

Office of the Senate Secretariat

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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 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 11th, 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 November 13th, 2023

3) Announcements and Communications

- a) Chair (*A. Kieft*) ([attached, page 3](#))
- b) President and Vice-Chancellor (*J. Hennessy*) ([attached, page 4](#))
- c) Vice-President Academic (*K. Ashley*) ([attached, pages 5-7](#))
- d) Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies (*S. Currie*) ([attached, pages 8-11](#))
- e) Vice-President Student Experience (*S. Duguay*) ([attached, pages 12-16](#))
- f) Acadia Students' Union (*S. McAlear and B. Morris*)
- g) Acadia Divinity College and Faculty of Theology (*A. Robbins*) ([attached, page 17](#))
- h) Other announcements

4) Transition Reports from Senate Subcommittees

- a) Scholarships, Prizes and Awards Committee (*S. Landry*) ([attached, page 18](#))
- b) Senate Curriculum Committee (Policy) (*M. Bishop*) ([attached, page 19](#))

5) Old Business

- a) 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 20-22](#))

- b) Discussion item: Policy on Institutional Neutrality (J. Hennessy) ([attached, page 23](#))
- c) Academic Planning Committee Report (K. Ashley) ([attached, page 24](#))

6) New Business

- a) Motion on Master of Arts in Theology Degree Parchments: “It is moved that Senate approve the designations on the degree parchments for the Master of Arts in Theology as proposed.” (A. Robbins) ([attached, page 25](#))
- b) Motion on Bethel Bible Seminary MOU Dissolution: “It is moved that Senate approve to dissolve the 1997 MOU with Bethel Bible Seminary of Hong Kong, providing a period of four years, concluding the Fall graduation of 2027, where current students may exchange their Bethel Bible Seminary degree parchments for the equivalent Acadia University degree parchments.” (A. Robbins) ([attached, page 26](#))
- c) Motion on course title and description change: “It is moved that Senate approve the amended course titles and descriptions as submitted by the Acadia Divinity College and Faculty of Theology.” (A. Robbins) ([attached, page 27](#))
- d) Motion: “It is moved that all curriculum changes submitted by the Graduate Studies Committee be approved as submitted, including changes to EDUC 50D3, EDUC 5053, EDUC 5633, EDUC 5843, EDUC 5960, EDUC 5966, the M.Ed. admission requirements, and the M.Ed. dismissal policy modification.” (*curriculum forms circulated to Senators separately*)

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

SENATE CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SENATE – DECEMBER 2023

Meeting regrets, late arrivals, early departures, and guest attendance will be announced verbally at the meeting.

At the January 2024 meeting of Senate, we will be experimenting with the meeting agenda/flow. Senate Executive would like to try introducing a new section of the agenda, the **Consent Calendar** section. In this section, we will include approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, receipt of written announcements from members of Senate, receipt of reports from Senate committees, and any other routine or noncontroversial items. At the beginning of this item, a motion will be made to approve all items in this section of the agenda. Discussion and questions related to this section will take place prior to approving this portion. The intent of this is to enable a more efficient flow to the meeting. Senators will know in advance which items are in that section, and Senators may ask for any items to instead be moved into another section of the agenda either in advance or at the meeting. After we try this in January, Senators will be asked for feedback about how it worked and we will decide whether we will try this practice again at future meetings.

Consent Calendar Section in “Order of Business” portion of Robert’s Rules of Order, 11th Edition, page 361:

Consent Calendar. Legislatures, city, town, or county councils, or other assemblies which have a heavy work load including a large number of routine or noncontroversial matters may find a consent calendar a useful tool for disposing of such items of business. Commonly, when such a matter has been introduced or reported by a committee for consideration in the assembly, its sponsor, or, sometimes, an administrator, may seek to have it placed on the consent calendar. This calendar is called over periodically at a point established in the agenda by special rule of order, at least preceding standing committee reports. The matters listed on it are taken up in order, unless objected to, in which case they are restored to the ordinary process by which they are placed in line for consideration on the regular agenda. The special rule of order establishing a consent calendar may provide that, when the matters on the calendar are called up, they may be considered in gross or without debate or amendment. Otherwise, they are considered under the rules just as any other business, in which case the "consent" relates only to permitting the matter to be on the calendar for consideration without conforming to the usual, more onerous, rules for reaching measures in the body.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORT TO SENATE – DECEMBER 2023

Common Application Portal

The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) initiated discussions last year on the idea of creating a common university applications portal for Nova Scotia Universities, similar to Ontario (OUAC). Universities (including Acadia) were surveyed regarding potential impacts. The benefits to Acadia would mainly centre around enhanced data gathering, and there may be some additional revenue potential (though this is unclear). The main risk to Acadia would be in the potential loss of personalization and direct control over some aspects of the application and enrolment process. CONSUP has committed to supporting a feasibility study and analysis report.


