

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, November 13th, 2023. This will be a hybrid meeting and will take place in person in the Langley Classroom of the Divinity College and online using Zoom.

The agenda follows:

1) Approval of Agenda

2) Minutes

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of October 11th, 2023

3) Announcements and Communications

- a) Chair (*A. Kiefert*)
- b) President and Vice-Chancellor (*J. Hennessy*) ([attached, page 3](#))
- c) Vice-President Academic (*K. Ashley*) ([attached, pages 4-7](#))
- d) Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies (*A. Redden*) ([attached, pages 8-10](#))
- e) Acadia Students' Union (*S. McAlear and B. Morris*)
- f) Acadia Divinity College and Faculty of Theology (*A. Robbins*) ([attached, page 11](#))
- g) Other announcements

4) Transition Reports from Senate Subcommittees

- a) Awards Committee (*J. Hennessy*) ([attached, page 12](#))
- b) By-Laws Committee (*M. Robertson*) ([attached, page 13](#))
- c) Curriculum Committee (Administrative) (*M. Bishop*) ([attached, pages 14-15](#))
- d) Disability Policy Committee Report (*K. Brenton*) ([attached, page 16](#))
- e) Faculty Support Committee (*L. Finniss*) ([attached, pages 17-18](#))
- f) Graduate Studies Committee (*A. Redden*) ([attached, pages 19-20](#))
- g) Honours Committee (*A. Davis*) ([attached, page 21](#))
- h) Research Committee (*A. Redden*) ([attached, page 22](#))

- i) Research Ethics Board (*S. Maitzen*) ([attached, page 23](#))

5) Old Business

- a) Discussion Item: Academic Planning Committee process and faculty ranking
- b) Report of the ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee (*C. Haigh*) ([attached, pages 24-26](#))
- c) Discussion item: Artificial Intelligence- current initiatives, needs, and areas of concern and opportunity across the academic sector at Acadia (*K. Ashley*)
- d) Discussion item: Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning - role, responsibilities, and Senate committees (*K. Ashley*)

6) New Business

- a) Motion on Online and Technology-Supported Learning: “It is moved that the Senate Faculty Support Committee will make recommendations on developing an institutional framework for online and technology-supported learning and will report back to Senate by the March 2024 meeting.” (*K. Ashley*) ([attached, page 27](#))
- b) Ad Hoc Committee on Microcredential Report and Motion “It is moved that all microcredential programs offered by Acadia University, as defined in this motion, fall under the jurisdiction of Senate. Furthermore, it is moved that all policies related to the creation, approval, discontinuance, and oversight of microcredential programs be vested in the authority of the Board of Open Acadia Committee, excepting those offered by the Acadia Divinity College. These policies shall be presented to the Senate for approval. Furthermore, it is moved that the Board of Open Acadia shall present annually to Senate a report containing details of these programs, including but not limited to information regarding the creation, elimination, or redevelopment of microcredential programs, registration and completion rates, and participant feedback.” (*J. Sachs*) ([attached, pages 28-30](#))
- c) Discussion item: Policy on Institutional Neutrality (*J. Hennessy*) ([attached, page 31](#))
- d) Discussion Item: Academic Planning Committee Report (*K. Ashley*) ([attached, page 32](#))

7) Question Period – President/Provost and Vice-President Academic

8) Other Business

9) Adjournment

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED

J. Peckham,
Recording Secretary of Senate and University Secretary

Announcements

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORT – NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Organizational Restructuring

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been restructured to include four Vice Presidents: Vice President Academic, Vice President Finance and Administration, Vice President Student Experience, and Vice President Advancement. The former Vice Provost Students, Recruitment, and Enrolment Management position has been eliminated and Scott Duguay has been appointed the new Vice President Student Experience, reporting directly to the President. Scott's team will also include a new Marketing and Communications Department. The Office of the President staff has been reduced from 4.75 FTE positions to 2.75 FTE positions (including the University Secretary), with 2 FTE roles being reallocated to University Advancement to fill critical needs in donor communications and external community relations.

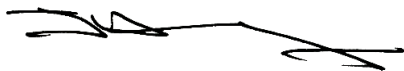
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Leadership

Following discussions with the EDIAR Council, the Board of Governors, and the former Vice Provost of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, we will be creating a new full-time position at the Associate Vice President level to provide leadership to the university in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism. The search will be conducted by members of the EDIAR council, and the position will report to the Vice President Academic.

MOU Update

The Chair and Vice Chair of CONSUP (David Dingwall and Robert Summerby-Murray) met with the Premier and Chief of Staff on October 30 to have a preliminary discussion in advance of the formal MOU negotiations. The Premier's Chief of Staff committed to de-briefing Deputy Minister Ryan Grant on the meeting and its outcomes which includes a follow-up meeting between the Deputy Minister and CONSUP's MOU development committee, which includes representatives from CBU, SMU, STFX, NSCAD, and DAL. The CONSUP Secretariat will begin scheduling this critical next step immediately. Since Acadia is not part of the formal committee, I have initiated individual discussions with the Deputy Minister who was on campus October 20. Acadia has assisted the Government with initiatives relating to health care (Nursing program, PsyD program, Red Spruce Mental Health Clinic) and a looming teacher shortage (with thanks to colleagues in the School of Education for helping to mitigate this situation), and this will help make our case for a bilateral funding arrangement in addition to the blanket MOU.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Hennessy, Ph.D. (he/him)
President and Vice Chancellor

VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – NOVEMBER 2023

ACADEMIC UPDATES:

- The Academic Program Development, Quality Assurance, and Planning website has been launched. The website contains information and resources for both program development processes and academic program reviews: <https://academicplanning.acadiau.ca/welcome.html>
- Building on work done in Dr. Terrence Weatherbee's Design Thinking and Business Model Course, the School of Business has adopted a syllabus statement on the use of AI:

Use of artificial intelligence tools by students to assist with their learning is allowed only if:

prior permission has been given by the course professor/instructor, and
the student properly credits/cites how the AI technology was used in their work.

