



# Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Newsletter March 2025

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic!

### Updates on Strategic Initiatives

#### Academic Unit Plans

The PVPA extends a big thank you to all departments for their efforts in drafting their academic unit plans. These plans are essential in communicating all the excellent work that has been accomplished in individual units, as well as challenges that need to be addressed, to build towards our next UWinnipeg Academic Plan.

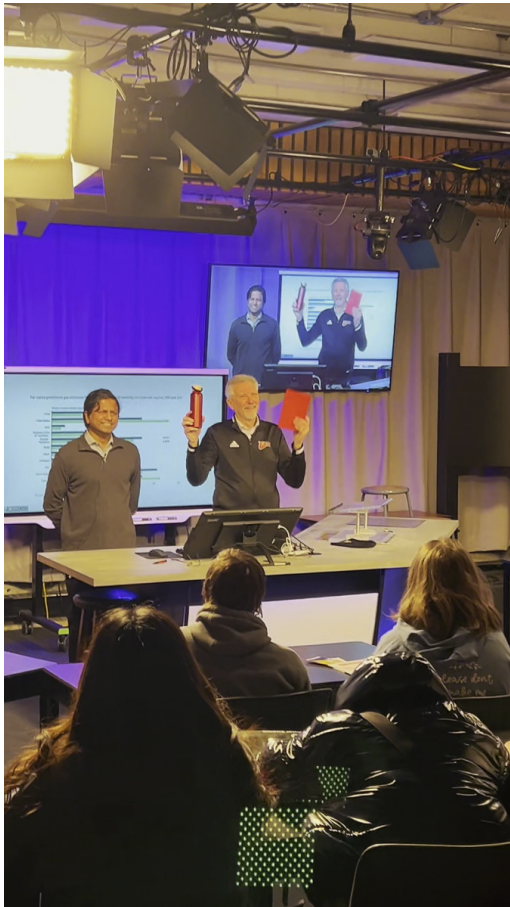
The first stage consists of PVPA meetings with Department Chairs and their respective Deans. Over twenty meetings have been held so far. Once completed, the PVPA will provide a report on the outcomes of the meetings and provide an update on synergies, areas of concern, and areas of innovation and growth.

#### Strategic Enrolment Management

Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) is a process designed to facilitate the achievement of an institution's mission and the educational goals of the students it serves, considering interrelated aspects such as optimal enrolments (number, quality, diversity), recruitment and retention, and curricular and program development.

The UWinnipeg SEM Draft Framework Stage 1 was completed by the PVPA Office in the summer of 2024.

An SEM Steering Committee (16 representatives from faculties, staff, and students) was launched on October 3, 2024 to commence SEM Stage 2. In this stage, the Steering Committee is working closely with the three SEM Subcommittees (Recruitment, Admissions, and Enrolment; Retention; Academic Programming and Research Infrastructure) to review existing data and consult with faculty, staff, and students to inform the development of the UWinnipeg SEM Plan. Updates on this work will be presented to Senate in April.



### **Student Recruitment**

The PVPA Office is working closely with Sana Amjad, Associate Registrar for Recruitment and Admissions and her team, the Registrar, and Marketing and Communications on a variety of activities to increase enrolment. The PVPA team developed a new recruitment strategy and increased student-led promotion of our programs on social media.

We also launched a time-limited **Recruitment Incentives package**, to recruit new students to UWinnipeg and to align with the Open House held on February 19, 2025. The Open House this year included a new pilot called “QuikTok,” consisting of three theme-based panels led by faculty. The three panels centred on major global issues such as climate change, social justice, and AI. Over 172 students attended these panel sessions.

### **Student Wraparound Supports**

Travis Greene, Associate Vice-President, Student Engagement, joined the UWinnipeg community in July 2024 to lead a newly reorganized portfolio of student support services. He wishes to thank everyone for their kind and warm welcome to the campus community.

The Fall 2024 term consisted of several listening sessions and meet-and-greets. The Winter and Spring 2025 terms will focus on developing strategic priorities that further advance student engagement, success, and well-being through an equity lens. These efforts will be informed by and complement the University's Strategic and SEM Plans.

### **BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ Mentorship Networks**

Larissa Wodtke, Director of Academic Programming and EDI, currently facilitates BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ Mentorship Networks for faculty. These networks aim to foster respectful connections across campus, facilitate a peer network of resources, and support the professional and personal development needs unique to BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ faculty. If you are interested in joining one of these networks, please contact Larissa.

