

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier extends Leo Groarke's term as dean of Brantford campus *Three additional years recognize growing number of students and innovative partnerships*

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WATERLOO (Ont.) – Wilfrid Laurier University has extended the decanal appointment of a philosophy professor who helped develop the unique curriculum in contemporary studies offered only in Brantford. Rowland Smith, vice-president: academic, today announced that Leo Groarke will remain dean of the Brantford campus until July 2005.

Groarke was named acting dean of Laurier Brantford in May 2000, then appointed dean that July, after Art Read stepped down two years into his four-year term. Groarke was originally appointed to finish Read's term, but has agreed to serve the standard, five-year decanal period.

Since Groarke took over as dean, Laurier Brantford enrolment has grown from 40 students to 200 full-time and 70 part-time students in just three years. That growth will likely continue as university spaces become increasingly scarce.

“That Laurier Brantford, under the stewardship of Dr. Groarke, has become an increasingly attractive destination for students from across Ontario is obviously an achievement in itself,” explained Smith. “The campus provides a significant, new option for students coping with the increased cohort bulge.”

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According to Smith, Groarke's strengths lie in his capacity to understand the core curriculum, and to develop and use its unique potential to attract students. Groarke played an instrumental role in developing the contemporary studies program and has an excellent understanding of what it can offer students.

Over the next three years, Groarke will continue his efforts to foster a strong relationship with the City of Brantford and to create joint programs with other post-secondary institutions.

Groarke has already created cooperative programs with Nipissing University and Mohawk College. Nipissing and Laurier Brantford have combined to offer students the opportunity to earn two degrees – a bachelor of arts in contemporary studies and a bachelor of education – in four years. A similar agreement with Mohawk has created 10 joint offerings, nicknamed two-by-four programs, in such programs as graphic design, international business and native community care.

Groarke graduated from the University of Calgary in 1975 with an honours bachelor of arts and completed his master's in 1977. He then received a PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1982 and joined Laurier as an assistant professor in the philosophy department in 1983.

He was granted tenure in 1989, became a full professor in 1994 and served as chair of the philosophy department from 1994 to 1997. He was named assistant dean of program development in the faculty of arts and science in 1999.