NDA Pledge

Acadia will be signing the following pledge initiated by the public advocacy group *Can't Buy My Silence*: “Acadia University commits to not using Non-Disclosure Agreements to silence people who come forward to raise complaints of sexual harassment, abuse or misconduct, or other forms of harassment and bullying.” Acadia and the University of King’s College will be the first two universities in Nova Scotia to sign this pledge, and we will each announce this simultaneously. This will not completely prohibit the use of confidentiality agreements as there are many cases where they remain appropriate, but the pledge will prohibit the university from forcing the use of these as a means of silencing victims.

PVPA Search

[The job advertisement for the *Provost and Vice President Academic* role](#) has now been posted and we will begin receiving applications immediately with the aim for a July 1, 2024 start date. This role will no longer include recruitment, enrolment management, and student services as part of its portfolio as this accountability now falls with the VP Student Experience. The designation of *Provost* is meant to amplify this role as the Chief Academic Officer of the university, accountable for the university’s mission (academic). I want to thank the members of the search committee for their excellent work to date on this important search process. The process follows the [Board Guidelines for the Appointment and Review of Senior Academic Officers](#).

Respectfully submitted,



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

VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – DECEMBER 2023

ACADEMIC UPDATES:

- Science Atlantic held its annual board meeting at Université de Moncton in November, attended by the deans of 15 Atlantic Canada universities. The organization approved some significant changes in its bylaws and reviewed the highlights of its recent 60th anniversary celebrations.

ARTICULATION AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

- The School of Education is restarting its 4-month B.Ed. Shanghai Practicum in February. The practicum has been in place since 2002 but has been paused since the pandemic.
- Acadia has entered cooperation/articulation agreements with the following institutions and programs this fall. These are designed to increase international mobility and exchange opportunities and to supplement Acadia's on-campus course offerings:
 - The American College of Greece (5-year student exchange agreement)
 - Anadolu University (Turkey) (5-year cooperation agreement)
 - NSCC Community Recreation Diploma Program (5-year 2+2 agreement with Acadia's Bachelor of Community Development)
 - University of Plymouth (England) (5-year student exchange agreement)
 - U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (1 year renewing archeology project partnership agreement)

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

- A space in the Library has been renovated so that it can be used as an alternate testing location for students with accommodations. This is to address the growing complexity of scheduling alternate test sites.
- The Access 2023 Conference was held 23-25 October at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax. Jennifer Richard, Acting Dean of Libraries and Archives, was the conference chair and treasurer, and she was supported by a broader committee of librarians from Dalhousie, St. Mary's, StFX, MSVU & NSCAD. Access is Canada's premier library technology conference bringing librarians, technicians, developers, programmers, and managers together to discuss cutting-edge library technologies. Access is a single stream conference featuring in-depth analyses, panel discussions, poster presentations, lightning talks, and a hackfest. Keynote speakers included Stacey Allison Cassin from Dalhousie who shared reflections on disruption with a focus on the National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance's Respectful Terminology project, and the David Binkley Memorial Lecture was presented by former Acadia colleague and scholar Cynthia Bruce, who is now an Associate Professor of Music Therapy and Chair of the Department of Creative Arts Therapies at Concordia University in Montreal. Maggie Neilson, Academic Librarian, presented at the conference, moderating and contributing to a session on the importance of accessibility in our physical and digital spaces.

PEOPLE UPDATES:

- Amanda Peters, of the Department of English and Theatre, and one of Acadia's recent cluster hires, has won the 2023 Barnes and Noble Discover Prize for her novel *The Berry Pickers*. According to B&N,

The Discover Prize shortlist is a new prize that celebrates the very best new authors, elevating the joy of spotting fresh voices early on in their careers. Barnes & Noble booksellers have been reading hundreds of debut authors to narrow down to the six books that make up this year's shortlist. Spanning historical fiction, works of mind-bending realities and harsh truths, equal parts painstakingly tragic and beautiful - these stories have permanently imprinted into our hearts, minds and bookshelves.

- Mark Mallory and Carolyn Mallory were inducted as Fellows of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), for their work on research, art, education and ambassadorship for Arctic Canada.
- Rob Raeside retired as secretary of the CCCESD (Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments), a position he has held for about 27 years. The CCCESD maintains communication among the Earth Science departments, collects statistics on enrolment, and engages with NSERC, CFI and other funding agencies on behalf of the university Earth Science community. He is succeeded by Deanne van Rooyen, conveniently maintaining CCCESD records at Acadia University.
- Sarah Pittoello (Counselling), Liesel Carlsson (School of Nutrition and Dietetics) and Katherine Eckert (SND grad) have all contributed chapters to *the Routledge Handbook of Sustainable Diets*, which is the handbook of importance to policy makers, researchers, educators, business leaders, and change agents working to accelerate the pace towards food sustainability and social stability. The book launch is on 8 December 2023.
- Acadia graduate Hayley van Kroonenburg has been appointed Associate Registrar. This appointment fills a significant gap in the Registrar's Office.
- Suzie Currie has begun her term as interim Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies, a role she will occupy until June 30, 2024.
- Jeff Hooper has been appointed interim Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.
- The Mathematics & Statistics and the Computer Science division held their student conference at UPEI in October.
- The Atlantic Universities Geoscience Conference was held at MUN in October. Acadia student Hayley Newell was the winner of the Imperial Oil Best Poster Award at the AUGC and Keaton Markham and Jonathan Koulouras were the winners of the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists Challenge Bowl, which will result in them participating in the national competition in Calgary in May.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

M.Sc in COMPUTER SCIENCE

A program modification of the M.Sc in Computer Science has been submitted to the MPHEC. The modification is to add a project-based and a course-based option to the M.Sc.

