

Office of the Senate Secretariat

Acadia University
Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Canada B0P 1X0

Telephone: (902) 585-1617
Facsimile: (902) 585-1078



The Senate of Acadia University acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Dear Member of Senate:

I advise you that a meeting of the Senate of Acadia University will occur from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 10th, 2022. This will be a Microsoft Teams meeting due to Pandemic operations at the University.

The agenda follows:

- 1) Approval of Agenda**
- 2) Minutes of the Senate Meeting of Monday 13th December, 2021**
- 3) Announcements**
- 4) Old Business**
 - a) Transition Reports from Senate Sub-Committees:**
 - i) By-Laws Committee report ([attached, page 11](#))
 - ii) Curriculum Committee (Administrative) report ([attached, page 12](#))
 - iii) Academic Integrity Committee report (*no report submitted*)
 - iv) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee report (*no report submitted*)
- 5) New Business**
 - a) Notice of Motion from By-Laws Committee: Motion that Senate approves an amendment to incorporate changes in University administration/organizational structure in Senate Constitution and By-Laws. ([attached, page 13](#))
- 6) Question Period – President/Provost and Vice-President Academic**
- 7) Other Business**
- 8) Adjournment**

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Rosie Hare
Recording Secretary to Senate

Announcements

President's Report to Senate

January 10, 2022

Happy New Year

I hope all Senators had a good break over the holidays, and I wish you all a very happy New Year. While the end of our Fall Term was disrupted once again by the latest twist and turn of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can look back with pride on how we managed through the term with no positive cases on campus until the impact of the *Omicron* variant resulted in a small number of cases. These were successfully contained and resulted in no community spread before the university closed down for the Christmas and New Year holiday.

This latest pandemic wave caused us to have to make some changes to our Winter Term plans, including moving the first two weeks online and delaying the start of in-person classes to January 24. I know that this has caused increased work for professors, administrative staff, and managers in shifting to online delivery for the start of term. At least we have a lot of experience with this now and are well versed in supporting the needs of our professors and students in online teaching and learning. I thank all of you for once again stepping up to meet the challenges that the evolving pandemic continues to create.

Despite these latest challenges, we can look forward to this year as the one where we finally emerge from the pandemic. I hope I am not being overly optimistic, but as the *Omicron* variant develops as predicted by our public health experts it looks like we may be in the final wave – and hopefully the wave that finally washes us safely onto the beach!

Winter Term COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Plan

As you are aware, the changes brought about by the *Omicron* wave have caused us to make changes not only to our plans for the start of term, but also to our campus health and safety plan. One of the major pillars of our successful approach during the Fall Term was the availability of widespread testing for our community, and with the change in provincial testing policy and the availability of testing kits, we have had to adapt our approach. We are diverting our resources away from mass testing across campus to focussing testing requirements on those who are at risk.

Our revised Winter Term 2022 COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Plan is posted on our COVID-19 web page at <https://www2.acadiau.ca/covid-19/news-reader/update-on-winter-term-2022.html>, but here are the major changes:

- All registered students attending classes or accessing facilities on campus will now be required to be either fully vaccinated or to test and report twice a week.
- All registered students will be required to complete the Student Pledge in order to remain registered:

- Fully vaccinated students will need to provide Proof of Vaccination (POV) to the university.
- Unvaccinated students will be able to apply for a vaccination exemption for valid medical/health reasons and will be assessed for possible exemption from the vaccine requirement.
- Unvaccinated students will be required to undertake twice weekly testing and to provide results to the university:
 - unvaccinated students who are formally exempted from vaccination by the university due to medical/health reasons will be provided access to free rapid testing twice a week
 - unvaccinated students who are not formally exempted from vaccination by the university but who choose to remain unvaccinated will be provided with access to rapid testing twice a week and will be charged a fee (amount to be determined depending upon the price of the rapid test kits) for two test kits per week
- The university reserves the right to refuse access to campus for anyone who does not comply with this requirement.
- Residence students will be required to be fully vaccinated unless they are specifically exempted by the university for medical/health reasons, in which case they will be required to test at least twice weekly and provide evidence of such to the university.
 - all residence students will be required to undertake rapid testing upon arrival and during the first two weeks of the Winter Term.
- Acadia has hired an assistant OH nurse to support the work of our senior OH Nurse.

These changes reflect the fact that with increased transmissibility and decreased severity of the *Omicron* variant, preventing the virus from occurring on campus is significantly less likely than with the original COVID-19 virus and previous variants. Whether vaccinated or not, the *Omicron* variant spreads more easily and quickly, and while we still have to do all we can to prevent the virus from coming into our community, we also have to focus our efforts on making sure that any cases of COVID are identified early and contained in order to limit any potential spread, and support those who contract the virus until they are fully recovered.

