



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Provincial Government and University of Winnipeg Collaborate To Invest in Student Services and Access

Winnipeg – The University of Winnipeg has reached an agreement with the Province of Manitoba to make significant investments in services available to students at The University of Winnipeg.

The provincial government will provide The University with a grant of up to \$3 million over a two-year period to improve student information and technology systems, introduce new safety and security initiatives, and complete the UWinnipeg wireless campus project. For its part, The University of Winnipeg is proposing a student ancillary fee which will go directly to meet needs identified by students such as improved counseling, health and information services for students, and a bursary program for students in need.

University of Winnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy will put the agreement before the University's Board of Regents meeting this evening as part of the annual budget exercise. "Our ability to reach this agreement with the Province at this time will enable us to present a budget to our Board which addresses student and University growth needs, while maintaining an extremely reasonable fee structure," said Dr. Axworthy.

The bulk of the provincial assistance will enable The University of Winnipeg to acquire a leading edge Student Information System. "This technology will result in long overdue improvements to our student information and registration system, moving us from a paper-based system to an electronic system," said Dr. Axworthy. "When in place, the new technology will enable students to register and get information about courses and University programs and services on-line from wherever they live whether it is in Manitoba, elsewhere in Canada, or around the world – without waiting in long lines."

The University of Winnipeg has been discussing the need for improved student services with the provincial government for some time. A Safety and Security Task Force was established last year to make recommendations to improve safety and security for students and area residents in and around the downtown campus.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Ranked by our graduates in Maclean's magazine University Graduate Survey (November 15, 2004) in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience," UWinnipeg is home to more than 8,700 full- and part-time students.

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