M.Ed. in COUNSELLING and M.Ed in CURRICULUM

Program modifications for these M.Ed programs have been submitted to the MPHEC. The modifications formalize both the thesis and course-based routes, which were approved by Senate in 1999 but never sent to MPHEC.

TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATES:

- Plans are underway to renovate two spaces in the Library to be used by the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning for teaching development workshops and initiatives.
- A call for proposals for the Teaching and Learning Enhancements Awards (TLEA) has gone out to faculty with an application deadline of February 8, 2024. With a maximum value of \$2500 each per project, these awards will help support initiatives to enhance the quality and creativity of teaching at Acadia University. Last year's call funded 4 projects:
 - M. Lynn Aylward (Education) - The Case of Luke Elwood
 - Dan Blustein (Psychology) - Interactive learning demonstrations in large enrollment introductory psychology class
 - Eva Curry (Mathematics and Statistics) - Acadia Open Calculus Resources
 - Conor Vibert (Business) - Enhancing the Attractiveness of Casenet for Instructors and Case Competitions

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kate Ashley
Vice-President Academic (Interim)

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

Associate VP Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies Report to Senate – December 2023

It has been a busy month for the Acadia RIGS team. December's report includes our faculty's many successes with internal and external grants, research, and service agreements, as well as other awards and research funding. Congratulations! Our **Office of Industry and Community Engagement (ICE)** hosted several engaging, well-attended events on Intellectual Property and alternative funding opportunities as well as the annual *Harvest-End Breakfast*, co-hosted breakfast with Horticulture NS. Thanks to ICE for also hosting a wonderful meeting and campus tour for the XXV Joint Commission for Regional Cooperation between the Territorial Collectivity of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and the Canadian Atlantic Provinces. Acadia's **Launchbox** shared learnings from local leaders with a stimulating Women in Business Event.

Finally, warm thanks to Dr. Anna Redden, the outgoing Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies for her inspired leadership and dedication over the past six years+!

INTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED TO FACULTY

Acadia University Research Fund (Article 25.55) Fall Competition; Total Awarded = \$76,070 (N=17)

- **Dr. Trevor Avery** (Biology) - *Overwintering Grounds: Annapolis River Small-bodied and Juvenile Fish Surveys* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Iain Beaton** (Mathematics & Statistics) - *Distributions of Dominating Sets* - **\$5,000.**
- **Dr. Kim Borden Penney** (Women's & Gender Studies) - *An Innovating Balancing Act: Canadian Black Engineers Sector Experiences* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Lydia Bouzar-Benlabiod** (Computer Science) - *Adding interpretability and explainability to 'Black Box' Artificial Intelligence models for X-Ray images classification* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Michelle Boyd** (Music) - *The Singing IN Flanders Fields Project: Perspectives of a Student Composer* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Rachel Brickner & Dr. Rebecca Casey** (Politics & Sociology) - *The Experiences of Retail Workers in Nova Scotia in the Shift from the Worst of the COVID-19 Pandemic* - **\$4,092**
- **Dr. Rabindra Chaulagain** (Sociology) - *Nepali Healthcare Workers in Nova Scotia: Navigation of Pre- and Post-Migration Experiences* - **\$3,000**
- **Dr. Nicoletta Faraone** (Chemistry) - *Behavioural and neuropharmacological investigation of psilocybin using fruit flies as model* - **\$4,861**
- **Dr. Chelsea Gardner** (History & Classics) - *Digital Media and Online Resources in Ancient Mediterranean Teaching* - **\$5,000**

- **Dr. Kirk Hillier** (Biology) - *Development and testing of novel acaricides and repellent compounds* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Emily Lockhart** (Sociology) - *The Regulation of Space and the Criminalization of the Unhoused: Experiences from Rural Nova Scotia* - **\$3,236**
- **Dr. Foroogh Mohammadi** (Sociology) - *Race and Racialization in the Atlantic Cities: The Everyday Negotiation of Boundaries of Belonging among the Second-Generation Immigrant Youth from the Middle East* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Alicia Noreiga-Mundaroy** (Community Development) - *Beyond the University's Walls: Black University Students' Experiences Fostering Connections with their University's Town* - **\$4,849**
- **Dr. Matthew Orr** (Psychology) - *CyberNurturers or Digital Distractors: Unraveling the Influence of Streaming Video on Young Minds* - **\$3,867**
- **Dr. Dawn Ryan** (Psychology) - *Episodic simulation in older men and women: The role of verbal and scene construction abilities* - **\$2,305**
- **Dr. Natalie Swain** (History & Classics) - *Narrative in Ovid's Amores: Comic's Theory, Elegy, & Segmentary Narrative* - **\$5,000**
- **Dr. Deborah Toope** (Education) - *Engaging in culturally responsive teaching and learning literacy practices within rural Nova Scotia* - **\$4,860**

