Message from the Dean
Reflecting on 11 wonderful years

JUNE IS OFTEN A TIME OF TRANSITION ON CAMPUS: conversation marks the transition from students to alumni; spring shifts fully into summer; and new faculty begin their terms on July 1.

For me, this June brings the conclusion of my 11 years as dean at the Gustavson School of Business.

These years have seen wonderful growth and evolution in the school: we launched a master in management and new global paths for our master of global business students; we added new cohorts to our BCom program and redesigned both weekend and daytime streams of our MBA with a ground-up focus on sustainable innovation. We became one of the first business schools in the world to be carbon neutral; we launched an interdisciplinary, hands-on investment management program for students; we strengthened relationships with partners like Tribal Resources Investment Corporation, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), TELUS, the Responsible Tourism Institute and the Senate of Canada. But despite the change seen during these 11 years, some things have remained the same.

The Gustavson School of Business is steadfast in its commitment to its pillars: we are sustainable/socially responsible, innovative, integrative and international.

We are committed to actions of reconciliation, Indigenizing our curriculum, creating an inclusive culture that welcomes Indigenous students, faculty and staff, and building strong partnerships with First Nations communities.

And we believe in the power of business to be a force for good in the world. We believe business schools have a critical role to play in developing the leaders and responsible global citizens who will drive this change.

The past year has offered plenty of news that shows the school's continued commitment to its values. In July 2022, we announced the world's first MBA in Advancing Reconciliation, co-developed with BCAAFC. Following a closed-cohort model, students are put forward by BCAAFC and the first cohort of this unique program joined us on campus in May 2023.

In January, we announced an exciting new partnership with the Responsible Tourism Institute, which enables Gustavson to deliver biosphere sustainable tourism certification throughout the non-Spanish-speaking world. Supporting the tourism sector in delivering sustainable experiences aligns well with our values and expertise in service management.

And this October, we are proud to be celebrating Bobbie Racette as the School’s first National Reconciliation Advisor. Bobbie is a member of the Cowichan Tribes, a residential school survivor, and is recognized as a leader and cultural expert. I’m excited to introduce our incoming dean, who begins her term on July 1, 2023.

The Gustavson community extends its sincere gratitude to Klein for his dedicated and inspirational service and leadership.

The school looks forward with excitement to introducing our incoming dean, who begins her term on July 1, 2023. After serving as dean for 11 years, Saul Klein completes his second and final term as dean on June 30, 2023.

“The school owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Saul for his leadership through these years,” says Associate Dean, External, Mia Maki. “As dean, he inspired innovation, facilitated growth throughout the school and shared his vast knowledge with students. He motivated, encouraged, built bridges and kept us steady through the challenges of a global pandemic.”

“We honour his vision and deep commitment to seeing our school succeed, and we are especially thankful that he agreed to stay on for an extra year beyond his original term end date.”

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