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Staffing Updates

The University of Guelph is pleased to welcome **Deanna Plexman** to the position Associate Registrar, Admission Services.

Welcome Deanna!

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Message from the OURA President

By: Joanne Duklas, OURA President

Welcome to the second edition of OURA in Tune. It has been a busy year and I am happy to share some of the exciting and on-going developments initiated by the OURA Executive and the OURA Standing Committees.

[OURA 2008 Conference](#)

The online agenda and registration has been launched. The OURA conference will be held in Niagara Falls at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel from February 25-28. Highlights include:

- A revised format with additional plenary speakers and sessions that cross specialty areas
- Four stimulating keynote speakers
- Continued post-conference workshops in special interest areas

We look forward to seeing you later this month!

OURA Innovation Award

In recognition of university achievements within the OURA collective, the OURA Executive is proposing an annual Innovative Award program. The purpose is to share university achievements that improve quality and reduce the cost of academic administration.

This could include accomplishments that arise from areas including - but not limited to - admissions, registration, examinations, scheduling, transcripts, systems, records, calendars, scholarships and awards, secondary school liaison, and other activities. One award will be available each year and will be given in the form of an endowment to fund a student scholarship at the winning institution. The intention is to announce award nominees and the winner at the Annual Conference each February.

Details and award criteria will be distributed electronically for presentation and approval at this year's OURA AGM. We look forward to your feedback and support for this worthwhile initiative!

UIP Review Team

The OURA Executive has recently confirmed the composition of the UIP Review Team. Members include Robert Perrier (Lakehead), Ken Lavigne (Waterloo), Keith Alnwick (Ryerson), Iain Smith (Western), Michael Houston (Windsor), George Granger (OUAC) and Jennie Piekos (COU). In 2008, this team will conduct a strategic review of the University Information Program. To support this process, a session at the OURA Conference has been dedicated to a roundtable consultation discussion. This session will be open to OURA members only.

Salary Survey Proposal

Recent findings demonstrate that universities often lose valued employees to the private sector due to salaries not being competitive. The OURA Executive is in the preliminary stages of proposing a province wide study to explore this issue in greater detail.

Ontario Universities' Fair Steering Committee Kicks Off

[Graduate Studies
International Admission
Placement Guide](#)

[Common Scholarship
Application Proposal](#)

[ARUCC](#)

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By: Effie Gatsinos, Chair



The 2007 Ontario Universities' Fair ([OUF](#)) was a huge success and saw a record high attendance of 90,000 visitors.

Building on a comprehensive review of the OUF, this year represented the first time the Fair's administration was led by an OUF Steering Committee with extensive support provided by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre ([OUAC](#)).

Currently, the Steering Committee is formulating a succession plan proposal that will continue to shape the future of the Fair.

The OUF Steering Committee has continued its consultation with Fifth Wave Communications and is near completion of a new sponsorship policies and guidelines manual.

The OUF-SC had several meetings with the MTCC and related parties regarding Safety and Security for the 2008 OUF and we will continue to enhance security measures to ensure that the flavour and effectiveness of the Fair is maintained.

The 2008 OUF will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre September Friday 26 - Sunday 28.

Scholarships and Awards Update

By: Rico Natale, Chair

At the November 30 meeting of the Ontario University Council on Admissions (OUCA), a [presentation](#) was made in response to OUCA's request to have OURA consider the feasibility of a [Common Scholarship Application Proposal](#).

In order to move the project through to the next phase of development, the following motion was approved by members of OUCA: *"That OUCA support continued exploration of this [Common Scholarship Application] initiative as a concept in principle and a joint approach with OURA, Ontario Council of Academic Vice-presidents (OCAV), to signal interest in pursuing this project further."* (16 votes "For", 1 "Against", 2 Abstentions)

In order to continue momentum and support for this initiative, the Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards is further requesting input on the Common Scholarship Application Proposal from Ontario universities.

Please send me your feedback regarding this initiative to rico.natale@Brocku.ca

Graduate Studies Update

By: Chris Goody, Chair

The Graduate Studies committee continues to update the [International Admission Placement Guide](#).

We are thrilled to offer some very dynamic sessions at this year's OURA conference which include:

- Developing e-application process
- Integrating the Growing needs of undergraduate and graduate studies students
- Bologna updates
- Information Marketplace

The OVGS initiative will continue in 2008 and we will be putting a call out for volunteers at the OURA 2008 conference. Please e-mail me at

Secondary School Liaison Update

By: Beth Natale, Chair

The fall of 2007 marked an especially busy time in Ontario University Liaison. In addition to the Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF), the most significant activity of our Liaison collective was the University Information Program (UIP). UIP 2007 statistics show a 12.5% increase in overall attendance compared to 2006 - with a total of 18,275 attendees this Fall.

While the landscape for undergraduate student recruitment in Ontario has changed considerably over time, the UIP had remained largely unchanged. Modern technologies, changing demographics, and escalating costs have resulted in a desire to question whether the current UIP is the most appropriate form of effective (collective) recruitment.

With encouragement from the OURA Executive, the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison prepared a proposal providing a compelling case for a thorough and impartial review of the UIP. The concept has received support from the OURA Executive, COU, OCAV and the Registrars' Forum. As a result, a Review Team has been established and a formal review of the UIP will be initiated shortly.

[Provincial Dialogue](#) will be hosted at York University May 14 - 16, 2008. We anticipate more than 350 guidance counsellors in attendance. We are pleased that the OURA Executive approved a travel bursary for counsellors who might not otherwise have the financial access to attend this important endeavor.

Systems and Records Update

By: David Marasco, Chair

The Systems and Records Standing Committee is in the preliminary stages of identifying key topics requiring further study with a goal to receive a signal of interest and support from the OURA Executive in 2008.

Admissions Update

By: Michelle Lea, Chair

Admissions Forum

On November 29, 2007 admissions directors met at Ryerson University for the fall Admissions Forum. Common issues of concern to all institutions were discussed, including policies related to the rescinding of offers, IB grades, out of province admissions policies (BC in particular), dual learning credits, as well as the cycle of dates, and the results of the compressed admission cycle survey.

Compressed Admission Cycle Survey

At the Spring 2007 OUCA meeting, the issue of the 2006-2007 compressed admission cycle was discussed. A request was put forward to gather input from Admissions Directors to find out what challenges, if any, institutions faced in

meeting the earlier offer date. The majority of institutions indicated the key May dates were appropriate and manageable. The results were presented at the November 30 OUCA meeting.

Conference Planning

The upcoming 2008 OURA conference promises to engage admissions personnel with some thought-provoking and informative sessions. Much of the focus this year will be on the changing post secondary education systems in Canada as well as abroad.

SINCERELY,

MARISA MODESKI
Communications Officer
Ontario University Registrars' Association, 2008

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