EXTERNAL GRANTS TO FACULTY

Dalhousie University/Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network– Funding Sub-Agreement

- **Dr. Jennifer Tinkham** (Education) received **\$15,000** in funding as a Co-investigator for the project entitled: *Wabanaki-Labrador Indigenous Health Research Network*. Dr. Tinkham is the academic supervisor for PhD student, Ashley Julian. As part of the Kausattumi Student Grants Program (Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network), a Kausattumi Doctoral Scholarship is awarded to Ashley to undertake community informed and supported health research that serves to benefit Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada.

RESEARCH & SERVICE AGREEMENTS

Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia – Services Agreement

- **Dr. Andrew McIntyre** (Computer Science) will receive **\$24,480** for Phase 3 of the project entitled: *Advanced Prototype Development with Deep Learning Neural Networks and Pre-trained SOTA (State-of-the-Art) Models*.

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute Inc. – Collaboration Agreement

- **Dr. Emily Bremer** (Kinesiology) received **\$63,835** in funding for the “*International Study of 24-Hour Movement Behaviours in the Early Years: The SUNRISE Main Study*”. The World Health Organization (WHO) identified the prevention of obesity in young children as one of its key priorities for the 21st Century. In response, the SUNRISE International Study of Movement Behaviours in the Early Years was developed. The primary aim of this study is to examine the proportion of 3- and 4-year-old children who meet the WHO Global Guidelines for physical activity, sedentary and sleep behaviour for children under the age of 5.

OTHER AWARDS/RESEARCH FUNDING

Springboard Atlantic – Innovation Mobilization Funding – Industry Engagement

- Acadia’s Office of Industry & Community Engagement) was awarded **\$1,573** for the “*Harvest End Breakfast 2023*” event held on November 16, 2023, in partnership with Horticulture Nova Scotia.
- Acadia’s Office of Industry & Community Engagement was awarded **\$5,000** for the “*Scotia Horticultural Congress 2024*” reception and banquet that will be hosted on campus on January 22, 2024, in partnership with Horticulture Nova Scotia.

OTHER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Launchbox Event - Women in Business: Learning From Local Leaders

- **November 15th** (Top Floor Patterson Hall) – In partnership with the student Women in Business Society, Launchbox, Acadia’s student entrepreneurship centre, hosted a panel presentation to discuss entrepreneurial journeys and accomplishments, and the unique challenges faced by women in business. The panelists included Dr. Kim Borden Penney (Women and Gender Studies, Acadia), Beatrice Stutz - Grand Pré Wines, Jane MacDonald - Janes Again Wolfville, Katherine McNeill – Mycaro, and Paula Milbradt – Empowermil. It was an extremely successful event that will be followed by a much larger event later this Spring.

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

- **November 23rd** (BAC 235) - This special session was hosted by Acadia’s Office of Industry & Community Engagement, and delivered by Adam Haller, JD from Dalhousie University. This popular presentation covered what artists and creatives should know about IP and copyright generally, including legal issues arising in Canada around the use of generative AI.

Looking Beyond Your Horizons: Sources of Alternative Research Funding - CLARI

- On November 29, 2023, Acadia’s Office of Industry & Community Engagement (ICE) hosted the second information session in the Looking Beyond Your Horizons: Sources of Alternative Research Funding Series. During this session, Ray MacNeil, Network Manager, Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI), joined us to present information about CLARI’s community research partnership funding program. This session was very well attended by faculty, staff and students (20+) from many disciplines.

Harvest End Breakfast Event with Horticulture Nova Scotia

- On November 16, 2023, the **Office of Industry & Community Engagement (ICE)**, together with Horticulture Nova Scotia hosted the annual “*Harvest End Breakfast*” event that attracted almost 40 attendees, including members from Horticulture NS, government and not-for-profits, SMU, NSCC various Acadia’s faculty members and students. Dr. Zoë Migicovsky (Biology) and Dr. Clarissa Sit (Saint Mary’s university) presented recent research relevant to the agriculture sector.

