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Message from the OURA President

**By: Angelique (Ang) Saweczko
President, OURA**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to another edition of OURA In Tune - the newsletter designed to keep you updated on your Association and industry activities. It is an honour to serve as the President of OURA for 2009 and I look forward to working with a very enthusiastic executive that brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from all regions of the province. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ray Darling who recently completed his term as President and will, thankfully, remain on the executive as Past President.
2009 OURA Executive

The Standing Committees continue to be active with a number of initiatives, planning for future professional development opportunities and the 2010 OURA conference. This includes continued work on the Graduate Admissions Guide and a new approach in the development of a common scholarship application. Each Standing Committee has provided an update in this edition of In Tune.

The Executive is already busy planning the 2010 OURA Conference which we are looking to hold in Toronto. We received tremendous feedback from the 2009 Conference survey results and will be using this feedback to help plan the 2010 Conference. We already have some exciting enhancements to this year's conference, which will be announced later in the fall.

The OURA Executive continues to work with the UIP Review Committee, chaired by Ken Lavigne from the University of Waterloo. A draft report with recommendations was presented in the spring and the full report is expected to be presented this fall. We will keep you up to date as the report becomes available.

Some new initiatives being considered for this year include developing online professional development opportunities such as Webinars, commissioning a salary review study and furthering the development of partnerships with other provincial and national associations.

Given the current status of the economy and the many unique challenges we face at our respective institutions I encourage

everyone to take advantage of the expertise and knowledge available with in the OURA collective. If you have any suggestions for OURA in terms of our communications, professional development activities or advocacy initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact me at saweczko@yorku.ca encourage you to get involved as much as you can.

Wishing you a happy and safe summer.

Angelique (Ang) Saweczko, President

OURA's new COU Representative

OURA is please to welcom Erica Simmons, who will be joining the OURA Executive this year as the new COU Representative. Please join us in welcoming Erica.

Scholarships and Awards Updates

By: Kelly Dickinson
Chair, Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards

The Standing Committee on Scholarships & Awards has not yet had an opportunity to meet this year, however, in addition to conference planning, there are two projects that we will be working on which were identified at our Annual General Meeting in February. One is to undertake an audit of external scholarship web site requests to understand what is being asked of our members, by whom and for what purpose(s), what is involved in responding to these requests, and any related issues or concerns.

Once we have a better sense of the scope and nature of the requests, we will then discuss next steps at the committee and with our members. The second project is to look at developing a common scholarship/award/bursary data standard based on a presentation at the OURA conference by representatives from the National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) and the Dell Foundation. This project is a new incarnation on the previous work towards a Common Scholarship Application proposal which was being developed between OURA and OUAC as a part of the OUAC application process, but which was not able to move forward due to other development priorities. Having a common data standard will provide students with broader access to post-secondary by helping them obtain the funds they need.

They will be able to save their own personal data and re-submit it to participating institutions quickly and easily. At our AGM, we discussed the potential within the Ontario system to adopt this common data standard, and we feel that since this approach provides flexibility with respect to participation by

institutions, and is able to integrate into existing systems, it is something very much worth exploring for all entrance scholarships, awards and bursaries. Once the Standing Committee has had an opportunity to meet, we will identify any other items that we may want to explore this year.

Kelly Dickinson, Chair

Graduate Studies Updates

**By: Carol Corkran
Chair, Standing Committee on Graduate
Studies**

The graduate studies standing committee will continue with its ongoing efforts to maintain the admissions placement guide and keep the information as up to date as possible.

We have also struck a sub-committee to look into establishing a collaborative graduate recruitment event with the intent of a possible combined advertising campaign on the graduate student experience. To date that covers what we have discussed to date.

Regards,

Carol Corkran, Chair

Secondary School Liaison Updates

**By: Jody Berringer
Chair, Standing Committee on Secondary
School Liaison**

The Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison (SCSSL) met in March at the OUAC to start planning for the 2009/10 recruitment cycle. All liaison initiatives are aimed at raising awareness among Ontario's secondary school students of the multitude of quality study options within Ontario's Universities.

NEW THIS YEAR:

The SCSSL was pleased to expand its membership to include a new Member-at-Large - Special Projects Co-ordinator to assist with our collective efforts on a wide variety of recruitment initiatives.

CONTINUING THIS YEAR:

The University Information Program (UIP) Review Committee has been hard at work since its creation in 2007. The review committee has worked with The Change Alliance to facilitate

the review process and a final report is expected later this spring.

The schedule for the 2009 UIP has been determined and the planning process is well underway. Details will be available on the [eINFO](#) website early May.

Other exciting programs and resources the liaison community continues to work on include the enhancements to critical paths for the SCSSL roles and tasks, Liaison Workshop to be hosted at Western University August 12-14, 2009, the Liaison Community Website, [eINFO](#), Regional Dialogues 2010, and the Ontario Universities' Fair ([OUF](#)) 2009.

Jody Berringer, Chair

Systems and Records Updates

By: Josie Lalonde
Chair, Standing Committee on Records & Systems

The Standing Committee on Records and Systems met in April to set our priorities for the coming year. The Committee is dedicated to aligning our goals and initiatives with the feedback we receive from our constituents. To this end, we will continue to promote and facilitate interaction and knowledge sharing amongst Ontario universities' records and systems professionals. One important way to do this is to continue to build the R&S listserv, which currently stands at over 90 members. We invite you to join the listserv by e-mailing Thomas Good (tgood@brocku.ca).

This year, we are exploring the possibility of offering a professional development day on document imaging, possibly in late Fall 2009. We also are actively pursuing ideas for the 2010 OURA Conference, including sessions on leadership and career development, recently developed IT initiatives, and best practices in records and systems administration. We welcome your suggestions for sessions or workshops that you would like to see offered at the Conference or during the year.

Josie Lalonde, Chair

Admissions Update

By: Brandi Borman
Chair, Standing Committee on Admissions

The Standing Committee was pleased at the response from our conference workshops held at the 2009 OURA conference

in Ottawa. These sessions are as a result of a great deal of discussion and planning by all members of the Committee and mirror many of the challenges that we face in admissions. There were sessions on transfer credit systems, communications, managing technological change, an update on the IB program and understanding foreign academic credentials.

Ryerson University once again hosted our Spring Admissions Forum held on April 15th, 2009. There was a lively discussion of inspected and non-inspected private schools in Ontario which included some tips for searching for fraudulent Ontario High School transcripts. Other topics included, the Lisbon Convention, various admission requirements by program, and summer school course acceptance and deadlines. We also spent some time discussing the technologies and electronic services in use by institutions for admission decisions and for providing information to applicants.

Brandi Borman, Chair

SINCERELY,

W. Aaron House
Communications Officer
Ontario University Registrars' Association, 2008

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