

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 Senators:

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, March 10, 2025. 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) Approval of Minutes

- a) Approval of the Senate meeting minutes of February 10, 2025
- b) Approval of the Special Senate meeting minutes of February 26, 2025

3) Consent Calendar Items

- a) Announcements and Communications
 - i. Chair (*A. Kieft*)
 - ii. President and Vice-Chancellor (*J. Hennessy*) ([attached, page 3-4](#))
 - iii. Provost and Vice-President Academic (*A. Cunsolo*) ([attached, pages 4-17](#))
 - iv. Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies, Interim (*K. Ashley*) ([attached, page 17](#))
 - v. Vice-President Student Experience (*S. Duguay*) ([attached, pages 17-20](#))
 - vi. Acadia Students' Union (*Y. Gahlot and S. Taylor*) ([attached, page 21](#))
 - vii. Acadia Divinity College and Faculty of Theology (*A. Robbins*) ([attached, page 21](#))
 - viii. Other announcements

4) Other Business

- a) Motion: That the Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning Excellence be added to the Academic Program Review Committee (APRC). (*J. Carlson*) ([attached, page 22-23](#))
- b) Motion: Motion to approve the curriculum changes within the Politics program received from the Senate Curriculum Committee (Administrative). (*M. Coombs*) ([attached, page 24-29](#), Detailed forms circulated separately)

- c) Motion: Motion to approve the curriculum changes within the Certificate in Democratic Leadership, Physics, Kinesiology, and Languages and Literatures and Law and Society programs received from the Senate Curriculum Committee (Administrative). (*M. Coombs*) ([*attached, page 30-35*](#), *Detailed forms circulated separately*)
- d) University Governance and Advanced Education in Nova Scotia (*J. Hennessy*)
- e) Academic impact of disbandment of the varsity swim teams (*G. Gibson*)
- f) Liberal Arts Education, Liberal Education, Applied Liberal Education – What do these terms mean to Acadia?
- g) Other items

5) Adjournment

Sincerely,

S. Pineo,
Recording Secretary of Senate and University Secretary



Announcements and Communications

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 2025

Bill 12

The Minister of Advanced Education tabled a new bill on February 19, 2025 in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly titled [Bill 12: An Act Respecting Advanced Education and Research](#). The bill is awaiting second reading. Highlights of the new proposed legislation include:

1. **Restructuring of university Boards of Governors.** Boards will now have a maximum size of 30 with up to half of the Governors appointable by the Minister. The bill stipulates that the university President, at least one faculty member, and at least one student must be included in the new board structure. Additional details will be worked out through the regulations process.
2. **NSCC will now be degree granting.** While not unusual in other provinces with strong college systems, this is new territory for Nova Scotia. Early communications on this have emphasized that NSCC degrees will be targeted to specific labour-market disciplines and geographical locations.
3. **Minister may ask for plans.** Universities may be required to provide a plan that contributes to meeting provincial priorities.
4. **Revitalization Plans.** The bill amends [The Universities Accountability and Sustainability Act](#) to allow the Minister of Advanced Education to initiate a “revitalization plan” and allows the withholding of funds if a university fails to comply with the requirement.

We are engaging the Minister and Departmental staff to determine the intentions of the new legislation and its implications for Acadia, and to gain intelligence on any forthcoming legislation that may impact the university sector further.

SD Engagement Sessions

An introductory session for the Strategic Direction was held on February 26 with nearly 200 people in attendance either in person or virtually. Thank you to everyone who attended and who offered valuable questions and feedback. Four more engagement sessions have been planned in the Fountain Commons, one for each of the four pillars of the Strategic Direction Document.

Campus Culture: March 7 at 12pm

Strategic Academic Planning: March 25 at 2pm

EDI-AR for Growth and Achievement: April 3 at 11am

Financial Health and Sustainability: May 5 at 1pm

I look forward to engagement from Senators during and following these sessions as we make plans for realizing the strategic vision: *“To be recognized as the premier institution in Canada for delivering an exceptional applied liberal education, which emphasizes the knowledge, skills, and leadership to tackle key global issues through academic and experiential learning.”*.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey J. Hennessy, Ph.D.

President

PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 2025

Happy March, and happy almost Spring! The longer days and increased sun is so very welcomed at this time of year, and gives a sense of renewed energy and purpose.

