

October 16, 2013

Members of the Campus Community,

These are exciting times at Lake Superior State University. A new academic year is underway, the search for the next president continues and we enter a new league for Division I hockey. At the same time there are challenges and new opportunities which will require thoughtful and deliberate action to prepare the institution for the future. The recent Presidential Directives were the initial step to beginning a campus dialog around these issues.

Several reports based on the Presidential Directives issued June 24, 2013 have been submitted. Based on my review of the reports filed to date, and subsequent discussion with my cabinet, I have asked for the follow actions to be taken:

#### **Program Review**

Institutional program review is not an option; it is a mandate of our accrediting body. The University must conduct its operations effectively and efficiently. I have accepted the report which addresses academic program review and asked for a follow-up report before the first Cabinet meeting in January (January 14, 2014). The Cabinet and I feel the plan is well constructed and are discussing similar options for comprehensive, non-academic program review across campus.

#### **Block Scheduling**

Block scheduling represents an opportunity to achieve our goal to uniquely define the University and demonstrate our commitment to student learning which extends beyond the classroom. Block scheduling is not the only approach to accomplish our goal, and we encourage discussion of all ideas that could uniquely position LSSU. I have asked that the report be forwarded to Shared Governance for dissemination and review by appropriate committees. Since the report suggests a multi-year approach, I am asking that Shared Governance report back to me by the end of the spring semester of 2014. That report should include a recommendation on whether or not LSSU continue the discussion. If the recommendation is positive then the report should include suggestions for next steps, listing of the major obstacles, and estimates of any resources identified moving forward.

#### **Regional Campus Development**

To grow enrollment the University must explore potential new partnerships, including expanding our regional campus locations. I have discussed the report and progress to date with the Provost. At this time progress seems to hinge on the partner institution commitment and approval by external accrediting agencies. I have asked the Provost to keep me informed through our regularly scheduled meetings, but to provide a follow-up report before the first Cabinet meeting in January (January 14, 2014).

### **Reporting on the Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan serves to focus institutional attention on key elements of the University and our efforts to address institutional priorities. Although a report was verbally delivered to the Board of Trustees on September 20, 2013, LSSU needs a documented process through which we can monitor/assess our progress toward meeting the objectives of the Strategic Plan. I understand that, for the most part, units have successfully reported activities to the Cabinet level. I am therefore directing my Cabinet to continue gathering information, but to additionally summarize and report (via Tracdat) all activities to the Cabinet level for review by the Board of Trustees and the Shared Governance, Strategic Planning and Budget Committee by the next Board meeting (November 8, 2013).

### **Digital Photo-Assessment Survey**

I have accepted this report. The report contained three recommendations. The first recommendation was that the Physical Plant produces and submits a yearly report summarizing major projects, renovations, construction, and other substantial activities by October 1 of each year. Sherry Brooks (CFO) has assured me that the first report has been submitted via Tracdat and that subsequent reports will be submitted as requested. I have also asked that these reports be available publicly, on the Physical Plant website.

The second recommendation was to require the posting of at least quarterly reports by each Cabinet member. Reports would be posted to each Cabinet member's website. I have asked each Cabinet member to provide a schedule to me for such reporting by our next Cabinet meeting with reporting to begin no later than January of 2014.

The final recommendation was that the Shared Governance, Strategic Planning and Budget Committee review the Strategic Plan and consider modifications to the plan. Specifically, the Photo Assessment Project noted that the Strategic Plan has no strategy to improve or recognize one of our most important resources; our human capital. I have charged the Provost with presenting this request for review to the Shared Governance Oversight Committee.

### **Employee Opinion Survey**

A draft of the Employee Opinion Survey report was recently presented for my review. I have asked that that report be finalized and distributed by the end of November, 2013.

In conclusion, I commend the members of my cabinet and their staff for the progress to this point. I look forward to the continued dialogue and subsequent reports.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tony McLain  
President