AI must be used in an ethical and responsible manner as a positive learning tool. AI may not be used in ways that violate Acadia's Academic Integrity Policy. Students are reminded that plagiarism, or other forms of cheating, are both types of academic dishonesty.

- The French Embassy Cultural and Educational Attaches visited campus on 30 October 2023 to promote student study and work exchanges in France, as well as scholarship opportunities for students from Atlantic Canada. They encouraged Acadia students from all disciplines to apply for France-Acadie and French+Sciences bursaries: (<https://francecanadaculture.org/frenchsciences-program/>)

CO-OP UPDATES

During the summer 2023 work term, Acadia had 176 students scheduled to work, of whom 150 successfully secured relevant jobs (an 85% success rate). In the Fall 2023 work term, 30 students were scheduled, 23 of whom have secured employment (a 77% success rate). A significant proportion (75%) of the students who have not found work over the past 2 terms are from the Computer Science program.

In terms of recruitment, 178 students applied for the Co-op program, marking a significant increase compared to the ten-year average intake of 131 and the previous high of 149 in 2020. Data by program is below. The Computer Science program has seen the most substantial rise in students. As a result, the Co-op office has initiated a planning process to enhance job development opportunities in this specific area where Acadia has already experienced challenges.

Of the 178 applicants, 137 have already participated in the first three workshops of our recently expanded professional development program. These initial workshops have been designed to help students understand Co-op program requirements and develop their job search skills. The professional

development program will continue in the new year, with a focus on providing students with transferable workplace skill development workshops to prepare them for successful work terms.

| Program | September 2023 Intake |
|--|------------------------------|
| Biology | 10 |
| Business Administration | 52 |
| Chemistry | 4 |
| Community Development | 5 |
| Computer Science | 40 |
| Economics | 1 |
| English | 1 |
| Environmental and Sustainability Studies | 8 |
| Environmental Geoscience | 4 |
| Environmental Science | 9 |
| French | 1 |
| Geology | 3 |
| History | 3 |
| Master of Math and Statistics | 1 |
| Math and Statistics | 3 |
| Nutrition | 10 |
| Physics | 1 |
| Politics | 5 |
| Psychology | 13 |
| Sociology | 4 |
| TOTAL | 178 |

MPHEC UPDATES:

- MPHEC will be assessing Acadia's program review process in 2025. This is a Stage 2 assessment; Stage 1 occurred in June 2007. The purpose is to ascertain whether Acadia has implemented its own Stage 1 recommendations and the MPHEC's Stage 1 recommendations (The MPHEC "is undertaking measures intended to ensure the continuous improvement in the quality of academic programs and of teaching at post-secondary institutions within the MPHEC scope"). We will need to begin our self-study before May 2024. In advance of the review, Acadia is working to improve its mid-point follow-up process with units and its archival processes. Links to relevant documents can be found on Acadia's Quality Assurance webpage: <https://academicplanning.acadiau.ca/welcome/program-development-and-modification/quality-assurance-monitoring.html>

They are also provided here for reference:

- Acadia's 2007 MPHEC assessment:
http://www.mphec.ca/resources/Final_ACA_Assessment.pdf

- MPHEC Quality Assurance Committee Terms of Reference:
<http://www.mphec.ca/about/advisorycommittees/quality-assurance-committee.aspx>
- MPHEC 2016 Guidelines for Quality Assurance Frameworks:
<http://www.mphec.ca/quality/ongoing-ga/guidelines-2016.aspx>
- Acadia needs to develop an MPHEC-aligned Institutional Framework for Online and Technology-Supported Learning by May 2026.

PEOPLE UPDATES:

- Six biology students and 2 professors attended the 47th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Saint John, NB. Emma-Jean Freeman was awarded a prize for the best oral presentation.
- Ten geology students and 2 professors attended the Atlantic Universities Geoscience Conference in St. John's, NL. Hayley Newell was awarded a prize for the best poster presentation.
- Dr. Edith Callaghan has been appointed Acting Director of the School of Education from 1 November 2023 to 30 April 2024.
- There are four upcoming retirements. Many thanks are due to these faculty members for their important contributions to Acadia over the course of their careers:
 - Dr. Darlene Brodeur (Psychology)
 - Dr. Heather Hemming (Education)
 - Dr. Vernon Provencal (Classics)
 - Prof. Cindy Trudel (Business, Computer Science, and Math and Statistics)

PROGRAM UPDATES:

AFRICENTRIC B.Ed

The School of Education has submitted a proposal for an Africentric B.Ed. cohort to the Delmore Buddy Day Learning Institute.

M.Ed COUNSELLING

An M.Ed in Counselling program expansion proposal has been submitted to the Department of Advanced Education.

NURSING PROGRAM

The Nova Scotia College of Nurses has approved the Acadia Nursing program as a satellite of Cape Breton University's program.

PSYD (PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORATE)

The Department of Psychology has submitted a PsyD proposal to the Department of Advanced Education.

STUDENT SURVEYS:

The Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning and LTID have created a SharePoint resource on student surveys. The site contains templates, how-to videos, links to information on student assessments of teaching effectiveness, and information on how to administer the surveys at a departmental level:

<https://acadiu.sharepoint.com/sites/projects/coursesurvey>.

TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATES:

The first New Faculty Community of Practice took place on 5 October 2023 and focused on active learning strategies. The second session, a panel of recent new faculty members, will be scheduled for mid-November.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kate Ashley
Vice-President Academic (Interim)

ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT TO SENATE – 2023

Campus-wide events in October and November include a series of research and innovation workshops and information sessions:

ACENET Training

- **October 13th** - in-person multi-session ACENET event in the Fountain Commons: **Managing Sensitive Data - Best Practices & Guidance for Research Data Management; Python Beyond the Desktop; and Using Cloud in Research**. Repeat and follow-up sessions (dates TBD) on **Research Data Management** are anticipated in the coming months.

Looking Beyond Your Horizons: Sources of Alternative Research Funding

- **October 30th - ResearchNS info session** (Fountain Commons). The COO, Marli MacNeil, presented on the various funding programs and services offered by ResearchNS, including **new, intentional research funding**. This session was well attended by researchers across many disciplines. The presentation was recorded and is available upon request to Leigh Huestis. RIGS staff were consulted on a **new student research scholarship program**, with a focus on the social sciences, currently in development by ResearchNS.
- **Rescheduled session! November 29th (starting at 12:30pm, lunch provided, Fountain Commons) with Ray MacNeil, Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI)**. This session will cover CLARI's **community research partnership funding program** and the upcoming **policy impact workshop** at SMU (hybrid, date TBD).

Women In Business: Learning From Local Leaders

- **November 15th (5:30-7:00 pm, Top Floor Patterson Hall)**, hosted by the Women in Business Society and Acadia Launchbox (for student entrepreneurs). Panelists will include **Dr. Kim Borden Penney – Women's and Gender Studies, Acadia**, Beatrice Stutz - Grand Pré Wines, Jane MacDonald - Janes Again Wolfville, Katherine McNeill – Mycaro, and Paula Milbradt – Empowermil. Panelists will discuss their entrepreneurial journeys and accomplishments, unique challenges faced by women in business, and offer advice for aspiring women.

Intellectual Property, Copyright and Generative AI: What Artists and Creatives Should Know

- **November 23rd (12:30-1:30 pm, BAC 235)**. This specialized session, to be delivered by Adam Haller (JD) from Dalhousie University, will cover what artists and creatives should know about IP and copyright generally, as well as touch on some of the legal issues arising in Canada around the use of generative AI.

EXTERNAL GRANTS TO FACULTY

Dalhousie University/NSERC Alliance – Funding Sub-Agreement - \$464,750

- **Dr. Michael Stokesbury** (Biology) will receive **\$464,750** over five years for his contributions to a NSERC Alliance project led by Dalhousie University entitled: *Understanding habitat connectivity and population structure central to the conservation of culturally and commercially valued species in Pekwitapa'qek and Pitu'pa'q*. This five-year collaborative research project will enable better stewardship of culturally and commercially valued aquatic species (gaspereau, striped bass, American eel and American lobster) and their habitats in parts of Mi'kma'ki, including Pekwitapa'qek (Bay of Fundy) and the Pitu'pa'q (Bras d'Or Lakes). The project builds on the established research infrastructure and existing partnership between the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)/Mi'kmaw Conservation Group (MCG), Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Ocean Tracking Network (OTN), Acadia University, Dalhousie University and commercial fish harvesters.

McMaster University/SSHRC– Funding Sub-Agreement

- **Mark Adam** (Music) received **\$1,927** in Year 1 funding as a co-investigator for the SSHRC Partnership Development Grant entitled: *The Canadian percussion network: A partnership to enhance percussion research, knowledge mobilization and performance across Canada*.

RESEARCH & SERVICE AGREEMENTS

Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund – Services Agreement

- **Dr. Cliff Stanley** (Earth & Environmental Science) will receive **\$6,310** as part of a Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund Prospector Grant. Dr. Stanley will oversee a student project investigating whether coarse fraction till geochemistry can be used to explore for Li-bearing pegmatites near Brazil Lake, despite the relatively thick layer of glacial till that covers bedrock in that area.

VITIS Vines Inc. – Service Agreement Amendment

- **Kendra Sampson** (KC Irving Environmental Science Centre) received an additional **\$6,000** from VITIS Vines Inc. to expand research undertaken for *Consultation and identification of optimum growth vessels for maintaining virus-tested grapevine mother plantlets in culture*.

Southwest Lobster Science Society (SLSS) – Data Use Agreement

- **Dr. Trevor Avery** (Biology) has entered into a Data Use Agreement with SLSS. The data from SLSS lobster tagging will contribute to a research project conducted by a graduate student.

OTHER AWARDS/RESEARCH FUNDING

Acadia Laboratory for Agri-food & Beverage (ALAB) - Update

In October 2023, ALAB conducted analytical testing for 22 clients in the Atlantic region (**\$6,953**). These tests are in addition to testing conducted under a \$200,000/yr Service Agreement with the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC).

RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMS – APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATES

Internal

- University Research Fund (Article 25.55) - October 15; February 1
- Harrison McCain Foundation Grants - anticipated in Spring, date TBA
- SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG) - 2014 (TBA)
- Summer undergraduate student research awards (HSRA, USRA, Donor) - February

External

- [SSHRC Insight Grants](#) (extended to the 4th) - October 1
- [SSHRC Connection Grants](#) - November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1
- [SSHRC Partnership Development Grants](#) - November 15
- [SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants](#) - June 15, September 15, December 15 and March 15
- [NSERC Research Tools and Instruments](#) - October 25
- [NSERC Discovery Grant](#) - November 1
- [NSERC Alliance \(partnership\) Grants](#) – Open Call
- [Canadian Foundation for Innovation \(CFI-JELF\)](#) - October 15, February 15, June 15
- [NS Habitat Conservation Fund](#) - October 15
- [MITACS](#) (student and post-doc internships; various programs) – Open
- [CLARI \(Change Lab Action Research Initiative\)](#) – Open Call
- [Research NS](#) – note new “Intentional” Research Funding - Open Call (contact RIGS for additional information)

November 2023 is the last month of my administrative term in RIGS (appointed in 2017). Dr. Suzie Currie will then commence as Interim Associate VP Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies. Please welcome Suzie as she returns to Senate in December in a research-focused leadership role.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Redden, PhD

Associate VP Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies

ACADIA STUDENTS’ UNION REPORT TO SENATE – NOVEMBER 13, 2023

No announcements received as of November 13, 2023.

