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Laurier implements presidential transition plan

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has begun implementing a plan to ensure a smooth transition in senior leadership.

Max Blouw will complete his second term as President and Vice-Chancellor on June 30, 2017. As announced Jan. 11, Deborah MacLatchy, who has served as the university's Provost and Vice-President: Academic since 2009, will begin her five-year term as President and Vice-Chancellor on July 1.

Starting March 1, MacLatchy will step away from her role as Provost and Vice-President: Academic to begin transitioning to her new role as the university's most senior administrative leader. Blouw, as current President, will continue to lead activities that impact the future of the university, fully engaging with MacLatchy on initiatives that have long-lasting implications for Laurier, until his departure on June 30.

As part of the transition plan, Laurier's Dean of the Faculty of Science, Paul Jessop, will serve as acting Vice-President: Academic from March 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018. This will allow time for the university to conduct a search for a new Provost and Vice-President: Academic. Pamela Bryden, current chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, will serve as acting Dean of the Faculty of Science until June 30, 2018.

Robert Gordon, Laurier's Vice-President Research, will take on the added role of acting Provost until June 30, 2018. As acting Provost, Gordon will work closely with Jessop to further integrate teaching, research and community engagement at Laurier. He will also co-chair the university budget committee with Deborah Dubenofsky, Vice-President: Finance and Operations.

A search for a new Provost and Vice-President: Academic will begin by September 2017 with the goal of appointing the successful candidate by July 2018.

"A smooth transition is essential to maintaining the tremendous momentum that everyone at Laurier has worked hard to achieve over the past few years," said John Bowey, Chair of the Board of Governors. "I am grateful to all members of the senior leadership team for their passionate commitment to ensuring that Laurier continues to be well known for teaching excellence, leading research and an outstanding student experience."

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