

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Philosophy professor named acting dean of Laurier Brantford

Leo Groarke instrumental in developing innovative curriculum in contemporary studies

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WATERLOO – A philosophy professor who was instrumental in developing Laurier Brantford's new and innovative curriculum has been appointed to the campus's senior administrative post. Rowland Smith, vice-president: academic, announced today that Leo Groarke has been appointed acting dean of Laurier Brantford.

Groarke, who assumes the position immediately, will oversee all day-to-day areas associated with developing a new campus, but will focus his attention on two key areas: curriculum development and recruitment. He was named to the post because of the role he has played in developing Brantford's innovative curriculum in contemporary studies and because of his demonstrated abilities with undergraduate students.

"Dr. Groarke is an able administrator and a professor with a great passion for his students. He also has shown great interest in our efforts to establish Laurier Brantford – especially in the area of curriculum development," explained Smith. "I have no doubt he will continue the pioneering work begun by his predecessor."

Groarke succeeds Art Read, who left the position after spending two years launching the campus, one of which he spent as dean of Laurier Brantford. Read is now using a two-year administrative leave, accumulated during his 15-year tenure as dean of Laurier's Faculty of Arts and Science, to prepare for his return to teaching and research.

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Groarke first joined Laurier in 1983 as an assistant professor in the Philosophy Department. He was granted tenure in 1989, was promoted to full professor in 1994, was chair of the Philosophy Department from 1994 to 1997, and was named assistant dean of program development in the Faculty of Arts and Science in 1999.

Laurier Brantford will benefit from Groarke's experience as an administrator and academic. As an assistant dean responsible for program development, he was involved in all new initiatives developed by the Faculty of Arts and Science (and of the Faculty of Arts when the larger faculty divided in January, 2000). Those initiatives include developing the unique, interdisciplinary curriculum leading to the bachelor of arts in contemporary studies offered only in Brantford.

Groarke's research interests include the philosophy of education, the value of a liberal arts education and interdisciplinary programs — all areas related to what he hopes to accomplish in Brantford. He also sees parallels between his newest challenges and his last book, *The Ethics of the New Economy: Restructuring and Beyond*.

The University hopes to appoint a permanent dean to Laurier Brantford before the start of the next academic year.