ACADIA DIVINITY COLLEGE AND FACULTY OF THEOLOGY REPORT TO SENATE – NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Dr. Anna Robbins recently visited Acadia's affiliated college Bethel Bible Seminary in Hong Kong and spoke at their graduation, the last with a cohort of Acadia University graduates.

Dr. Danny Zacharias has been appointed full Professor of New Testament Studies by the ADC Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the ADC President, following a process of evaluation by the faculty review committee.

Dr. Wing Yi (Grace) Au, Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies, has published *Paul's Designations of God in Romans*, Mohr Siebeck, 2023.

**Awards Committee
Senate Transition Report
November 13, 2023**

Dear Senators,

The Awards Committee operates on a regular cycle of soliciting nominations for honorary degrees and Emeriti distinction, followed by evaluation of the nominees and finally, providing recommendations to Senate.

The 2023-2024 Awards Committee membership is as follows:

- Jeff Hennessy (President)
- Xiaoting Wang (Faculty of Arts)
- Heather Hemming (Faculty of Professional Studies)
- Lisa Price (Faculty of Pure and Applied Science)
- Anna Robbins (Faculty of Theology)
- Erin Patterson (Librarian/Archivist)
- Henry Demone (Governor or Senator)
- Sadie McAlear (Student)

A public call for honorary degree nominations was sent to the Acadia community on September 13, 2023. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2023.

A public call for Emeriti distinction nominations was sent to the Acadia community on October 17, 2023. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2024.

The Committee will meet early in the new year to review the submissions, with the goal of Senate receiving recommendations for honorary degree recipients at the February 2024 meeting and Emeriti nominations at the following March 2024 meeting. The Committee also intends to review the Guidelines for Professor Emeritus Nominations.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Hennessy, Ph.D. (he/him)
President and Vice Chancellor

By-Laws Committee
Senate Transition Report
6 November 2023

| Membership (3) | Representative | Retirement | Replacement | Period |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 Arts (Senator) | Jeffrey Sachs (Secretary) | 2025 Repl. | Jesse Carlson Sabb | 2023-4 |
| 1 Prof. St. (Senator) | Vacant | 2026 | | |
| 1 P&A Sc. (Senator) | Michael Robertson (Chair) | 2024 | | |
| 1 Theology (Senator) | Danny Zacharias | 2025 | | |

Duties:

(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.

Activity:

The committee met Nov. 1, 2023, and Michael Robertson was elected Chair. Jeffrey Sachs was elected Secretary.

The committee's mandate was reviewed.

The committee is planning on meeting monthly, or as needed, either in person or virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Robertson

Chair

Curriculum Committee (Administrative)
Senate Transition Report
October 25, 2023

Membership:

Chair of Curr. Comm. (Policy): Roxanne Seaman
Registrar: Mark Bishop
Dean of Libraries and Archives (Acting): Jennifer Richard
Arts: Vacant
Arts: Vacant
Prof. St.: Jennifer Tinkham
Prof. St.: Ashley Doyle
P&A Sc.: Andrew Mitchell
P&A Sc.: Allison Walker
Theology: Chris Killacky
Student: Vacant
Invited Guest: Shawna Singleton

Chair: Allison Walker

Meeting dates for the upcoming year: The SCC Admin will meet in December (tentatively Dec. 6th and 7th) and/or January, as well as additional dates as needed.

Meeting modalities for the year: Teams

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.

SCC (Admin.) goals for the year:

1. Curriculum changes submitted by faculties
2. Review of forms

Submitted on behalf of Committee,
Mark Bishop

**Disability Policy Committee
Senate Report
November 6, 2023**

Membership:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Gillian Haste | Accessibility Resource Facilitator (ex-officio) |
| Marissa McIsaac | Manager, Accessible Learning Services (ex-officio) |
| Mark Bishop | Registrar (ex-officio) |
| Anna Wilks | Arts |
| Kelly Brenton | Professional Studies |
| Stephanie Jones | Science |
| Shawna Peverill | Theology |

Chair: Kelly Brenton

Meeting Dates:

The committee met on November 2, 2023. This committee will meet a minimum of twice during the academic year, with the next meeting being held during the Winter semester (TBD).

Duties of the Committee:

The Senate Disability Policy Committee monitors the implementation of the Acadia University's Disability Policy, conducts an annual review of the Disability Policy and if necessary, recommends Senate amendments to the policy, and deals with any other matters which Senate might refer to the Committee. The Committee also regularly receives reports from Accessible Learning Services on the number of students registered, trends that are emerging, feedback on any policy changes, and development of future and ongoing plans for the department. The Committee is also named in the University's Accessibility Plan 2030 and continues to monitor the progress toward established goals within the document.

Reviewing the Disability Policy (2015) and supporting the ongoing efforts of Accessible Learning Services, along with any identified goals as a part of the Accessibility Plan 2030 will be the Committee's focus during this academic year.

