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Message from the OURA President

**By: Ray Darling
President, OURA**

On behalf of the OURA Executive, it is my pleasure to introduce the Winter 2009 edition of In Tune. In these challenging times, we offer you a respite from the difficult financial situations I am sure you are all facing. In spite of cutbacks, our work must go on and that is the case with your OURA Executive who has been busy planning your conference and conducting our regular business.

We are very excited about the [Conference](#) we have planned for members this February. Ottawa is a beautiful and vibrant city in the winter. One of my favorite conferences was held there in the late-90s and I can recall several fun-filled nights that ended up on the canal in a pair of skates. I believe the sessions were quite informative as well! This year likewise promises to be a great mixture of informative sessions and fun activities. We have some outstanding plenary speakers lined up, including politicians Bob Rae and the newly minted Senator Mike Duffy, as well as two exceptional speakers in Dr. Alastair Summerlee and Linda Duxbury. The Standing Committees have assembled some excellent sessions that I know will be educational for members old and new. On the social side of things, we have re-introduced the free Tuesday afternoon so that members can make the most of all the Nation's Capital has to offer and are once again offering the Gala Dinner on Monday night. We hope to see many of you there as we chase away the February blahs together.

The University Information Program Review continues on with the huge task of deciding the future of this long standing collective recruitment effort. We are looking forward to receiving the final report from the UIP Review Team this spring. Stay tuned!

As I wrap up my term as President, I want to encourage members to consider serving on Standing Committees or as part of the Executive. Without question, one of the reasons I have enjoyed working in the post-secondary sector so much is my involvement in external associations like OURA. In addition to making you better at your current position and improving your chances for future employment, you will find that you will make friends that will last a life time.

I wish everyone all the best in 2009.

Sincerely,

Ray Darling, President

Scholarships and Awards Updates

By: Monica Bertolo
Chair, Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards

We are excited to offer some interesting and great sessions for this year's OURA conference. This is definitely one conference you won't want to miss! Scholarship and Award session highlights for this year's conference include:

- An Award Management System linked to the Student Information System.
- A presentation by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation - "Comparing Apples to Igloos: Why context is important when assessing scholarship applications- and how we do it".
- A presentation by the National Scholarship Providers on their 'scholarship data standard' proposal.
- A session on student financial aid and persistence.
- And last but not least, a round-table discussion that's guaranteed to generate great discussion. Topics include: financial literacy initiatives, scholarship and financial aid promotional campaigns, the packaging of entrance scholarships/awards and more!

If you have topic you'd like to discuss with the group that is not included on this list, please contact me and we'll incorporate it into our round-table discussions.

Standing Committee Members for 2009-10

We are still looking to fill the vice-chair and one member-at-large positions on this standing committee. The vice-chair position is a three year commitment that includes one year as vice-chair, one year as chair and one year of past-chair. There is only a one year commitment for the member-at-large position. Please email me if you are interested in serving in either of these two positions.

Monica Bertolo, Chair
mbertolo@registrar.uoguelph.ca

Graduate Studies Updates

By: Charlotte Sheridan
Chair, Standing Committee on Graduate Studies

The Standing Committee met by conference call, and through email meetings over the past year. The Committee worked on the 2009 OURA conference graduate sessions, the International Admissions Placement Guide and other Graduate Studies business.

The Standing Committee on Graduate Studies has been working hard all year planning for the upcoming 2009 OURA conference. We are excited about the sessions we are offering. This year we will have our first official recruitment presentation. Many universities have added a Graduate Recruitment or Liaison Officer position to their graduate staff complement and we are pleased to be able to include them in our graduate group. As well, our session on Graduate Professional Development will be of interest to all OURA members. The Graduate sessions are:

- A Collaborative Response to Graduate Student Professional Development
- Question: Would you accept applicants who have completed a bachelor's degree with high standing from a College into any of your Masters programs?
- Balancing Recruitment and Awareness: The Winning Combination
- Successfully Implementing a Decentralized Graduate Admissions Process
- Graduate Studies AGM and Round Table Discussion

We are also working hard updating the International Placement Guide. We have added a fourth Member-at-Large position to our Standing Committee who is charged with following up on suggestions put forward by the graduate group. If you are aware of changes to the education system in a specific country or have suggestions for updates to the Guide, we would be happy to hear from you. Please email directly to Elena Arena at elena.arena@lakeheadu.ca

The OURA Graduate Studies On-Line Admissions Placement Guide remains a valuable tool for graduate offices to improve the quality and consistency of assessments. The Guide provides the opportunity for admissions expertise to be utilized, and increases accessibility to admissions information to more individuals involved with admissions assessments. The Guide also includes the conversion of grades from the country of origin to equivalent Ontario grades and this allows for greater consistency of admission decisions within institutions. The Graduate Standing Committee Terms of Reference have been revised to add a 4th Member-at-Large who will be responsible for the updating and maintenance of the Guide.