Well, the last few weeks have certainly been interesting, and I know a lot of you are following the news around Bill 12 and its implications for Nova Scotia Universities closely. We are too! I am meeting with all the Faculties and the Libraries and Archives the first week of March discuss Bill 12 and its implications, and to answer any questions that people have.

Just a reminder that the updates from the Faculties and the Library and Archives each month will consist of high-level, strategic, time-sensitive, and/or important updates for most months moving forward. In December and May, aligning with the timing of Faculty Councils, each Faculty and Research Services from the Library and Archives will submit a more detailed report highlighting key events, achievements, and updates.

Strategic Academic Programming

I. Strategic Academic Planning

- **Strategic Academic Planning Working Group:** Strategic academic planning sessions are beginning in March with student open houses in each of the faculties and for graduate students, and with an all-are-welcome official launch and brainstorming sessions on **Tuesday, March 25th, 2025** (rescheduled from February 26 due to weather-related changes). The individual faculties and programs are also starting their own discussions on opportunities moving forward. Stay tuned for more information as the work begins, including opportunities to: join one of the *ad hoc* working groups; participate in multiple opportunities to provide your feedback and ideas; and provide feedback on drafts as they come available. There will be multiple and iterative opportunities for feedback and engagement from students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community partners over the coming year. Everyone has an important role to play in this very collaborative and iterative strategic planning process, and we look forward to hearing your ideas and working with everyone throughout this process.
- **Acadia Institute for Health and Wellness:** Recognizing the ongoing crisis in the healthcare system in Nova Scotia and the systemic inequities in access to care in rural and Indigenous regions, the Acadia Institute for Health and Wellness is being created to bring together our diverse expertise in health and wellness-related research to support complex challenges in the province. Partnerships and funding are currently being secured, with the aim of launching the Institute in May 2025. This Institute will better position Acadia to make significant contributions to the health and wellness of Nova Scotians, increase our funding and revenue opportunities, and position Acadia as a key research lead in the region. This exciting initiative is being led by Dr. Jonathon Fowles, with support from the Office of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies, researchers from across campus, and a wide range of academic and community partners.
- **Partnerships with Other Universities:** Conversations with the Provosts of the other liberal arts and smaller universities in Nova Scotia are ongoing to look for opportunities to share resources, support and collaborate on programs, connect on research, and support faculty and student awards.
- **Academic Program Partnerships with Indigenous Organizations, particularly the Nursing Program:** We continue to work with the Tajiikeimik Health Authority on opportunities to collaborate, especially within the Nursing Program and opportunities to co-develop curriculum, support Mi'kmaq and Indigenous student recruitment and retention, increase education around Indigenous health leadership and create wrap-around supports for Mi'kmaq students. Zabrina Whitman, Executive Advisor on L'nu Affairs and Indigenousization met with all Mi'kmaq educator directors and staff at Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey at their Board Meeting in December to further discuss

opportunities to work with Acadia. Zabrina also attended a meeting with all 13 Health Directors on January 13, 2025. A Nursing curriculum working group is being created, and work is underway.

II. Enhancing Academic Policies, Procedures, and Processes

Work is ongoing under the following key areas, with the goal of streamlining processes and enhancing accessibility:

- Establishing a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Process:** Mark Bishop, Registrar, is continuing to work on the PLAR document and combine information he gathered from his trip to University of New Brunswick in December, with the aim of bringing it to Senate in April 2025. This is an important new process for Acadia and will enhance our accessibility moving forward.
- Additional Academic Policy Enhancements & Adjustments:** Under the leadership of Mark Bishop, Registrar, we are also looking to streamline and enhance existing academic policies related to GPA Alignment and Transfer Credits, to better support students, staff, Heads/Directors, and Deans. Conversations and work on these processes are ongoing. Additional analysis of all academic policies at Acadia is underway to align and streamline processes.
- Enhancing EDI-AR, Indigenization, and Accessibility:** There is also ongoing work with the AVP Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism, the Office of L’nu Affairs and Indigenization, and the Academic Program Development, Quality Assurance, and Planning offices on enhancing policies and procedures. This includes important work on anti-racism.
- Strengthening Program Development, Quality Assurance, and Planning:** Under the leadership of Shawna Singleton, work continues to strengthen Acadia’s overall program development, review, and accreditation processes. We currently have 6 site visits planned for January to May 2025, with several other self-studies finalized and submitted to plan for 2026. Below is an ongoing and upcoming review status report, as of February 28, 2025.