Submitted by:

Kelly Brenton
Chair

**Faculty Support Committee
Transition Report
1 November 2023**

Membership

| | |
|--|---|
| 1 Provost & VP Academic (or designate) | Lauren Finniss (designate) ex-officio |
| 1 Association of Atlantic Universities FDC rep | Darcy Benoit ex-officio |
| 1 Coordinator of Academic Technologies | Shelly Vaughan ex-officio |
| 1 Arts 2023-2024 | Rachel Brickner 3 yr 2025 <i>Repl. Jamie Sedgwick Sabb</i> |
| 1 Prof. St. | Michelle Boyd 3 yrs 2024 |
| 1 P & A Sc. | Darcy Benoit 3 yr 2026 |
| 1 Theology | Stuart Blythe 3 yr 2024 |
| 1 Librarian/Archivist | Agnieszka Hayes 4 yr 2026 (<i>Repl. In Jan 2024</i>) <i>Repl. Heather Saunders Aug 2023 Feb 2024</i> |
| 1 Student | Ben Morris 1 yr 2024 |

Mission Statement:

To contribute to the success and development of Acadia University Faculty in teaching, use of academic technologies, and overall professional development

The duties of the committee are:

- (1) to advocate for teaching and learning resources for faculty
 - (2) to collect input from all stakeholders to develop and submit policy recommendations to Senate regarding academic technologies
 - (3) to collect faculty ideas and develop suggestions to meet faculty development needs
 - (4) to promote teaching excellence on campus and aid in the selection processes for the submission of Acadia faculty for internal and external teaching awards
 - (5) to consider matters as Senate may from time to time entrust to the Committee
-

The Faculty Support Committee met on 2 October 2023 and 1 November 2023. The committee agreed to meet monthly, with additional meetings scheduled if needed (next scheduled meeting is for 23 November 2023, 10:30am to 12pm). Meetings will be hosted in a hybrid format.

The Committee agreed to work on the following items this year:

1. In accordance with duty #1, deliver presentation to the Board on February 8, 2024, sharing "A Day in the Life of an Academic"

2. In accordance with duties #2 and #3, conduct a survey of faculty on use of educational technologies in their classes. The objectives of the survey would be to:
 - a. Create an inventory of tools and applications currently being used across campus
 - b. Identify costs associated with the technology for students and the institution
 - c. Identify gaps where faculty would like to utilize technology if it were made available
 - d. Ask faculty members to report on potential barriers to accessibility created by using the technology
3. In accordance with duty #4, provide a recommendation for the creation and design of an internal teaching award program that provides faculty members, at various stages of their career, the opportunity to receive university-wide recognition and lay the foundation for applications to external teaching awards

Senate Graduate Studies Committee Fall 2023 Transition Report to Senate

Membership for 2023/2024: Associate VP Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies (ex-officio):
Anna Redden / Suzie Curie (as of Dec)

1 Program Coordinator (Psychology) A. Champod ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Biology) M. Mallory ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Comp Sci) E. Shakshuki ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (English) K. Pinder ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Education) G. MacKinnon ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Educational Studies, PhD) L. Aylward ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Political Sci) C. Mutlu ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Comm. Dev) M. Sweatman ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Sociology) S. Rudrum ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Math/ Stats) F. Mendivil ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Geology) S. Barr ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Enviro. Sci) N. O'Driscoll ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Chemistry) N. Faraone ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Theology) S. Blythe ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Applied Geomatics) M. Snyder ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Social & Political Thought) A. Biro ex-officio
1 Program Coordinator (Applied Kinesiology) C. Shields ex-officio
1 Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee (non-voting) ex-officio (in discussion with By-Laws Cttee)
1 Graduate Student (Arts) Allie Delaney 1 yr
1 Graduate Student (Prof. St.) Jesse Demaires-Smith 1 yr
1 Graduate Student (P&A Sc.) Tristan Murray 1 yr
1 Graduate Student (Theology) TBD 1 yr
Chair: Anna Redden (up to end November); Suzie Currie (commencing December)
Support: Theresa Starratt, Graduate Studies Officer

The first meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee was held via Teams on 10 October. The Chair referred the members to the Terms of Reference and Graduate Program Coordinator Duties.

Meeting frequency and mode: Given the large size of the Committee, meeting mode will be Hybrid or via Teams, with 1 or 2 full committee meetings per semester, plus subcommittee meetings for scholarship/award competitions and other activities as needed. Graduate curriculum changes and minor items are normally reviewed and approved via e-mail.

Goals and priority activities for the coming year:

- Review all proposed graduate program changes and any new proposals prior to Senate review.

- Sub-Committees to adjudicate graduate student external scholarship applications (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, ResearchNS, NS Provincial) and the Acadia Outstanding Master's Research Awards.
- Update policies, coordinator roles, practices (e.g., in cases of student-supervisor conflict), guides (e.g., thesis defence), Outstanding Master's Research Award evaluation criteria, and various forms.
- Examine year-to-year trends in graduate student enrollment, retention and completion rates, opportunities with the Maple League, and make recommendations where needed.
- Faculty committee members and both full-time and part-time graduate students to review and provide feedback on the current draft policy and progress report form to document and track the progress of part-time students. Following Senate approval, implement the part-time graduate student policy and progress reporting.
- Identify and support professional development activities for graduate students.
- Promote, support and celebrate graduate student research.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Redden, Chair Associate VP Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies

Senate Honours Committee Fall 2023 Transition Report

Committee Membership for 2023/24:

| | |
|--|---|
| AVP Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies: Anna Redden to 30 Nov, Suzie Currie from 1 Dec (ex-officio) | Registrar: Mark Bishop (ex-officio) |
| Arts: Andrew Davis (Chair; 2023-24) | Arts: Becky Casey |
| Prof. Studies: Michelle Boyd | Prof. Studies: TBD (in process) |
| P&A Science: Ying Zhang | P&A Science: Morgan Snyder |
| Honours Student (Arts): TBD (in process) | Honours Student (Prof. St.): Julianna LeBlanc |
| Honours Student (P&A Science): April Sharpe | |

The first meeting of the Senate Honours Committee for 2023/2024 was held via Teams on 30 October 2023. Dr. Andrew Davis was elected as chair. Committee members were deputized to search for student representatives to alleviate the burden of asking the ASU. The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and the 2022/2023 annual report to Senate in which there were recommendations for the current year. One of the highlights for Honours students to date was the Honours Student Research Showcase held on 18 September. This well-attended event was organized by Sociology graduate students, Molly Sutherland and Allie Delaney, with support from the Office of Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies.

