

**September 15, 2010**

**Happy Academic New Year!**

Welcome back to the start of our academic new year! I trust that you all had some enjoyable “rest” time and that you are energized for what lies before us. The following information includes updates regarding ongoing initiatives and the introduction to a few new directions.

**Academic Innovation Strategy (AIS):** For the past 18 months, we have engaged in a discussion focused on curriculum in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I am pleased to announce that the 37 recommendations compiled from the work of the AIS Task Forces are captured in *Sheridan: The Creative Campus*, creating the strategic pathway for the AIS, available in hard copy (please contact Bonnie Grant for a copy) or on line (Access Sheridan: VPAR site). A series of work groups are to be convened to start the implementation planning to transform the recommendations into our new Sheridan reality. A list of preliminary groups and their membership can also be found on the VPAR website. If you are interested in participating, please consider volunteering!

This year it is time to focus on the challenges, opportunities and strategies for teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Mary Kanko, a long-standing Business professor, will collaborate with the staff in NILES to facilitate this conversation during the coming academic year.

At our March 1 and 2 AIS retreat, our students indicated their desire to actively participate in the rollout of the AIS. At that time, I committed to the convening of a Student Advisory Council to provide ongoing feedback and direction to us as we proceed. Crystal Bennett, President of Sheridan’s Student Union, and I are discussing the logistics for the formation of this group for the Fall, 2010.

The AIS represents an opportunity for us all to imagine a new future for teaching and learning and for Sheridan. To breathe life into the AIS, we will create 13 exciting new programs in business, game design and production, digital projection, and wireless technologies to name just a few. To support the Schools’ efforts, almost \$400,000 has been allocated for development of these programs.

For our more mature programs, we will conduct 25 program reviews annually, so that all our programs are reviewed within the next five years as required by the Postsecondary Quality Assurance Process Audit (PQAPA). Program review is based on a principle of enhancement so we can celebrate and share the excellence in our programs with the entire college community and also innovate and enhance areas that may need our attention. To enable these programs to creatively implement the recommendations of the AIS and the Action Plans, we’ve committed \$10,000 per program - \$250,000 in total.

Our commitment to creativity and leading-edge curriculum will also be supported by Sheridan Open Learning – SOL. A new generation of learner is at our doorstep; they use technology and expect to use technology in every aspect of their lives. To meet the needs

of this new generation of learner, we will create 66 hybrid courses (2 hours face-to-face and 1 hour online). We've allocated \$4,200 per course so that faculty can dedicate their time to focussing on the reorientation of their curriculum. Our curriculum will now incorporate serious games, simulation and other leading-edge techniques so our students continue to have innovative learning experiences. Faculty in the School of Business have identified 33 courses to be developed in time for welcoming students to the Mississauga Campus in September 2011. And the Tourism and Travel program, as a result of program review and student feedback, have decided that they would like to make their program fully hybrid. We're with them all the way. The remaining courses will come from other areas of the college; if you would like your course to be one of them, please contact Vaughan Smith, Associate Dean in NILES.

Our commitment to our people is critical and \$100,000 has been allocated so that faculty have access to workshops, interesting guest speakers and seminars right here at Sheridan. Our goal is to create a community thriving on shared experience, and exploration of our mutual passion: teaching and learning.

The review of our Learning Management System – SLATE – is getting underway. Please tell us what is working well and what needs to be fixed by emailing your comments to: [info.niles@sheridanc.on.ca](mailto:info.niles@sheridanc.on.ca). We will be visiting with the LACs, Academic Council and the Schools to seek feedback on what has been working well and what needs to be fixed on SLATE. We expect to have a decision on a new LMS by December.

**Academic Organization:** I am delighted to welcome two new Deans to our leadership team: Dr. William Holmes is our new Dean of Business and Ronni Rosenberg has assumed the leadership of Animation, Arts and Design. We are incredibly fortunate to have leaders of this calibre at Sheridan and I hope that you will welcome Bill and Ronni into their new roles.

I am sorry to advise that Hildegard Logan has now left Sheridan to pursue other opportunities; I appreciate the leadership that she provided to SCLS over the past months. I have asked Richard Finch, presently Dean of Workforce Development, to serve as the Dean of SCLS and Workforce Development; we will begin the process of recruiting a new academic Dean later this semester. I am very pleased that Richard has agreed to assume this expanded leadership role and trust that we all will give Richard our complete support as we move into the future.

Effective November 1, 2010, our "Schools" will become "Faculties." The naming of the Faculties will be undertaken by the Deans in consultation with the faculty and staff within the existent Schools. Program clusters will be organized into Departments within each Faculty. The principles to be considered when determining Faculty nomenclature include the congruency of programs within the Faculty and strategic opportunities for these programs.