Department	Concurrent with Accreditation	Status
Biology	N/A	<p>Site Visit: February 10-12, 2025. <i>Site visit completed</i> External Reviewers: Dr. Jillian Detwiler, Associate Professor, Associate Head Graduate, Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba</p>

		<p>Dr. Andrea Morash, Associate Professor, Biology Department, Mount Allison University</p> <p>Internal Reviewers: Dr. Deanne van Rooyen, Associate Professor, Assistant Department Head, Earth and Environmental Science Dr. Daniel Blustein, Associate Professor, Psychology</p> <p>Stage: Awaiting final report.</p>
Community Development	N/A	<p>Site Visit: March 19-21, 2025.</p> <p>External Reviewers: Dr. Tim O’Connell, Professor, and Chair, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, Brock University Dr. Erin Austen, Professor and Chair, Psychology Department, St. Francis Xavier University</p> <p>Internal Reviewers: Dr. Jamie Sedgewick, Associate Professor and Interim Head, History and Classics Dr. Chris Shields, Professor, School of Kinesiology</p> <p>Stage: Finalizing arrangements for site visit.</p>
Computer Science	Yes	<p>Request for accreditation review submitted to CIPS.</p> <p>Stage: Department working on CIPS Self-study report.</p>
Economics	N/A	<p>Site Visit: September 25-27, 2024. <i>Site visit completed</i></p> <p>External Reviewers: Dr. John Galbraith, Professor, Department of Economics, McGill University Dr. Jonathan Rosborough, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, St. Francis Xavier University</p> <p>Internal Reviewers: Dr. Andrew Biro, Professor, Department of Politics Dr. Peter Williams, Professor, Department of Physics</p> <p>Stage: APRC response to Senate.</p>
Bachelor of Education	Yes	<p>Site Visit: April 1-3, 2025.</p> <p>Stage: Finalizing itinerary for site visit.</p>
English and Theatre	N/A	<p>Site Visit: February 5-7, 2025. <i>Site visit completed</i></p> <p>External Reviewers: Dr. Siobhain Bly Calkin, Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, Carleton University Dr. Roberta Barker, Carnegie Professor, University of King’s College, Professor of Theatre Studies, Dalhousie University</p> <p>Internal Reviewers: Dr. Michael Dennis, Professor, History and Classics Department, Interim Head, Languages and Literatures Dr. Paula Rockwell, Instructor, School of Music</p> <p>Stage: Awaiting final report.</p>

Graduate Studies	N/A	<p>Site Visit: March 3-5, 2025. External Reviewers: Dr. Katerina Standish, Vice-Provost, Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies, University of Northern British Columbia Dr. Francis LeBlanc, Vice-recteur adjoint à la recherche et doyen, Université de Moncton Internal Reviewers: Dr. John Colton, Professor and Head, Department of Community Development Dr. Emily Bremer, Professor and Canada Research Chair, School of Kinesiology Stage: Self-study documentation sent to reviewers.</p>
Languages and Literatures	N/A	<p>Stage: Meet with Department Head to discuss next steps.</p>
Library and Archives	N/A	<p>Site visit: April 2-4, 2025. <i>Site visit completed</i> External Reviewers: Karen Keiller, Dean of the Library, MacEwan University Donald Moses, University Librarian, University of Prince Edward Island Internal Reviewers: Dr. Mo Snyder, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Science Dr. Juan Carlos López, Instructor II Biology, Assistant Dean EDI Faculty of Science, Director of Teaching and Learning Maple League of Universities Stage: Self-study documents expected for March APRC meeting.</p>
Mathematics and Statistics	N/A	<p>Site Visit: October 21-23, 2024. <i>Site visit completed</i> External Reviewers: Dr. Christian Léger, Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Université de Montréal Dr. Sara Faridi, Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Dalhousie University Internal Reviewers: Dr. Xiaoting Wang, Professor, Department of Economics Dr. Michael Robertson, Professor, Department of Physics Stage: Department Head to attend March APRC meeting to respond to report.</p>
Philosophy	N/A	<p>Stage: Requested deferral to 2025-2026.</p>
Sociology	N/A	<p>Site Visit: March 12-14, 2025. External Reviewers: Dr. Nahla Abdo, Chancellor's Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University</p>

		<p>Dr. Cathy Holtmann, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, University of New Brunswick</p> <p>Internal Reviewers:</p> <p>Dr. Marianne Clark, Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology</p> <p>Dr. Jamie Sedgewick, Associate Professor and Interim Head, History and Classics</p> <p>Stage: Itinerary for site visit pending.</p>
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III. Committee Reinvigoration & Examination: Updates

