

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier appoints Canadian political expert new dean of arts

David Docherty believes shared vision important to attracting and retaining quality faculty

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WATERLOO – A political scientist with a national reputation for his expertise in provincial and federal politics has been appointed dean of the faculty of arts at Wilfrid Laurier University. David Docherty, current chair of the university's department of political science, will assume the decanal position on July 1.

Docherty is a recognized expert in Canadian politics who is frequently quoted by print and broadcast media across the country. He has authored two books on the subject, *Mr. Smith Goes to Ottawa* and *Legislatures: A Democratic Audit*, and co-edited *Reforming Parliamentary Democracy*. Docherty is also a respected instructor, appearing on a list of popular professors published by *Maclean's* magazine, and has proven a successful administrator in the four years he has chaired his department.

"David Docherty has proven himself as an able administrator, research expert and classroom instructor," said Sue Horton, vice-president: academic at Laurier. "Laurier is very pleased that he will be applying his considerable skills and expertise at the decanal level, and looks forward to great things for the faculty of arts."

One of Docherty's priorities during his five-year term will be to help create a shared vision for a faculty that is spread out in many ways, particularly physically and intellectually.

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“We have humanists, we have social scientists and we have academics funded for work in the natural sciences – in areas that begin with anthropology and end in women’s studies,” said Docherty. “The challenge is to develop a shared vision or strategy that respects the interests and concerns of everyone, equally. And to do it in a way that does not undo all the good work that has already been accomplished.”

Docherty credits the outgoing dean and all the arts departments with recruiting excellent faculty in recent years. But demographics and an increasing interest in post-secondary education promise that the competition for quality faculty members will only increase. Docherty believes the key to retaining excellent members and attracting new ones lies in providing them with an attractive environment in which to teach and research.

Docherty will replace Robert Campbell, who has been dean of the faculty of arts since joining Laurier in July of 2000.