

Jim Butler reappointed as Laurier's vice-president of finance and administration

WATERLOO – The Board of Governors of Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed Jim Butler, vice-president: finance and administration, to a third five-year term. His current term runs until Aug. 31, 2012; his next term runs from Sept. 1, 2012 to Aug. 31, 2017.

“Ontario’s university sector has had its share of challenges over the past decade. Throughout it all, Jim Butler has provided Laurier with exceptional leadership in the area of finance and administration,” said John Ormston, chair of Laurier’s Board of Governors. “We are delighted to appoint him to another term.”

Butler was recently elected president of the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO), a professional organization for administrators at Canadian universities and colleges. He was also awarded the association’s most prestigious award, the 2011 Ken Clements Distinguished Administrator Award, for his years of leadership in university finance.

Butler first joined Laurier as vice-president: finance and administration in 2002. During his first term, he played a lead role in developing a clear budget presentation format, a debt-restructuring strategy that resulted in the university’s first bond issue, and changes that resulted in Laurier’s first official A stable credit rating.

During his current term, Butler successfully managed the university’s finances during ongoing fluctuations in provincial funding and a serious market downturn in 2008-09. He has also played a lead role at the provincial level in addressing university pension challenges, heading a Council of Ontario Universities (COU) working group tasked with ensuring that proposed solutions regarding pension solvency legislation were brought to the Expert Commission on Pensions in Ontario. He also lead COU’s first Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act committee and a compensation consultation session with the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and the government.

Butler has also liaised with the Council of Environmental Health and Safety Officers, an affiliate of the COU, to advance numerous initiatives, including various discussions with the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board, the Education and Safety Association of Ontario, and the Ministry of Labour. He has also provided sector-related expertise to the CAUBO Environmental Health and Safety Committee, and CAUBO’s Workshop on Building Sustainable Pension and Post-Retirement Benefits.

“It’s a privilege to be able to continue serving Laurier and supporting President Max Blouw as the university forges ahead into its future,” said Butler. “Laurier’s Brantford campus is growing rapidly, and changes in government funding present challenges as we explore multi-campus options, but at Laurier the student experience is paramount and that’s where we will continue to focus and keep our eye on the ball.”