- Academic Planning Committee:** The Academic Planning Committee is continuing its work to make recommendations on academic planning processes. After receiving excellent feedback from Heads, Directors, and Coordinators, and a session at Faculty Council, the APC is now working on some draft templates, timelines, and overall processes, which will be shared for feedback shortly, before being shared with Senate.
- Senate Subcommittees:** In addition to the APC, above, the other Senate Subcommittees that I chair continue to meet monthly (APRC, AAS(P), Open Acadia) to discuss key issues related to the academic portfolio.
- University Review Committee (URC):** The University Review Committee’s work has been happening since December 2024, with weekly meetings to work through all the applications for renewal, promotion, and tenure. We are nearing the end of the files this year, and will share an overall summary upon completion of this work. Thank you to the members of the URC for their ongoing dedication to supporting their colleagues, and for all their work on this extremely important committee.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism for Growth and Achievement

IV. Enhance, Strengthen, and Develop Relationships with Indigenous and African Nova Scotian Communities

Some key ongoing initiatives include:

- Local Mi’kmaq Leadership Meeting with Acadia Senior Leadership:** Led by Zabrina Whitman, Executive Advisory on L’nu Affairs and Indigenization, planning is beginning to bring the four local Mi’kmaq Band Councils (Glooscap, Annapolis Valley, Bear River and Acadia) together with Acadia University’s

Senior Leadership team in May 2025 to talk about shared priorities, increasing partnerships, and better supporting L'nu students and communities.

- **Indigenous Cluster Hire:** The process for hiring for the remaining Indigenous cluster hire position is underway. The Hiring Committee has been created following the MOA guidelines: Ashlee Cunsolo (PVPA & Chair), Amanda Peters (Arts), Shelley Price (Professional Studies), Juan Carlos Lopez (Pure and Applied Science), Zabrina Whitman (Executive Advisor & Community Representative), Elder Lorraine Whitman (Community Representative), and Cara MacInnes (Equity Rep). Based on the excellent proposals we received from the following departments, we have drafted a job ad which will be circulated the first week of March:
 - **Faculty of Arts:** environment and sustainability Studies; history and classic, politics/law, and society/sociology;
 - **Faculty of Professional studies:** community development and kinesiology;
 - **Faculty of Pure and Applied Science:** biology, computer science, earth and environmental science, nutrition and dietetics, physics and psychology.
- **BMO Lecture Series 2025:** The BMO Lecture Series welcomed Chief Terrance Paul of Membertou First Nation on February 26, 2025 to Acadia. Chief Paul has been Chief of Membertou for forty years. In 2017 he received the Order of Canada. He is recognized as one of the most influential Indigenous leaders and businessmen in the country. Among many of his achievements, he is the recipient of the Frank McKenna Leadership Award, the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business Leader in Economic Development Award, achieved a Canada's Best Managed Companies for Membertou Development Corporation and spearheaded the purchase of Clearwater. During his lecture, he shared the story of the economic and social transformation of Membertou, and how his community went from being \$1 million dollars in debt to the most economically successful communities and businesses in Canada.

AVP Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism: Lerato Chondoma

In February, we experienced some exceptionally cold days, with temperatures significantly below seasonal norms and occasional ice rain. However, we feel the hints of spring approaching with slightly warmer temperatures and longer days. Much like the weather, this month has also acted as a transitional period for the EDI-AR portfolio. Even though winter is still present, there is a refreshing energy of renewal in the atmosphere. The end of February marked the start of Ramadan for the Muslim community at Acadia. Ramadan Mubarak to everyone who observes! This season is one of profound reflection,

spiritual renewal, and generosity, as participants aim to strengthen their faith and extend kindness to others.

Over the month, I was honored to host my inaugural African Heritage Month campaign at Acadia. In Sesotho, I would express my heartfelt gratitude by saying "*teboho ka pelo oatle*" (which roughly translates to gratitude from the heart) to everyone within and beyond our campus community who contributed to the remarkable success of this year's campaign. This includes everyone from Chartwell's, Acadia Events, Marketing and Communications, Athletics, the Town of Wolfville, Alumni and the Alumni Association, as well as our speakers, event coordinators, Black chefs, vendors and entertainers, and volunteer Black students, staff, and faculty. Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation in our events—*ke a leboha haholo* (*thank you very much*).

