

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Art Read leaves administration to return to teaching and research
Dean of Laurier Brantford has served as university administrator for 17 years

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – Rowland Smith, vice-president: academic at Wilfrid Laurier University, today announced a change in leadership at Laurier Brantford. After pioneering this ground-breaking initiative, and leading Laurier's largest faculty for just over 15 years, Art Read is withdrawing from administrative duties and returning to the classroom.

Read, who has been managing the daily activities of Laurier Brantford since he was appointed director of the Brantford Project in September, 1998 was instrumental in several key areas. These included overseeing the conversion of the Carnegie Library Building, the hiring of staff and faculty, curriculum development and student recruiting. For his efforts, he was named acting dean, and then dean, of Laurier Brantford.

Prior to accepting the challenge of establishing a new campus, Read was dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. First appointed to the decanal position in 1983, his years of service have earned him a two-year administrative leave, which he will use to prepare for his return to teaching and research.

"Laurier understands and supports Dr. Read's decision to withdraw from administrative duties as dean of Laurier Brantford," said Rowland Smith, vice-president: academic. "He was already one of Ontario's longest-serving university deans when he agreed to help establish the campus, and we thank him for his years of service."

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Doug Witmer, director of academic projects at Laurier, will assume some of the dean's daily duties until an acting dean is appointed. Witmer is an able administrator who has worked at Laurier since 1974, holding such posts as acting registrar, director of co-operative education and career resources, director of academic services and executive assistant to the vice-president: academic, and director of continuing education.

The University plans to appoint a new dean to a two-year term before the next academic year begins in September.