Meeting and Campus Tour for the XXV Joint Commission for Regional Cooperation between the Territorial Collectivity of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and the Canadian Atlantic Provinces

On November 21, 2023, Acadia's Office of Industry & Community Engagement (ICE) hosted a meeting and campus tour for approximately 50 delegates from the Federal Government, including the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and Saint-Pierre and Miquelon (SPM), including the Prefect, Mr. Bruno Andre, and the Honorary Consul of France in Halifax, Mr. Robert-Yves Mazerolle. The delegation was welcomed by Dr. Kate Ashley, and then followed by a presentation by Leigh Huestis to provide highlights about Acadia's success/innovation in the agriculture sector. Dr Danny Silver (Acadia Institute for Data Analytics) and Dr. Zoë Migicovsky (Biology) also presented. This was followed by a campus tour to further highlight Acadia's applied research initiatives in agriculture, including a visit to the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and the Huestis Innovation Pavilion (ALAB and the AgriTech Lab).

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) - 2024 (TBA)
- Summer undergraduate student research awards (HSRA, USRA, Donor) – February

External

- SSHRC Insight Grants - 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)

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Suzie Currie

Interim Associate VP Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies

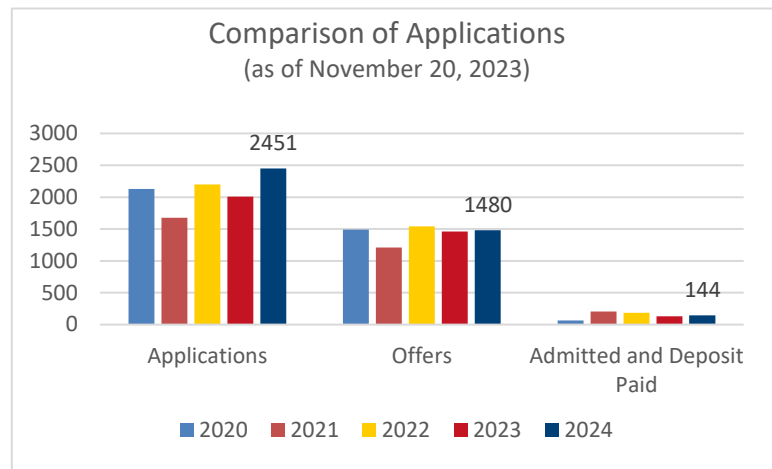
VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT EXPERIENCE REPORT TO SENATE – DECEMBER 2023

Enrolment Statistics

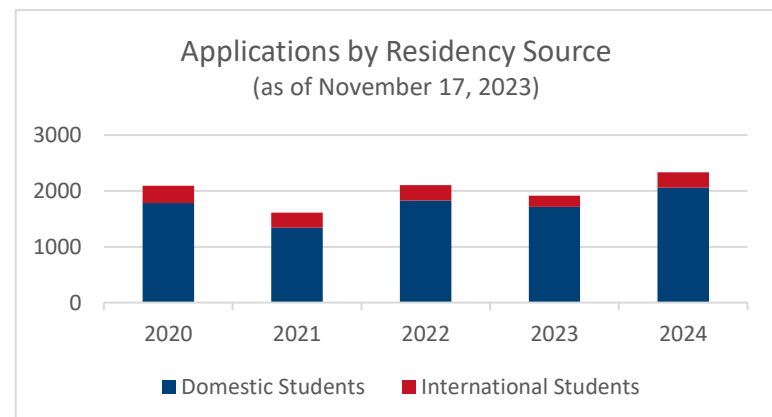
The enrolment plan calls for sustaining domestic enrolment and returning international students to pre-pandemic levels, the combination of which will bring enrolment to 4,000 students a year. Recruitment teams (both domestic and international) are actively working to recruit the next class of Acadia students using a variety of strategies. Both teams are now fully staffed with a combination of returning Enrolment Advisors and strong leadership.

Total Applications

The number of new student applications received by this point in the calendar cycle is the highest it has been in recent years, although it is important to note that the Nursing program has generated over 200 applications. At 2,451 applications for Fall 2024, Acadia has generated 22% more applications over last year at this point in time.

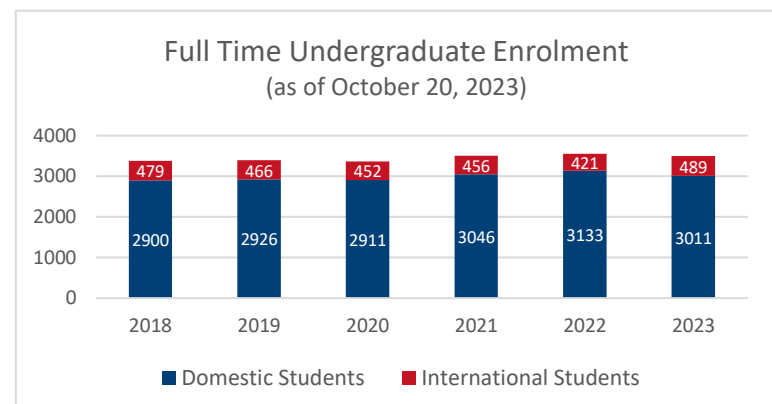


Applications from international students tend to be received in the later part of the admissions cycle. At present, 276 applications have been received from international students.