**Applied Research:** Recommendations 12 to 14 of the AIS focus on the integration of Applied Research and Innovation into Sheridan curriculum. In order to support this

integration, our existent research centres presently reporting through Darren Lawless, Dean of Research, will be realigned with academic Faculties to encourage student and faculty connections with these established research entities as follows:

| <b>Research Centre</b>   | <b>School Alignment</b> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Sheridan Elder Research Centre (SERC)                              | SCLS                    |
| The Screen Industries Research and Training Centre (SIRT)          | SAAD                    |
| Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (Sharcnet) | ACES                    |
| Visualization Design Institute (VDI)                               | NILES                   |

Effective September 13, VDI has moved to NILES, reporting to Vaughan Smith, Associate Dean, Digital Learning, to support Sheridan’s Open Learning vision to be the leader in innovative on-line and simulation learning. The talented VDI staff will bring their skills and commitment to create stellar e-learning opportunities. VDI as an organizational entity will continue to support collaborative work between Sheridan programs and research to develop innovative visualization capacity.

The Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies (CAMDT) will remain in ACES with its focus shifting to sustainable manufacturing.

These moves will be finalized during the Fall, 2010.

The Deans will assume responsibility for the full integration of applied research and the Research Centres, in particular, into curriculum so that students and faculty will work in and with the Centres. The Research Centres will together form a Sheridan Network for Applied Research; the Research Network will have a matrix reporting line to Darren Lawless. Darren will work with the Centres to generate grant applications and will manage the individual research projects and their budgets as they secure funding.

Don Curzon, Director of IR, left Sheridan last week; we appreciate the leadership that Don provided to the IR function over the last few years. Effective immediately Institutional Research will be reporting directly to Darren Lawless, Dean of Research and Innovation.

**On-line Services for Students:** In response to student and faculty feedback, the staff of the Office of the Registrar has worked over the summer to develop the processes necessary for our students to “drop and swap” courses on-line to create timetables more ideally suited for their individual needs. We are ready to pilot this service and will expand on-line capabilities to include on-line adding of courses. There are some critical issues that must be resolved in the next two months in order for this service to proceed.

A consultation process will be undertaken at the program level by your Associate Deans in collaboration with Elka Walsh, Dean of Academic Strategic Planning, in order to resolve outstanding issues for the successful launch of this long-awaited on-line service flexibility; the first implementation phase is scheduled for the January, 2011, registration

period. A Working Group will be convened to meet this commitment for the Winter 2011 launch.

**Sustainability:** This summer Sheridan contracted with Hanson Technology Ventures to lead the Sheridan community in the development of our corporate vision for sustainability and the identification of the initiatives necessary to achieve this vision. A Sustainability Leadership Council will be created to design and roll out an inclusive process to engage all Sheridan stakeholders in this critical conversation. Please stay tuned for further news on this front.

Mark Monday, October 18, 2010, in your calendars for a keynote address by a world-renowned sustainability expert, Dr. Karl-Henrik Robert. (see VPAR section in Access Sheridan for more information). We are most fortunate to have Dr. Robert scheduled to present and to engage in conversation with the Sheridan community about sustainability.

**The Sheridan Production House:** In addition to his ongoing responsibilities as Associate Dean in SAAD, for this next year, Sandy McKean has agreed to serve as the Director of the new Sheridan Production House (SPH); Sandy will work with a SPH Steering Committee to establish the business plan and processes necessary to formally deliver production services (filming, audio and video recording, animation, broadcasting, etc.) to the Sheridan community. As Sandy's work proceeds, more information on this initiative will be available.

**Academic Council:** During the 2010-11 academic year, a transitional Academic Council has been convened to consider the revitalization of the terms of reference for the Council. This work will be undertaken while maintaining the program and policy review and approval processes critical to our academic endeavours. Council meetings are open to the college community so please feel free to attend meetings to hear about our future directions and/or to contribute to our progress. Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes will be posted on AccessSheridan in the VPAR section.

I am looking forward to a very exciting year as we realize the vision of the Creative Campus. Your engagement is critical to our ultimate success – together ...

*'Through learning we re-create ourselves. Through learning we become able to do something we were never able to do.'* Peter Senge

As we proceed on this journey, ultimately we need to remember that

*'Life is creative. It makes it up as it goes along.'*  
Margaret Wheatley and Kellner-Rogers

and that we need to commit to learning and living in 2010-11!! Happy New Year!

Mary Preece, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President, Academic and Research