We have always said that we will adapt our response as the pandemic evolves, and while we are making necessary changes, what hasn't changed is that we are still all in this together, that by working together we have kept our university community healthy and safe, and together we will see through the final phases of the pandemic.

PART Report and Response

In my last report to Senate, I stated that I would make the report of the President's Anti-Racism Task Force (PART) and my official response public in December. With the intense activity generated by the latest pandemic wave that hit us in December, I decided to hold off so that the importance of this report would not be lost in the flurry of announcements and focus on the pandemic. Therefore, the PART Report and my response were announced on Thursday, January 6, 2022, and can be found at the following link: <https://www2.acadiu.ca/about-acadia/leadership/president-vice-chancellor/from-the-presidents-desk/news/call-to-action-from-anti-racism-task-force.html>. This report and response constitute an important step forward under *Acadia* 2025 strategic direction "Caring for Our Students and Employees".

As I stated in my December report (and it is worth repeating), I am very grateful to the members of the PART for their work in creating the report and providing challenging and inspiring recommendations for Acadia. I would like to express my thanks to the co-chairs Marjorie Lewis and Patricia McCulloch, and vice-chair Zabrina Whitman for their leadership roles in guiding the work of the PART and the production of the report.

Senators will note that there are a number of recommendations in the report that are academic in nature and are directed to the Senate. Also, there are many recommendations that speak to the importance of having a university-wide body to address EDI and Anti-Racism on an ongoing basis. One of the major responses to the report is the creation of the Acadia Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (EDIAR) Council which will provide leadership, direction, and action in addressing the recommendations of the report. The EDIAR Council will work with other EDI bodies on campus, including the Senate EDI Committee in increasing progress at Acadia under the auspices of the strategic plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Ricketts
President and Vice-Chancellor

January 6, 2022

PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – JANUARY 10TH, 2022

Firstly, I welcome everyone back. I hope you had a chance to find some time for relaxation and rest after a very hectic fall semester and I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I am optimistic that the current omicron wave of the pandemic will be the wave that sees the end of the pandemic and a move to an endemic phase of COVID-19. Although, it is difficult to predict what will happen over the next few months, and we will need to be ready to adapt and respond as necessary.

FALL 2021 PLANNING TASK FORCE

The Planning Task Force met on December 22. The new phase of the pandemic and the recent policy changes by Nova Scotia Public Health means that Acadia is adapting its approach to managing the current public health crisis. All of our operating parameters are within the guidelines for the sector, and we continue to monitor the provincial, national, and international situation regarding COVID-19.

With the developing situation late in the fall semester, there were emergency meetings of the Planning Task Force, and the Senate Executive on December 22 to discuss the start of classes for the winter semester. Options considered were starting classes in-person on the regular scheduled date (January 10), delaying the start of classes, and starting classes on the regular scheduled date but to start the semester in an online format. The decision was to start classes on January 10 but to be virtual only for at least two weeks. The status of COVID-19 in the province will be monitored and a decision regarding the delivery of classes post January 24. An announcement will be made as soon as possible but the situation is very fluid.

Winter term modifications:

- The term will start on Monday, January 10, 2022, the date approved in the academic calendar; however, the first two weeks of classes will be online. Subject to public health directives at that time, in-person classes are scheduled to resume on Monday, January 24, 2022.
- We are introducing proof of vaccination or proof of testing for the winter term as a requirement for all students on campus. Early in the new year, we will have discussions with employee groups about how employees will be affected by these changes in public health policies and protocols.
- To live in residence, students must provide proof of vaccination or have a vaccination exemption and commit to twice-weekly, in-person testing. Residence Life will communicate directly with residence students to provide specific information. Residence Students will be required to provide Acadia with their Proof of Vaccination (POV) status, or meet medical exemption requirements and agree to twice-weekly testing to continue living in residence.
- Acadia's comprehensive COVID-19 safety protocols that encourage high vaccination rates and multiple layers of protection, including encouraging full vaccination, daily self-assessment, mask wearing, hand washing, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning, and air quality monitoring, remain in effect. The provision of rapid testing will be directed towards those who are deemed to be high risk or symptomatic.
- All students will be required to complete a revised Student Health and Code of Conduct Pledge in early January 2022. Vaccinated students will be required to provide their Proof of Vaccination (POV) status; unvaccinated students will be required to follow testing requirements, including proof of twice-weekly testing at the campus testing clinics; unvaccinated students will also be able to apply for an exemption for medical reasons.
- Vaccination is the most important tool in defending against COVID-19. Acadia is working with Nova Scotia Public Health to offer additional vaccination clinics in the new year, both for students and employees needing to complete their full vaccination treatment and booster shots as they become available.
- The library will be open beginning January 4 for study space and select services following existing health and safety measures. Visit the Library website for more details about the winter term. Opening conditions are dependent on public health requirements in January.
- The Athletic Complex will be open beginning January 4 with select activities for the Acadia community bubble, following existing health and safety measures. Details regarding Varsity Athletics will be subject to the rules and protocols adopted by the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) and will be posted by Acadia Athletics on its website.