Total Enrolment

Full-time undergraduate enrolment remains at approximately 3500. The number of international students studying at Acadia this year is the highest in available data.



January 2024

The application cycle for January 2024 has now closed. A record number of international students (196 as of November 17) have been admitted for the winter semester. Current Government of Canada study permit processing wait times are at approximately 11 weeks. Acadia staff will continue to support these students to ensure as many as possible are able to begin their studies in January.

Fall 2023 Open Houses

Two successful open houses were hosted by the recruitment and campus events team in September and October. The October event reached registration capacity 11 days before it took place, which necessitated careful planning by the event teams. For future years, additional events will be added and, ideally, one will be hosted on a Saturday. This allows for flexibility for the participants and the event planner. The number of new student applications resulting from the open house was strong, including approximately 35 for the new nursing program.

	September Open House	October Open House
Students Registered	221	398
Students Attended	153	291
Total Guests (students & family)	249	553
Did not attend	68	107

Admissions

The Admissions Office is up to date on all application processing and offers. The first round of nursing offers will be sent out by the second last week of November after a meeting with Cape Breton University. Bachelor of Education admissions have opened with a great deal of interest.

Admissions staff are receiving training from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on the new study permit process and how universities will be involved.

INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES HIGHLIGHTS

There are many strategic initiatives designed to address priorities related to new student recruitment and retention of current students. A sample of these activities is described here to highlight the strong focus on offering a high-quality student experience for those studying at Acadia.

One Stop Shop Project Update

The final report by consultant, Nous Group, was presented to the Senior Leadership Team in a workshop in November. The Leadership Team will now be meeting to discuss the proposed next steps for this project. The working team is continuing to meet with other universities on best practices for implementation and to learn from their experience.

Data Management Plan

One of the cornerstones of effective enrolment planning is having access to timely, reliable, and consistent information to support Acadia's enrolment goals. To this end, team members from Enrolment Management and Technology Services are working on a project to develop a series of dashboards which will display data from student information systems. These dashboards will allow university staff to track progress on enrolment goals and find areas for action. This tool will allow information to be easily filtered on a variety of student attributes (age, admission decision, home region, reason for attending, etc.) and discover areas where greater support may be needed. This will be used for both the recruitment/admission phase and ongoing student persistence phase.

Domestic Student Recruitment

The fall recruitment travel season is now beginning to slow after several very busy months. As of November 15, 2023, Enrolment Advisors had attended 201 school fairs and made 59 independent school visits across Canada over the last three months. In-person evening events were hosted for parents and students in Ottawa, Calgary, Victoria, and Vancouver in early November. Additional events will be held in Saint John & Moncton later in November and in Charlottetown & Fredericton in the first week of December.

The planning for Experience Acadia Day is underway and this landmark event will be hosted on February 23, 2024. This event is a major conversion activity that brings students to campus to experience a day in the life of an Acadia student. Enrolment Advisors will also be travelling throughout Canada in the winter months to host a version of Experience Acadia on the road.

The team is working closely with Prep Academy, focused on creating paths to post-secondary education for African Descent students in Nova Scotia, with a new initiative this fall where we will be bussing 54 students to campus. The event was originally scheduled for October but the Academy asked for it to be moved to November. The event will include campus tours, a mock lecture, lunch at Wheelock and programming with Janique Ellis, African Descent and Indigenous Student Opportunity and Success Coordinator.

International Student Recruitment

Throughout fall 2023, International Enrolment Advisors have travelled to 21 countries for recruitment activities. Staff with Acadia International have held extensive meetings with agents to discuss Fall 2024 targets and ensure the terms of their recruitment contracts are clear. These conversations have been productive, and agents have expressed appreciation for clear targets and a coordinated plan around recruitment events, marketing, school visits, and market visits by Acadia personnel. Additional work is being done to improve Acadia's online recruitment presence abroad through enhancement to our partnership with IDP, the world's largest international student placement company. Acadia International continues to build on existing partnerships and agreements by completing partner visits by having at least one meeting with six partner institutions this fall.

International Student Support Programming

Additional investments have been made in programming by the Wong International Centre (WIC) so we can offer a more vibrant student experience and engage more students, both international and domestic. Feedback has been very positive and engagement has been high. Most recently, 100 international and domestic students participated in a WIC-hosted event (Taco Night). The WIC will also be hosting cultural nights over the next few months. A different culture will be celebrated each time, with students from that culture helping to organize the food, music and activities, and all students are invited to participate. This year there will be a full winter orientation schedule, much the same as the fall orientation, with involvement and representation from all parts of campus.