Meeting frequency and mode: Meeting mode will default as remote (Teams); in-person or hybrid as needed. Several meetings around the committee's standing annual business of awarding Honours Summer Research Awards, other meetings as needed as this committee transitions through changes in the Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies office.

Goals and priority activities for the coming year:

- Review draft amendments to the duties of the Terms of Reference and send finalized version to the By-Laws Committee for review and approval.
- Review and update institutional policies and guidelines associated with the Honours program and make recommendations to Senate where needed.
- Review available academic unit Honours program guidelines with the aim of identifying practices that may assist departments where guidelines are lacking or limited.
- Undertake the adjudication of applications for Honours Summer Research Awards (HSRA). The application form, process (e.g., transcript submission), and criteria and metrics for evaluation of applications will be reviewed and revised where needed.
- Strengthen interest by undergraduates in pursuing Honours research.
- Celebrate Honours research activities and outcomes (possibly in collaboration with a graduate student research symposium in Winter).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Davis, Chair

**Senate Research Committee
Fall 2023 Transition Report to Senate**

Membership for 2023/2024:

Associate VP Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies (ex-officio): Anna Redden / Suzie Curie (as of Dec)
Arts Faculty: Can Mutlu
Professional Studies Faculty: René Murphy
P&A Science Faculty: Mojtaba Kaviani
Theology Faculty: Spencer Boersma
Librarian: Ann Smith
Canada Research Chair: Lesley Frank
Director of Research Centre (or Institute): Michael Stokesbury
Graduate Student: Molly Sutherland
Undergraduate Student: Samantha Munroe

Chair: Anna Redden (up to end November); Suzie Currie (commencing December)

Support: RGS staff – Jessica Bradley and Dr Peter Ludlow

The first meeting of the Senate Research Committee was held on 31 October. The Committee membership, Terms of Reference and the 2023 Spring Annual Report to Senate were reviewed. Updates included the September submission of the Institutional Research Data Management Strategy (located on RIGS web pages), the Maple League Research Committee Retreat (held at Acadia in late June), and the Honours student research showcase (mid-September).

Meeting frequency and mode: In person and/or Teams; full committee to meet twice per semester, plus working group meetings for specific activities, as needed.

Goals and priority activities for the coming year:

- Consider and respond to the Research Data Management training and resource needs for faculty), noting that Acadia now subscribes to a data repository (Borealis, via the Library).
- Review and provide feedback on suggested updates to Acadia's Strategic Research Plan (SRP).
- Provide advice/feedback on research policy and make recommendations to Senate where needed.
- Foster research collaboration, networking and mentorship.
- Contribute to activities to celebrate and promote student and faculty research.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Redden, Chair
Associate VP Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies

**Research Ethics Board
Senate Transition Report
November 13, 2023**

RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD TRANSITION CHAIR REPORT, 2023–2024

Committee membership: Rebecca Casey (Arts), Michael Jeffrey (Community), Stephanie Jones (PAS), Cheri Killam (Community), Ryan MacNeil (FPS), Stephen Maitzen (Chair), Melody Maxwell (Theology), Anna Redden (RGS, *ex officio*)*, Shon Whitney (Community), Graduate Student Representative (TBA)*

* non-voting

Schedule of meetings (in person): September 5, October 5, November 2, December 7, January 10, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7

Goals and priorities: The timely review of research ethics applications and amendments in accordance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement, Second Edition (TCPS2), and the resolution of any other issues that arise with respect to the ethics of human-subjects research at Acadia

Committee Chair for upcoming year: Stephen Maitzen

Submitted by: Stephen Maitzen (Transition Chair)

**Report of the ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee
October 4th, 2023**

Current committee membership (alphabetical):

- Kate Ashley, VP Academic (Interim)
- Mark Bishop, University Registrar (guest)
- Corinne Haigh, Dean, Professional Studies (Chair)
- Matt Lukeman, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pure and Applied Science representative
- Benjamin Morris, VP Academic for the Acadia Students' Union
- Rob Raeside, Dean, Pure and Applied Science (Interim)
- Maggie Neilson, Vaughan Memorial Library
- Roxanne Seaman, School of Kinesiology, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee (Policy)
- Janna Wentzell, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Professional Studies representative
- Ian Wilks, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts representative
- Brian Wilson, Department of Biology

This report is intended to provide Senate with an overview of this committee's work to date, and to share information related to a Nursing Program at Acadia University, as curated by this committee.

The ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee has met three times since the July meeting of Senate (July 20th, September 15th, September 25th).

Updates on approvals required

- Satellite Program: CBU has secured approval from both the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR) and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) to deliver their program at a satellite location (Acadia). Approval is still needed from the Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN). As with previous proposals, CBU is the lead on this submission with Acadia providing supporting information as needed. to deliver their program at a satellite location (Acadia)
 - A copy of the MPHEC submission was shared with the ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee

Recruitment and admissions

- We currently have 23 direct entry students admitted to the program.
- We did not meet our target with regard to designated seats. Only 1 of 21 seats is filled by a student who is Mi'kmaq, Indigenous, and/or African Nova Scotian.

