priorities have been discussed, which includes an Aboriginal education specialist.

Dr. Anderson also mentioned opportunities for international partnerships with countries such as Finland, Norway, and Ireland. A small delegation from the Faculty goes to Ireland next month to visit Dublin City University.

Meetings have been requested with deans in HKR, Nursing and Social Work to discuss the possibility of sharing a grants officer, which may be funded 50% by the grants office; deans also to discuss if faculties can co-share other positions such as an alumni officer. Currently the communications officer is being shared with Nursing.

The dean visited 12 communities as part of an NLTA panel and said it was an eye-opening experience. There were 200 presentations and 500 submissions made, and a final report will be ready sometime next winter.

Dr. Anderson was elected president-elect of the Canadian Association of Deans and Directors of Education and is excited to take on this role in May, 2016. It's only the second time for a dean of Education from Memorial to serve in this role; the first was Dr. Alice Collins.

Dec. Faculty Council

Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Dr. McLeod spoke of the following proposed calendar changes to existing programs: The Department of Folklore will give students more latitude, making it easier to fulfill requirements, but still require them to complete credit hours from the 3000 or 4,000 level. The Department of French will carry out additional proficiency testing here at Memorial, and also at Grenfell Campus. (In the past testing was available only in Halifax.)

Associate Dean’s Report (Undergraduate): Dr. McLeod said that marks from the fall semester have been emailed to everyone and sessional instructors for the next teaching term were being finalized.

Associate Dean’s Report (Graduate):

Spring semester deadline is Feb. 1, 2016, and applications from graduate students are coming in. Three of our PhD students have just passed their comprehensive exams. Congrats to them!

Dean’s Report:
Search committees: Joint committees in leadership and education technology have been struck and it's hoped interviews will take place this January or February. The search committee for Music has a Jan. 15 deadline, and the search committee for associate dean (Graduate Studies) is now active. That committee includes Drs Jerome Delaney, Morgan Gardner, Xuemei, Sylvia Moore and Henry Schulz. The search committee for associate dean (Undergraduate Studies) has not yet been finalized.

Ireland Trade Mission: The visit to Dublin City University was a success, and Faculty members who met with university officials see room for various partnership initiatives. Dr. Anderson also mentioned that he was struck by the number of commonalities between MUN and Dublin City U. He said there are plans to have visitors and speakers here next summer. The Faculty is looking at field services, a joint degree, and the possibility of NL interns in Ireland and vice versa. There may also be an opportunity for a Relationships First Network/anti-bullying league, as well as possibilities for the Arts.

Budget: The dean said that there might be a slight deficit in the budget and there might have to be a look at reducing expenditures.

Retirements: Since 1993 there have been 47-48 retirements. At the end of this December the Faculty will lose Drs Bruce Sheppard, Marc Glassman and George Hache. Dr. Anderson thanked the faculty members for their many contributions. Drs Sheppard and Glassman both spoke, saying they couldn't believe so many years had passed!

Faculty news and Events:

A difficult loss, a special legacy:

Last fall marked difficult losses for the Faculty of Education as some current and retired faculty and staff experienced the loss of loved ones. We were shocked by the unexpected death of our colleague, Dr. Patricia Canning. We had the delight of working closely with this strong, assertive and deeply compassionate human being. She was strong in her views, sound in her logic, possessed a quick wit and was always compassionate for the causes she supported. While this is a huge loss for us, her legacy in many areas remains strong and profound. Our role in the Faculty is to support and build on that legacy.

For a list of agendas, minutes, business items and bylaws from fall faculty council, check the website:
http://www.mun.ca/educ/other/facultycouncil.php
PhD potluck: PhD students (and candidates) in our Faculty have pretty hectic schedules, so a few of them decided to take a breather and enjoy a luncheon get together before the holidays.

Keith and Xiaolin are officially PhD candidates, having passed their comprehensive exams! We wish all our PhD students well as they take a little time off before schedules heat up again in January.

Getting into the festive spirit:

Every year in the lead up to Christmas, faculty members, staff, and retirees get together for a special dinner. This year it was great to see everyone and catch up with our retirees at Clovelly!

During early December staff in the dean’s office collected gifts for Campus Enforcement’s annual toys for kids drive. Well done everyone!

Wishing you a Happy Holiday from faculty and staff in the Faculty of Education!

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