Exchange / Study Abroad

Global learning opportunities are considered a high-impact educational practice that are beneficial to university students and result in increased persistence and student engagement. The Acadia program has evolved beyond its very humble beginnings. There is an intentional focus on personal development through pre-departure workshops that explore living abroad, immersion in different cultures, and self-reflection that questions what students expect to gain personally and academically. The Coordinator also meets personally with all incoming exchange students, holds welcome activities with them, elicits feedback regarding processes and their experiences, and holds a group activity involving all visiting and outbound exchange students.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Just over \$364,000 has been disbursed so far to 113 students through the awards application process for students who applied by October 13. The next deadline is January 31. Bursary applications have slowed for international students but continue to come in from domestic students. 219 applications have been received so far this year. 63% of the Acadia bursary budget has been allocated to students with unmet need. The deadline is January 31.

Health, Counselling & Accessible Learning

These units continue to offer extensive individual services to students daily and offer a suite of programming including:

- Mental Health Week held on November 13-17 in partnership with The Wong International Centre and the Acadia Mental Health Initiative.
- Brain Health Rewards night held on Nov 14.
- A Meningitis B vaccine clinic held on Nov 8.
- 6-week mindfulness group taking place from Oct 17–Nov 30.
- Accessible Learning hosts test-taking strategies workshop on Nov 15, Self-Care workshop on Nov 20, and a test-taking workshop on Nov 24.

Residence & Student Life

As of November 20, 2023, there are 1336 students in residence for the Fall 2023 term. There are currently 1354 students with bookings for the Winter 2024 term in residence.

The Student Support Advising has grown to include three staff working to help students navigate the academic and non-academic landscape of the University. On-campus student conduct issues are down significantly from the previous three years. Off-campus, there have been zero incidents referred to the University by the Town of Wolfville during the Fall 2023 term, marking the longest period with no referrals since the MOU was signed.

Under the new Community Development Model, the Residence Life team has provided over 216 educational, social, and developmental events for students in residence since the start of the Fall 2023 term.

Brand and Marketing

At the beginning of October, a bi-weekly student newsletter was launched, which provides students with a cohesive and consolidated overview of upcoming events, resources, and key information they need to know. To elevate brand awareness and reach Acadia's target audience where they are, Acadia partnered with Cineplex to launch a 30-second showtime video ad, which ran specifically before the Taylor Swift movie over four weeks in Ontario & Atlantic Canada.

Building relationships with the African Descent community is a key priority for Acadia and the recruitment team. To support these efforts, the marketing team has created tailored recruitment material that is more visually representative and highlights Acadia's campus services that are of particular interest to this community.

Staffing Changes (since the October 2023 Board Report)

Adam Detienne has moved from his prior role as Coordinator, Student Advising to fill the new Manager, Student Support position.

Sheri Donovan has joined the domestic recruitment team in the role of Campus Tour and Event Coordinator. Sheri will be working a 16-month contract to cover a maternity leave. Sheri brings a wealth of knowledge, including extensive managerial and event planning skills. She will be a great resource as she takes over the executive of all on-campus recruitment efforts, manages the student ambassadors, and operates the campus tour program.

Charles Douglas has moved from his prior role as Residence Life Coordinator to fill the Coordinator, Student Advising role.

Lexie Henderson has joined the Residence & Student Life Department in the role of Residence Life Coordinator.

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

No announcements received as of December 8, 2023.

ACADIA DIVINITY COLLEGE AND FACULTY OF THEOLOGY REPORT TO SENATE – DECEMBER 2023

Dr. Anna Robbins recently visited Acadia's affiliated college Faculté de Théologie Évangélique (FTÉ) in Montreal.

Acadia Divinity College hosted the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Learning Community for Decolonization and Innovation in Theological Education. Funded by the Lilly Endowment: Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative, this project is a partnership between NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community, Acadia Divinity College, Tyndale University, and Ambrose University.

Dr. Melody Maxwell, Associate Professor of Christian History, has published *Baptists and Gender: Papers for the Ninth International Conference on Baptist Studies*. Co-edited with Laine Scales. (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2023).

**REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS, PRIZES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (SPAC)
DECEMBER 2023**

SPAC COMMITTEE CHAIR

Scott Landry will chair the committee to Fall 2024.

MEETINGS DATES

The committee will meet remotely via Teams.

The committee met via Teams on December 1, 2023

Additional meetings for the 2023-2024 year are expected to be held in:

February 2024

March 2024

April 2024

The Awards and Appeals Committee of SPAC will also meet remotely, as needed.

PURPOSE AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEE

The committee reviewed the purpose and duties below. No changes were made.

