Saint Mary's University Academic Plan
Status Report January 2007

Priority Area	Initiative	Status
BUILDING ON STRENGTHS		
Undergraduate teaching and learning	1. Campus wide "literacy strategy"	1. Writing Centre established (42 workshops, 1168 individual tutorials, WHO (Writing Help On-line) Programme created, 113 recent HS grads in Summer Writing Program 05-06); Literacy Council established
	2. Expanded use of educational technology	2. projectors in classrooms increased by 100 since 2002; widespread use of digital responders in classrooms; video-conferencing capacity for distance learning
	3. Experiential learning	3. e.g. IMPACT investment fund; field schools in archaeology, History/German, IDS, Political Science, Biology; Public History course with link to museums; environmental monitoring programs; MBA consulting projects; Forensic Science courses with crime scene visits, mock trials, etc, several classrooms refurbished to support hands-on learning
	4. Student evaluation of teaching	4. new evaluation process (SEEQ/ICE) adopted; workshops to support effective use
	5. Teaching scholar program	5. first "teaching scholar" seconded to Office of Instructional Development to mentor colleagues and promote "scholarship of teaching and learning"
	6. Accreditation/program development	6. accreditation of Sobey School (AACSB), Chemistry, and Computer Science programs; BA established as primarily 4-year program
	7. Steps taken to ensure that program reviews will be done regularly with better provision for follow-up	7. Duties of the Director of the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development revised to include administrative oversight of program reviews

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Community Outreach	1. Reaffirmed role of Continuing Ed	1. External Review of Continuing Ed. completed; new Director appointed; new Director conducting operational review and developing strategic plan
	2. New community-oriented outreach centres	2. CN Centre for Occupational Health; Atlantic Metropolis Centre for Immigration Studies; Centre for Spirituality and the Workplace; Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs (with AST); Centre for Leadership Excellence (all supported primarily by external funds, revenue generation)
	3. Special programming-community/professional organizations	3. MBA-CMA; Masters in Management for Coops and Credit Unions; CLE curriculum development for insurance brokers; upgrading Certificate for Teachers (Math, Linguistics, potentially Science)
	4. Commercialization of research	4. two externally-funded Industry Liaison Officers; $2.5m Atlantic Innovation Fund project; provisional patent in "green" chemistry; contract research policy drafted
	5. Partnerships with aboriginal communities	5. Labrador Innu Project of Gorsebrook Research Institute in partnership with Innu Nation and Environment Canada (principal funder); on-going work with Mi'qmaw; membership in University of the Arctic; Management Diploma in Nunavut; language planning initiatives for preserving dialects among the Inuit
	6. Heritage projects	6. e.g. involvement with Pier 21; archaeological field schools at Grand Pre, Delap's Cove etc.; SMU Library worked with AGNS re SMU antiphonal
	7. Engagement with schools/youth	7. Cosmic Rays in the Classroom (funded by Imperial Oil); PALS Program for youth at risk; sponsorship and participation in Junior Achievement's "Economics of Staying in School" program

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International Programming	1. Increased study abroad	1. Homburg and AVP/SMUSA travel bursaries established; International Mobility Officer appointed; international field schools; in 05/06 100 students abroad, up from 43 in 02/03
	2. Growth in international student recruitment	2. international students rose from c.8% in 02/03 to c.15% in 05/06; new market development underway in Europe, Saudi Arabia, India; M.Fin. designed for Chinese students
	3. International projects/partnerships	3. CIDA project in China/Vietnam completed in 2003; current CIDA projects in Mongolia, Caucasus and western China; finalists for new projects in China and Vietnam, Youth Internships and Canada Corps placements abroad
	4. Internationalization of curriculum	4. expansion of offerings on world languages and cultures: East Asia, Latin America, Europe, the Islamic World

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RISING TO CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES		
Research and Scholarship	1. Clusters of excellence	1. Human Resource Management; Occupational Health; Atlantic Canada Studies; Astrophysics: Immigration Studies; International Development Studies; Criminology
	2. Expansion of research facilities	2. new labs and equipment for High Performance Computing, Environmental Science, Geospatial Research, Taxonomy etc., bringing millions in CFI and matching funds; renovation of Science building, including ACEnet wing of Science Building; also Inglis St. house for GRI and CN Centre
	3. Increased research funding	3. Research funding rose from $1.9m in 01/02 to $8.8m in 06/07*, including $765k in indirect costs funding (overhead) *not final numbers; total will be higher.
	4. Research Chairs and Professorships	4. six Canada Research Chairs filled; Sobey Chair offer about to be extended to Dr. C. Mason, CIBC Professorship established in Business and Dr. J. Chamard appointed
	5. Maximize library resources to support research	5. electronic access to scholarly journals increased by an order of magnitude through participation in CFI-funded consortia; acquisitions budget of the library increased from 770k in 2000/01 to 1.1m in 2005/06

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Graduate Studies	1. Creation of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research 2. New graduate programs 3. Increased graduate student funding 4. Increased graduate enrollment	1. Faculty established; full-time Dean appointed in 2004 2. 2 new Ph.D. (Astronomy, Psychology) and 4 new Masters (M.Sc. in Applied Science, MMCCU, MBA-CMA, M.Fin.) 3. graduate funding $1.65m (combined internal/external) in 05/06, up from c.$350k in 02/03 4. total graduate students up to 520 in 05/6, from 450 in 02/03; sharp increase in research-based programs; executive programs level; MBA decline partly off-set by MBA-CMA and MMCCU
Student Satisfaction and Success	1. Improved academic advising 2. Revisions to academic regulations	1. Task Force Report on Student Advising; full-time advisers added in Arts and Science; Registration Advisory Unit created; new on-line degree audit program now being implemented 2. revised rules re requirement to withdraw; clarification of how grades are assigned; with repeated courses, only most recent counts for CGPA; Degree QPA distinguished from Cumulative QPA and used for graduation requirement; harmonization of distinctions for major and honors; recognition of transfer course grades in GPA; academic integrity policies re-written for effectiveness and fairness; no exams in last two weeks

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	3. Major increases in financial aid	3. aid reached $3.2 m in 05/06, up from $1.8 in 02/03
	4. Retention initiatives	4. Extreme FYI , ESP (pilots); Report of Task Force on Student Success presented to Senate in Jan. 07: top priority is comprehensive first-year success program
	5. Student services	5. new Career Development Centre; Summer Job Fairs; Career Counsellor for MBA
	6. Enrolment management	6. Student Recruitment Office established; sharp increase in enrolment from 01/02 to 03/04, followed by gradual then sharp decline (6% in 06/07); recruitment strategy developed for 07/08; "Banner on-line registration", plan for integration of Enrolment Services (AccessSMU)
	7. Library	7. more congenial space; expanded computer access; extended hours; information literacy program and close collaboration with Writing Centre