

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Laurier extends term of service for inaugural dean of science**

*Art Szabo agrees to two more years to secure changes in research and programming*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is extending the term of the first dean of the faculty of science. Art Szabo will serve for two years after his current term ends this summer.

The extension recognizes his success as first dean of the newly created faculty of science. Since Laurier separated the faculty of arts and science into two separate units in 2000, science has introduced innovative programs in every department and student enrolment has increased. The faculty's research capacity has increased tremendously, a change reflected in the recent opening of the \$11.4-million Laurier Science Research Centre.

"Dr. Szabo has worked tirelessly to establish the faculty of science since its creation," said Sue Horton, vice-president: academic. "He has proven successful in securing resources for the faculty – especially the funding required to build a centre dedicated to science research – and in the areas of program innovation and student recruitment."

Szabo has agreed to remain beyond his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in order to achieve a majority of the goals that led the Laurier to establish a separate science faculty.

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“We’ve managed to accomplish so much in a very short period of time and I think I can safely say we’ve achieved many of our initial objectives,” said Szabo. “But there’s still more to be done. Once we’ve established grad programs in all departments, the faculty of science will have established itself as a high-quality faculty of science, combining teaching and research, to serve the Canadian public and contribute to Canada’s economic prosperity through its graduates.”

A biochemist with an international reputation, Szabo joined Laurier as dean in February 2000. He holds a bachelor of science in chemistry and mathematics from Queen’s University, and a master of arts and doctorate of philosophy from the University of Toronto. Following two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Southampton, he joined the National Research Council in Ottawa, where he remained until 1994.

That year, he joined the University of Windsor, where he was a professor of chemistry and biochemistry, department head and interim director of the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research.

Szabo is a prodigious researcher. He arrived at Laurier with 145 publications and two international patents. He had presented more than 175 papers at meetings, many with industrial and international collaborators, and had been a visiting scientist or professor at universities in Poland, France, Spain, Italy and Brazil.

Laurier decided to divide its faculty of arts and science into two separate faculties late in 1998 and the partition took place at the start of 2000. The partition was designed to allow members of the new faculties to more closely focus on their respective areas. It would also allow for a significant increase in science research and make Laurier a more comprehensive university.