1. To decide policy and process by which recipients of scholarships, prizes, bursaries, scholar-bursaries, awards, and convocation medals are to be selected and to gather all information it considers necessary for the selection;
2. To select the recipients of undergraduate entrance scholarships, prizes and awards and some in-course scholarships, prizes, and awards;
3. To periodically review the scholarships, prizes and awards program and to recommend improvements (increased funds, new scholarships, more prizes, etc.) to those involved in the program;
4. To promote interest in the scholarship program;
5. To consider such other matters as the Senate may from time to time entrust to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Bird
Secretary

Scott Landry
Chair

**REPORT OF THE SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (POLICY)
December 2023**

Membership:

Prof Studies: Roxanne Seaman

Arts: Kim Borden Penney

Chair of Curriculum Committee (Admin.) : Allison Walker

Dean of Libraries and Archives (Acting): Jennifer Richard

Pure and Applied Science: Jeff Banks

Registrar: Mark Bishop

Theology: Chris Killacky

Student: Vacant

Chair: Roxanne Seaman

Meeting Modality for the year: Teams

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

- 1) to investigate innovative and alternative methods of provision of undergraduate curriculum, and to make recommendations to Senate concerning such methods.
- 2) to develop policies to ensure that undergraduate curriculum is consistently provided and administered across faculties and to make recommendations to Senate concerning such policies.
- 3) to ensure that the implementation of Senate approved policies for undergraduate curriculum is managed, revised, evaluated and disseminated in a coherent and coordinated fashion.
- 4) to collaborate with the Curriculum Committee (Administrative) to ensure the maintenance of an appropriate structure for the consideration of curricular changes.
- 5) to consider such matters as Senate may from time to time entrust to the Committee.

SCC (Policy) goals for the year:

1. Minors
2. Nomenclature project
3. Nursing program.

Dec. 11th next meeting set via Teams at 11:30am.

Submitted on behalf of Committee.

Mark Bishop

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 to the public that the learner has achieved a level of performance in completing all tasks as part of the microcredential program that would indicate proficiency;
- Does not confer on the learner any credit nor contribute toward the completion of an Acadia University certificate, degree, or diploma; and
- Is not a learning activity offered by academic or administrative units of Acadia University to employees for the purposes of professional development, training, or other similar opportunities.

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

Senate Motion on Master of Arts in Theology Degree Parchments

Approved by ADC Senate on November 27, 2023

Preamble: In 1978 the Senate of Acadia University approved the Master of Arts in Theology (MAT) degree for Acadia Divinity College. Since that time, the MAT has grown into the wider disciplines broadly covered by the label theology, such as biblical studies, Christian history, practical theology, and chaplaincy.

In April 2022, the Senate of Acadia University approved a set of program outcomes that specify certain specializations within the Master of Arts in Theology delivered by Acadia Divinity College:

- Specialization in Biblical Studies
- Specialization in Theology
- Specialization in Christian History
- Specialization in Practical Theology
- Specialization in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care
- Without specialization

To date, the printing of degree parchments for graduates has not reflected their specialization.

It is moved that Senate approve the following designations on the degree parchments for the Master of Arts in Theology:

- **Master of Arts in Theology (Biblical Studies)**
- **Master of Arts in Theology (Christian Theology)**
- **Master of Arts in Theology (Christian History)**
- **Master of Arts in Theology (Practical Theology)**
- **Master of Arts in Theology (Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care)**
- **Master of Arts in Theology (without specialization)**

Bethel Bible Seminary MOU Dissolution

Approved by ADC Senate on November 27, 2023

Preamble: Bethel Bible Seminary has had an MOU with Acadia University to award joint degrees since 1997, a relationship that has been stewarded by Acadia Divinity College on behalf of the University.

In April of 2023, the Education Bureau in Hong Kong informed Bethel Bible Seminary that they could no longer offer joint degrees. Beginning in 2024, Bethel Bible Seminary will award only their own degree parchments.

ADC is keen to conclude this relationship well and in a way that honours the work of the 110 current Bethel Bible Seminary students in the programs who were expecting joint degrees. Our proposal has been discussed with the Vice-President Academic and the Registrar of Acadia University. The provision would allow the 110 current Bethel Bible Seminary students (the list of names has already been submitted by Bethel Bible Seminary) to exchange their Bethel degree parchments for Acadia University degree parchments, upon request, until the Fall graduation of 2027.

It is moved that Senate approve the dissolution of the 1997 MOU with Bethel Bible Seminary of Hong Kong, providing a period of four years, concluding the Fall graduation of 2027, where current students may exchange their Bethel Bible Seminary degree parchments for the equivalent Acadia University degree parchments.

Acadia Divinity College- Course Title and Description Changes

Approved by ADC Senate on November 27, 2023

Current Course Titles:

CHUR 4013 Baptist History and Polity
CHUR 6013 Baptist History and Polity

This course is a survey of Baptist history and of Baptist principles and polity. Baptist principles and polity flow from both Baptist history and their distinct theological interpretations drawn from Scripture. Students will learn to understand both the past and the present of the people called Baptists. This course will satisfy the history and polity ordination requirement within the Canadian Baptist context.

Proposed Course Titles:

CHUR 4013 Baptist Identity
CHUR 6013 Baptist Identity

Baptist identity has arisen over more than four hundred years through a variety of local and global factors. In this course, students will explore the history, polity, distinctives, relationships, and contemporary issues that shape Baptist identity today. This course will satisfy the history and polity ordination requirement within the Canadian Baptist context.

It is moved that Senate approve the amended course titles and descriptions as submitted by the Acadia Divinity College and Faculty of Theology.