RECRUITMENT AND RESIDENCE UPDATE

The Vice-Provost of Students, Recruitment and Enrolment Management will provide an update orally at the senate meeting.

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

On December 14, in light of adjusted COVID protocols, the library and archives restored all spaces to masked, limited study room capacity to one person at a time, and required users to approach the access desk upon arrival to ensure awareness of protocols. The library and archives closed early on Dec. 19, rather than Dec. 24, through to Jan. 3 inclusive, with virtual service continuing as planned.

Recently, the library welcomed Access Assistants Karen Cummins and Colin MacKay as well as contractually limited term Librarian, Nicole Marcoux.

Plans are underway to implement a new integrated library system called Alma, with the library's current vendor, Ex Libris. The initial test load of data in collaboration with the Novanet consortium went extremely well in December. Librarian Jennifer Richard is the institution's representative for this overall initiative, with Roni Fenwick (Acquisitions & E-resources Coordinator) having served temporarily beforehand. Also related to consortia, Wilma Carty (Interlibrary Loans Coordinator) is one of four representatives across Canada on OCLC's new Relais Staff Portal Group, supporting interlibrary loans and document delivery and fostering appreciation of a broad perspective reflective of its members.

At the Ontario Library Association super conference in early February, Jason Levy (Manager, Library Services) and Heather Saunders (Dean of Libraries and Archives) will serve as panelists focusing on onboarding, and Erin Patterson (Librarian and Head, Research Services) will be a panelist focusing on intellectual property. Additionally, in the spring, Patterson will receive the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award in recognition of outstanding contributions by academic librarians and archivists, other academic staff, or groups to the advancement of the status and/or working conditions of academic librarians and archivists at Canadian universities and colleges. Congratulations, Erin!

FACULTY OF ARTS

No announcements submitted.

FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

No announcements submitted.

FACULTY OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

No announcements submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Dale Keefe, PhD

Provost & Vice-President Academic

ASSOCIATE VP RESEARCH & DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT TO SENATE – JANUARY 10TH, 2022

New CRC

Acadia welcomes **Dr. Emily Bremer** (Kinesiology) as Canada Research Chair (CIHR Tier II) in *Healthy Inclusive Communities*, commencing January 2022. A former post-doc at the University of Toronto, where she held a CIHR Vanier Scholar Award, Bremer has been developing an interdisciplinary and community engaged program of

research around the study of motor development, physical literacy, and adapted physical activity. Located within the School of Kinesiology, Dr. Bremer will construct a theoretically grounded, interdisciplinary program of research to advance knowledge on physical activity, physical literacy, and childhood disability. The goal is to increase population-level physical activity with an emphasis on children and youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities, and thus positively influence physical, mental, and cognitive health outcomes.

Acadia Hosts Minister of Advanced Education, Mr. Brian Wong

On December 1st, RGS personnel worked with Ian Murray to organize a campus visit by the NS Minister of Advanced Education, Mr. Brian Wong. During the visit, Minister Wong met with faculty and staff to discuss various research & education initiatives. Presentations were provided by Dr. Lesley Frank, Dr. Jennie Rand, Dr. Suzie Currie and Leigh Huestis. Minister Wong also toured the Huestis Innovation Pavilion and met with ALAB Director, Dr. John Murimboh, and ALAB Manager, Hayley Craig-Barnes.