Other business discussed during the year included scholarships, recruitment activities, and admission procedures across the province.

Charlotte Sheridan, Chair

Secondary School Liaison Updates

By: Robert Perrier
Chair, Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison

The Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison has had a very full year. From Provincial Dialogue 2008 hosted at York University, to Liaison Workshop at Brock University, to the largest OUF on record - it's been a hectic year! The UIP Review Task Force is fully engaged in its work, now moving into a period of stakeholder input, with the goal of presenting its findings in the spring of 2009. The liaison managers met in December for our first Manager's Workshop to review items affecting many of our institutions and set working goals to meet the demands and interests of our collective.

During this time of influx at our institutions, it is critical that we can take advantage of relevant and focused professional development opportunities. The OURA 2009 Conference liaison stream covers a diverse array of topics with the task of helping each of us build upon our existing 'toolboxes' to be more efficient and effective in the work we do. Two emerging trends we will address are the movement towards decentralized work environments and how that impacts recruitment efforts, as well as the rising interest in virtual fairs - specifically reviewing this past fall's foray by the Globe & Mail and Maclean's magazine into this new platform. Helping us address the changing landscape of our work environments, we welcome two guest speakers who will discuss emotional intelligence and how it impacts our leadership, and the rising challenges faced by the workforce's next generation - Millennials - once students, now employees!

I look forward to seeing all of you at OURA 2009!

Robert Perrier, Chair

Systems and Records Updates

By: Thomas Good
Chair, Standing Committee on Records & Systems

Meetings:

The 2008/09 Standing Committee corresponded via email on a number of occasions to finalize the conference sessions.

2009 Conference Records and Systems sessions confirmed as follows:

The Records and Systems committee have some exciting

things planned for OURA 2009 Ottawa Conference, and we are looking forward to seeing you there. The group has discussed a number of issues that plague our areas, and have come up with four interesting and challenging topics that we all face.

1. Controlling the Chaos: Managing Convocation with the Zenith Barcode System Robert Sawler, Group Chief, Student IT Services (University of Ottawa), and Pauline Belanger, Manager Registration, Records, Scheduling and Exams (University of Ottawa).
2. Automating the Academic Calendar Revision/Submission Process Barb Davis, Registrar (Brock University), Gloria Gallagher, Assistant Registrar, Student Information and Systems (Brock University), and Mwinchande Chande, Information Systems Officer (Brock University).
3. Ecological (Foot) Print - How to "Green" Printing and Computing in Your Office Elah Feder, Energy and Technology Specialist (University of Toronto)
4. Is Your University Prepared to Respond to a Disaster? Vincent Faggiano, Rochester NY Police Dept (Retired)
5. Records & Systems Standing Committee Annual General Meeting

Other News:

The OARS Listserv has been used on a number of times via its members, to post questions regarding possible ways to improve upon existing policies and or procedures that are place at their institutions. Membership now consists of 89 members, which entails at least one person from every Ontario University.

The committee has asked the OURA President, if they are able to add one more member to join the Records and Systems Committee for the 2009-2010 session. Drew Ness from Queens University will be joining the committee in February 2009.

Sincerely,

Thomas Good
Chair, Records and Systems Standing Committee

Admissions Update

By: Janice O'Farrell Chair, Standing Committee on Admissions

Ryerson University hosted our Fall Admissions Forum held on November 19, 2008. It was a full agenda and covered international admissions policies and grading equivalencies, what type of applicants should use the 101 application, challenges around the delayed receipt of out-of-province high school grades, transfer credit evaluations and applied degrees. We also spent some time discussing the technologies in use by institutions for admission decisions and for

providing information to applicants.

The Standing Committee is pleased to offer what we hope to be an informative and interesting selection of conference workshops at the 2009 OURA conference. 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 are sessions on transfer credit systems, communications, managing technological change, an update on the IB program and understanding foreign academic credentials.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice O'Farrell
Chair

SINCERELY,

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

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