### **Calls for Participation**

#### **Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee**

We are looking for 6-10 faculty who are interested in innovative and inclusive teaching strategies to become members of an ad hoc Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to lay the groundwork for a Teaching and Learning Centre. Please email Ramona Hallett at [r.hallett@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.hallett@uwinnipeg.ca) if you are interested in joining this committee.

#### **Conversations with the Provost**

To engage with faculty, the PVPA will begin a series of events spotlighting our faculty's research, teaching, and service excellence, and explore issues and themes currently affecting higher education (e.g., artificial intelligence, online teaching and learning, EDIA, internationalization, etc.). If you have ideas for themes or guests, please email Ramona Hallett at [r.hallett@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.hallett@uwinnipeg.ca).



## PVPA Spotlight



### Empower Voices: Amplifying Black Narratives in Leadership

The UWinnipeg Black History Month Committee, led by Jennifer Trotman (J.T.), Director of Campus Living, organized a UWinnipeg delegation for the Afro-Caribbean Mentorship Program event, “**Empower Voices: Amplifying Black Narratives in Leadership.**” This event, co-hosted with University of Manitoba and Red River College Polytechnic, took place on February 28 at the Red River College Polytechnic Exchange District Campus.

A big thank you to J.T. and the committee for organizing UWinnipeg’s participation and to the Faculties of Arts, Business and Economics, Education, Graduate Studies, and Science and Kinesiology and Applied Health, Global College, and the Library for contributing funds to sponsor the event!

### 2025 WestVAC/WestVPR Conference

The University of Winnipeg hosted this year's **Western Vice-Presidents Academic and Vice-Presidents Research Conference** in Victoria from March 5-7. The theme of

the conference was "The University of Tomorrow: Confident Pluralisms, Diverse Spaces, and New Technologies," which facilitated engaging and inspiring discussion about the pressing issues facing universities at this time of significant technological change, financial challenges, and increased polarization.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Sheila Cote-Meek, Dr. Angela Jaime, Dr. Malinda Smith, Dr. Mark Daley, Dr. Sarah Eaton, and Professor Neil Gold.



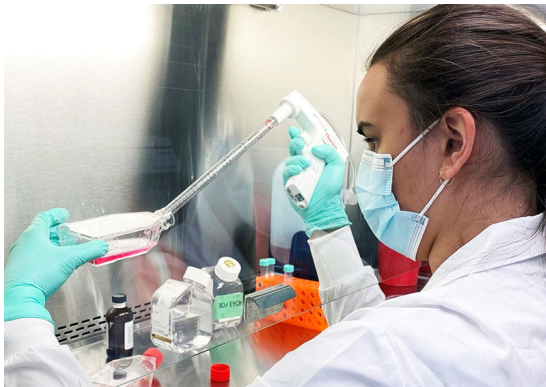
### **Indigenous Cluster Hire Feast**

On March 12, UWinnipeg hosted a feast in honour of the **eight Indigenous faculty** who were part of the cluster hire last year. The celebration included knowledge shared by Elders Chickadee Richard and Sharon Pelletier and remarks from Minister of Advanced Education and Training Renée Cable. The new Indigenous faculty also spoke about their journeys and work.

Another warm welcome to these new faculty members who bring valuable and diverse knowledge to our institution! And thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful cluster hire initiative!



## Upcoming Events



### **PhD in Bioscience and Policy Launch Celebration**

*March 18 | 10 a.m.*

*Richardson College for the Environment  
and Science Complex | Atrium*

Join us as we celebrate the launch of  
the UWinnipeg's first PhD program.

**Please RSVP by March 14.**

## Updates on Searches

### **Dr. Tracy Whalen appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts**

UWinnipeg is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Tracy Whalen as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Whalen has served as Acting Dean of Arts since May 2023. Prior to that, she was Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts. [Read more.](#)

Further information on the Dean of Science and other decanal searches to follow.

### **Canada Research Chairs**

- Internal CRC NSERC Tier 1 (Evolutionary Sciences): The CRC Nomination Review Committee completed the adjudication process in January 2025. The selected nominee will be submitting a CRC application in April.
- Internal CRC NSERC Tier 2 (Applied Health): The CRC Nomination Review Committee completed the adjudication process in January 2025. The selected nominee will be submitting a CRC application in April.

## Feedback and contact information

If you have any questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter, feel free to contact the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, at [provost@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:provost@uwinnipeg.ca).

[Contact page](#)



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**University of Winnipeg**

515 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3B 2E9

Sent by

**envoke**