- We will continue to work with CBU who have developed extensive expertise in recruitment of designated groups. We will also build on existing community partnerships and explore new partnerships in Western Nova Scotia.
- The Nursing program was represented at the Open House on September 28th. An information session was led by our partners from the CBU School of Nursing (Steve Iduye and Sue Venter), with an introduction to this inter-institutional partnership by the Dean of Professional Studies. These colleagues also participated in the academic program fair.
- There will be no opportunity for Direct Admission at Open House events as students need to write the Casper test before applying and being admitted.

Academic orientation

- Students were block registered into their 1st year classes over the summer.
- An orientation event for incoming nursing students took place on September 5th and was a very positive event, led by our partners from the CBU School of Nursing (Steve Iduye and Sue Venter), with an introduction to this inter-institutional partnership by the Dean of Professional Studies.

Curriculum submissions

- There has been some discussion of a revisiting of the purpose/focus of the Committee. In the long term, it may become an advisory committee for the Nursing Program. This discussion will continue as we move through this next academic year and any change in mandate would be brought to Senate for discussion and approval.
- In the short-term, it was agreed that the ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee will serve as the “academic unit” when it comes to the passing of curricular changes. As the School of Nursing is within the Faculty of Professional Studies, the ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee will review curriculum documents for presentation and approval by the Planning Committee in the Faculty of Professional Studies (FPS), followed by FPS Council, the Senate Curriculum Committee, and then Senate. The committee will invite CBU representatives to participate in this committee, and to support our discussion of these curriculum submissions.
 - Initially, existing CBU practical and clinical courses need to be adopted and approved. At a later stage, Acadia can develop our own program with additions and changes to the curriculum.
 - The committee will next meet to discuss curriculum documents the week of Oct. 16-20, and will start by prioritizing courses for terms 3-5.
- The committee has begun some discussion of placements, including how far from campus these should be. Students in other programs (e.g., School of Nutrition and Dietetics) are placed in Bridgewater, Yarmouth and Kentville. Housing may be a challenge for students in placements.

Infrastructure and equipment

- It is anticipated that Emmerson Hall will serve as a site for the pilot program for a few years.
- Acadia is planning on building a new facility for the Nursing School which might serve other programs on campus as well.
- Marcel Falkenham, Executive Director of Facilities and the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre, is working with counterparts at CBU on both of these projects.

- A list of Nursing specific equipment has been created for purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Haigh
Chair, ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee
Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies

Senate Motion on Online and Technology-Supported Learning

Whereas by May 2026, all Maritime universities are required to have developed and submitted to the MPHEC an institutional framework for online and technology-supported learning that is aligned to the MPHEC's [Guidelines for Institutional Frameworks for Online and Technology-Supported Learning](#);

Whereas between May 2024 and May 2025, MPHEC will follow up with universities to check on the development of online and technology-supported learning frameworks in order to identify if there are areas of the MPHEC Guidelines that are particularly challenging to put in place and, as a result, may need to be modified;

Whereas MPHEC has requested that each institution review and update relevant policies and practices to align with their new framework and submit to the Commission a copy of their framework and confirmation of Senate (or equivalent) approval;

Whereas until May 2027, universities will be required to submit a program proposal to change an existing approved in-person program to online delivery or maintain an existing approved in-person program online post pandemic if the program is being presented to students or advertised as being fully online (or online plus a work-integrated learning experience that may or may not be online), whether this be on the university's website, in the academic calendar, in its marketing material, etc.;

Whereas starting in May 2027, once each Maritime university has had its framework vetted by the MPHEC and implemented internally, it will no longer be required to submit a program proposal to change an existing in-person program to online delivery;

It is moved that the Senate Faculty Support Committee will make recommendations on developing an institutional framework for online and technology-supported learning and will report back to Senate by the March 2024 meeting.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Microcredentials

Current Membership: Kate Ashley, Benjamin Morris, Lisa Price, Christianne Rushton, Jeffrey Sachs (chair), Danny Zacharias, layperson (vacant)

Past Membership: Dale Keefe, Dianne Looker, Sadie McAlear, Lisa Price, Christianne Rushton, Jeffrey Sachs (chair), Danny Zacharias

Duties:

1. To examine the matter of microcredentials from the perspective of Senate;
2. To determine the role of Senate in the creation and on-going supervision of micro-credential programs;
3. To determine whether these programs fall under the jurisdiction of an existing standing committee or whether a new standing committee needs to be created.

The committee met on May 9, 2023 via Teams. Present were Dale Keefe, Dianne Looker, Sadie McAlear, Lisa Price, Christianne Rushton, Jeffrey Sachs, Danny Zacharias, and Benjamin Morris (non-voting).

Jeffrey Sachs was elected as Chair and the agenda was accepted by the committee. The committee's mandate was reviewed and discussed.

The committee met again on October 30, 2023 in hybrid Teams/in person format. Present were Kate Ashley, Lisa Price, Christianne Rushton, Jeffrey Sachs, and Danny Zacharias.

At each meeting, committee members expressed concern that without Senate oversight, the quality of microcredentials could be quite low, tarnishing Acadia's reputation and harming students. Members cited the Professional Certificate in Maritime Security as one example of a microcredential that was established without Senate oversight. There was also some concern that microcredentials could, over time, expand to the point of encroaching on core course offerings from academic units.

Based on a review of microcredentials in other post-secondary institutions and as described in the Microcredential Framework developed by the Nova Scotia government, the committee identified three general characteristics of microcredentials that distinguish them from certificates, degrees, and diplomas: 1) They recognize a level of competence or proficiency in a specific skill or narrow area of knowledge; 2) They do not confer academic credit; and 3) They do not appear on a student's academic transcript. The committee noted that many universities offer microcredentials through their Departments of Continuing Education. A survey of programs at other universities revealed no consistent role for faculty senates in the creation or oversight of microcredentials, but a rule-of-thumb appears to be that wherever a university's act of incorporation vests in senate the authority to set educational policy, that institution's senate will

have oversight over microcredentials. Roughly half of all Canadian universities with microcredential programs vest oversight in their faculty senates.