GRANTS TO FACULTY

Multiple Research NS New Health Investigator Grants (\$100,000 each)

In December, Research Nova Scotia (RNS) announced that both **Dr. Melanie Coombs** (Biology) and **Dr. Daniel Blustein** (Psychology, 1st year of appointment) had been awarded prestigious New Health Investigator Grants. Valued at \$100,000 over two years, New Health Investigator Grants support early-career researchers who are engaged in innovative work that aligns with the province's health research priorities. For more info, see <https://www2.acadiau.ca/research/research-newsreader/research-newsreader/acadia-researchers-awarded-rns-new-health-investigator-grants.html>

- **Dr. Coombs** will continue her research focus on colorectal cancer by exploring the way that of Mastoparen (anti-cancer peptide found in wasp venom) derivatives target and kill cancer cells.
- **Dr. Blustein** will investigate new rehabilitation therapies for patients who have suffered strokes by developing a low-cost virtual reality neurorehabilitation treatment that can be completed in the comfort of a patient's home.

RESEARCH AGREEMENTS

Copper Mountain Mine (BC) Ltd - Sponsored Research Agreement - \$20,700

Dr. Cliff Stanley (Earth & Environmental Science) received \$20,700 for his project entitled *Litostratigraphy and Chemostratigraphy of the Nicola Group Volcano-Sedimentary Host Rocks to the Copper Mountain Alkaline Cu-Au Porphyry Deposit, Princeton, BC*

Queen's University – Sub-Contract Agreement - \$25,563

Dr. Mark Mallory (Biology, Canada Research Chair) received \$25,563 from Queen's University for his ongoing project entitled *An ecosystem-based approach to understanding the effects of microplastic pollution on aquatic and terrestrial life stages of amphibians.*

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Contribution Agreement - \$8500

Dr. Anna Redden (Biology, Associate VP Research) received \$8,500 for her project entitled *DFO River Herring Age Determination.*

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage – Contribution Agreement - \$7470

Dr. Jonathan Fowles (Kinesiology) received \$7,470 towards *Evaluating the Workplace Physical Activity Toolkit*, developed by Dr. Fowles during a previous project.

OTHER AWARDS/RESEARCH FUNDING

National Research Council – Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) Projects

- **Dr. Andrew McIntyre** (Computer Science) was awarded **\$5000** to collaborate with Reach Student Life Management on a project entitled *Investigating Student Attrition Rates in Boarding Schools using Predictive Analytics*.
- **Dr. Scott Landry** (Kinesiology) was awarded **\$5000** to collaborate with Axtion Independence Mobility Inc. on a project entitled *Design Thinking Workshops & Field Trials for a Fall Prevention and Recovery Device*.

UPCOMING RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMS AND SUBMISSION DATES

Internal

- **University Research Fund (Article 25.55):** February 1, 2022
- **Honours Summer Research Awards (HSRA):** early February 2022 (TBA)

External (not inclusive of all opportunities)

- **SSHRC**
 - Connection Grants: February 1, 2022
 - Insight Development Grants: February 2, 2022
- **NSERC**
 - Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA): early February 2022 (TBA)
 - **Alliance International Grants (NEW):** apply any time
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/AllianceInternational-AllianceInternational/index_eng.asp
- **Research Nova Scotia (RNS)**
 - Undergraduate Scotia Scholars Award: January 27, 2022
- **Service Canada**
 - Canada Summer Jobs Program: project applications are open, due January 25, 2022
- **Springboard Atlantic Inc. - Proof of Concept & Patent Funding (Ongoing)**
 - Please contact Leigh Huestis or Katrin Sommerfeld for information.

GRADUATE STUDIES

NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship (Masters) Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (\$6000)

Recipient: Jennifer Hogenbom (MSc in CHEM); Supervisor: Nicoletta Faraone

Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters (CGS-M) competition (2022/23)

NSERC – 10 applicants; quota = 2

SSHRC – 24 applicants; quota = 2

CIHR – 6 applicants; quota = 1

Internal committee review of submitted scholarship applications will take place in March, followed by recommendations to SSHRC/NSERC/CIHR.

Thesis Defences

A total of 40 graduate level thesis defences (Masters and PhD) were completed in 2021. Many thanks to faculty who served in roles on thesis committees, as internal reviewers, and as defence chairs.

COLLEGE OF DIVINITY AND FACULTY OF THEOLOGY – JANUARY 10TH, 2022

No written report received by January 4th, 2022.

ACADIA STUDENTS' UNION – JANUARY 10TH, 2022

No written report received by January 4th, 2022.