At the October 30th meeting, it was decided that governance of microcredentials falls under “educational policy” as defined in Acadia’s Act of Incorporation. Therefore, the committee unanimously determined that all policies related to the creation, approval, discontinuance, and oversight of microcredentials fall under Senate’s authority. The committee also unanimously determined that these responsibilities ought to be vested in the Board of Open Acadia Committee, though multiple members of the committee proposed that perhaps the composition of the Board of Open Acadia Committee would need to be altered to ensure appropriate microcredential governance.

In a subsequent email exchange, the committee members agreed that microcredentials offered through the Acadia Divinity College should be administered separately by the college’s senate.

The committee drafted and unanimously supports a proposed motion for consideration by Senate to this effect, which is included below.

Motion on Microcredentials

Whereas the Senate of Acadia University has directed this committee to examine the matter of microcredentials from the perspective of Senate jurisdiction, and to determine the role of Senate in the creation and on-going supervision of microcredential programs;

And Whereas the committee was directed to determine whether these programs fall under the jurisdiction of Senate, and if so, whether they fall under the jurisdiction of an existing standing committee, or whether a new standing committee needs to be created;

And Whereas the provincial government has established a Microcredential Framework, which emphasizes the importance of developing a process to ensure quality assurance;

***It is moved that* all microcredential programs offered by Acadia University, as defined in this motion, fall under the jurisdiction of Senate.**

***Furthermore, it is moved that* all policies related to the creation, approval, discontinuance, and oversight of microcredential programs be vested in the authority of the Board of Open Acadia Committee, excepting those offered by the Acadia Divinity College. These policies shall be presented to the Senate for approval.**

***Furthermore, it is moved that* the Board of Open Acadia shall present annually to Senate a report containing details of these programs, including but not limited to information regarding the creation, elimination, or redevelopment of microcredential programs, registration and completion rates, and participant feedback.**

Definitions:

A microcredential is a certification offered by Acadia University that:

- Recognizes a competency or skill earned through a short-duration or applied learning experience that aligns with sector, employer, profession, community, or learner needs;
- Involves a formal assessment that participants have achieved a level of competence or met a particular standard of performance;
- Includes a Letter of Completion that verifies that the learner has achieved a level of performance in completing all tasks as part of the microcredential program that would indicate proficiency; and
- Does not confer on the learner any credit nor contribute toward the completion of an Acadia University certificate, degree, or diploma.

Proposed Policy on Institutional Neutrality for the Board of Acadia University

Part of the mission of Acadia University is to “promote a robust and respectful scholarly community” and to “inspire a diversity of thinkers.”

In order to fulfill this mission, the University is committed to a principle of institutional neutrality. It does not, as an institution, adopt or articulate a position on the issues of the day. Were the University to take sides on important matters of public concern, it would threaten the conditions of free and open inquiry necessary for a diversity of thought and the robust exchange of ideas.

This principle of institutional neutrality does not require that the University remain silent in every instance. On certain occasions, when a matter arises that directly affects the institution or the broader educational and scholarly community of which it is a part, it may be appropriate for the University to articulate its values. However, such occasions must be narrowly construed, and any opinions expressed must be carefully phrased. Moreover, when such occasions arise, the University must also endeavor to reflect the broad consensus of its members and respect principles of shared governance.

The neutrality of the University as an institution should not be misconstrued as a lack of courage or indifference toward matters of public concern. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is precisely because the University values so highly its duty toward the public that it commits itself to this principle.

Lastly, this principle of neutrality is binding on the University as a corporate institution, but it does not affect those who are properly engaged in the educational and scholarly enterprise. This includes students, faculty, outside speakers and guests, and members of the broader community. Such individuals are encouraged to speak out whenever and however they feel is appropriate, while still respecting the mission of the University.

**Academic Planning Committee (APC)
Report to Senate
6 November 2023**

Membership:

Vice-President Academic: Kate Ashley
Dean, Faculty of Arts: David Duke
Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies: Corinne Haigh
Dean, Faculty of Pure & Applied Science: Rob Raeside
Dean, Libraries and Archives: Jennifer Richard
Faculty, Faculty of Arts: Paul Abela
Faculty, Faculty of Professional Studies: Janna Wentzell
Faculty, Faculty of Pure & Applied Science: Jeff Banks
Faculty, IDST Program: Donna Seamone
Student: Benjamin Morris

The Academic Planning Committee met on 6 November 2023.

At its meeting, the committee requested/recommended:

- That Deans consult with their units and, if unit heads/directors/coordinators so desired, invite APC members to discussions of faculty position rankings;
- That Deans solicit feedback from their units on the unit plan document and report back to the committee by the January APC meeting;
- That units submit their plans to Deans by 1 June, and that Deans submit faculty plans to the APC by 1 July, to allow time for review by the APC during its summer meetings.

The committee determined that the following were priorities for its own work this year:

- Whether to split or combine tenure-track and instructor position requests
- To clarify the role of budget information in unit plan documents

The APC also identified the following as academic priorities for 2024-2025:

- Increased support for student Teaching Assistants (low cost, but high impact on program delivery and student experience)
- Student resilience and the transition from high school to first-year university
- Accessibility and universal design in teaching
- Increased program support to maintain currency with professional and/or industry standards (e.g., equipment; technology/software for pedagogical use; lab consumables)
- Open entry degrees (e.g., General B.A., General B.Sc.) so students don't need to declare a major from the outset.

The APC meets again on 7 December 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ashley, Chair