**Senate By-Laws Committee
Plans for 2021-2022**

Committee members 2021-2022:

Arts: Can E. Mutlu
Professional Studies: Igor Semenenko
Pure & Applied Science: Michael Robertson
Theology: Glenn Wooden

The duties of the Senate By-Laws Committee are:

- 1) to incorporate, on an annual basis, any changes to the By-laws of Senate occasioned by the decisions and operations of Senate;
- 2) to review any changes to the By-laws of Faculty and Faculty Councils prior to their presentation to Senate and recommend any revisions or additions deemed necessary;
- 3) to conduct periodic reviews of the By-laws of the Senate, Faculty and Faculty Councils and recommend any changes or additions deemed necessary. These reviews should be staggered such that the By-laws of each of these bodies are reviewed at a minimum every five years;
- 4) to monitor the evolution of the academic committees and to recommend changes to the committee structure of Faculty Councils and other bodies at the University for which it is responsible;
- 5) to deal with any other matters which Senate might refer to the Committee.

Committee held its first formal meeting of the year on 2 November 2021.

1. Igor Semenenko is appointed as chair of the Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.
2. The Committee meets as regularly as needed by the Senate, with virtual MS-Teams as the preferred medium for the 2021-22 academic year.
3. The Committee attends to issues as they arise; it recently introduced a motion to incorporate the following changes to The Constitution and By-Laws of the Senate of Acadia University:
 - replace “Dean of Research and Graduate Studies” with “Associate Vice-President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies”
 - replace “University Librarian” with “Dean of Libraries and Archives”
 - replace “Director of Open Acadia” with “Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Innovations and Director of Open Acadia”
4. In 2020-2021 the committee proposed the following motions:
 - that the membership of Senate Curriculum Committee (Admin) is changed to include Associate Registrar as an ex officio – non-voting – member as per the Committee’s request
 - that Research Ethics Board is no longer required to report on complaints it receives back to Senate
 - that duties of the By-laws Committee is clarified in regard to responsibilities and procedures associated with the periodic reviews of Senate, Faculty, and Faculty Council bylaws
 - that the membership of Senate to include two new ex-officio (non-voting) members. One for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer and one for Coordinator of Indigenous Affairs
 - that Senate Library Committee be made redundant as per request from the Committee membership as highlighted in the Senate Library Committee – Annual Report to Senate 2019-20
 - that Archives Committee’s list of duties include a mandate “to support academic activities.”

Respectfully submitted,
Bylaws Committee
Igor Semenenko, chair
Can E. Mutlu
Glenn Wooden
Michael Robertson

**Curriculum Committee (Admin)
Transition Report 2021**

Membership of 2021-22 Committee:

Chair of Curriculum Committee (Policy): Roxanne Seaman

Registrar: Mark Bishop

Assistant Registrar: Shawna Singleton

Dean of Libraries and Archives: Heather Saunders

Arts Rep: Sonia Hewitt

Arts Rep: Kait Pinder

Prof. Studies Rep: Igor Semenenko

Prof. Studies Rep: Michael Corbett

P&A Sc. Rep: Andrew Mitchell

P&A Sc. Rep: Rob Raeside

Theology Rep: Chris Killacky

Student Rep: Menat Tahoun

Co-chairs: Michael Corbett and Kait Pinder

Secretary: Mark Bishop

Meeting dates: The Committee met on Oct. 8 to decide on the chairs and future meetings. Meetings have taken place over Zoom or in person when possible.

The duties of the Curriculum Committee (Administrative) shall be:

- 1) to oversee and co-ordinate all proposed changes in undergraduate degree, certificate or diploma requirements, including interaction with the originators, and to make recommendations to Senate concerning such changes.
- 2) to identify issues arising as a result of recommended changes in undergraduate degree, certificate or diploma requirements, and to forward issues to relevant bodies for consideration and action.
- 3) to consider all changes in undergraduate courses from all departments or schools, or from any individual concerning changes in the curriculum, including interaction with the originators, and to make recommendations to Senate concerning such changes.
- 4) to collaborate with the Registrar's office to produce the programs of study and course listings sections of the annual Calendar.
- 5) to consider such matters as Senate may from time to time entrust to the Committee.

The Committee met on December 7, 2021 and January 4, 2022 to review curriculum changes submitted from across campus. These changes will be brought to Senate next month. Given the number of changes required by the implementation of the ACE system, the committee has agreed to meet again in the Winter term, if more forms are submitted by faculties.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Corbett and Kait Pinder

Notice of Motion from By-Laws Committee

Motion that Senate approves an amendment to incorporate changes in University administration/organizational structure in Senate Constitution and By-Laws. References to the following three positions will be amended as follows:

- reference to “University Librarian” will be replaced with “Dean of Libraries and Archives”
- reference to “Dean of Research and Graduate Studies” will be replaced with “Associate Vice-President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies”
- reference to “Director of Open Acadia” will be replaced with “Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Excellence and Director of Open Acadia”

Context: changes to the constitution and bylaws will reflect changes to the University’s organizational structure.