Some highlights from the month included:

- **Acadia's inaugural Melanin Market**, a Black Business Fair featuring 14 Black vendors offering a variety of products, from art, hair & body products to clothing, jewelry, and food.
- **An AHM-themed *Soups and Sides* event with the Town of Wolfville**, featuring guest speaker Juanita Peters from the Africville Museum in Nova Scotia.
- **The Black Excellence Gala**, co-hosted by Dr. Kesa Munroe Anderson and Mecheal (Mickey) Russell, which included keynote addresses from alumnus Junior Moaku and Robert S. Wright. Due to the incredible financial support from the Executive Director of Student Services, the Alumni Association and the Independent Grocer in Wolfville, we are able to provide \$7000 worth of student bursaries and \$400 worth of grocery gift cards to Black students.

Looking forward to March 8, 2025 – we celebrate International Women's Day (IWD)! Throughout the month, we will host a variety of events. Be sure to check the Acadia Events Calendar and keep an eye out for posters around campus, which will provide more details about the programming for IWD and other significant days being celebrated, including the International Day to Combat Islamophobia on March 15, 2025.

Heading into March 2025, we continue with work from last month including:

- **The new AVP EDI-AR portfolio**: I look forward to launching the new AVP EDI-AR portfolio in a few weeks and sharing our exciting new structure.
- **Acadia Institutional Accessibility Plan**: Our Accessibility Acadia working group leads have been diligently compiling baseline data related to built environment standards, education standards, employment equity standards,

student life and experience, as well as mental health and well-being. This is a substantial undertaking that involves validating the baseline of accessibility initiatives outlined in the February 2024 EDI Report submitted to the Board EDI Committee, as we strive to assess progress on commitments made in our 2022 Acadia Institutional Accessibility Plan. The initial draft plan has been shared with the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and will be presented to senior leaders mid-March 2025. We are excited to share the final plan with our broader campus community later in April.

- **Listening Sessions for 2SLGBTQ++ and Racialized Students, Staff, and Faculty:** I am beginning to collaborate with leaders from the 2SLGBTQ++ and Racialized communities on campus to organize listening sessions scheduled for April and May 2025. This initiative is in its early stages, and I am eager to share more information as these affinity groups develop and we finalize the dates and format for the sessions in April and May.

Resharing EDI-AR Work in the first quarter of 2025:

- I am commencing the process of EDI-AR audits on our existing policies, guidelines, practices, and processes that underpin their implementation. Additionally, I am addressing the immediate needs highlighted by the current Black student movement, as well as engaging in discussions with racialized students, staff, and faculty. The initiative I am leading, in partnership with the Provost and VP Academic, will necessitate the full participation and support of the Senate. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with all of you on these vital and essential efforts.
- I am currently finalizing the first four campus initiatives from the 2024 EDI Report, focusing on the four main operational areas: Academic, Student Experience, Administration, and Advancement. In this effort, I will pilot the development of a template and process to support departmental, unit, and program environmental scans (EDI-AR audits). As these processes will be co-developed alongside the respective initiatives, it will take time before we can comprehensively share aggregated outcomes. I appreciate your patience and understanding, as this work may involve discomfort, friction, and often lead to difficult conversations.
- I look forward to launching our 8-part, pilot learning series involving staff, faculty and administration focused on intersectional and nuanced themes around EDI-AR and decolonization.

- Stay tuned for exciting new collaborations with VANSDA and African Nova Scotian individuals and groups who have rich histories connected to Acadia coming in April 2025!

Office of L’nu Affairs and Indigenization (OLAI): Zabrina Whitman

There has been a lot underway since our last meeting. This report is a summary of the most significant activities underway.

- **Acadia Alum Donation:** The Acadia Alumni Association gifted \$12,500 to the Office of L’nu Affairs and Indigenization to use on programming before March 31st. This generous gift has enabled us to hire a Mi’kmaw artisan to bead graduation capes for our Indigenous students. The dollars will also support the Indigenous Resource Centre – we will purchase literature for the space, as well as more comfortable “hang-out” type furniture, and toys for parents who may have their children with them on campus.
- **Midwinter Feast:** The Midwinter Feast is similar to Ramadan in that it follows the lunar calendar. The Midwinter feast is a Mi’kmaw celebration that recognizes folks have made it through the hardest parts of winter and come together to share their food. The feast always occurs on or near the full moon in February. This event was revived by the late Elder Lillian Marshall of Potlotek and has spread across Mi’kma’ki. This year, the Midwinter Feast was rescheduled due to poor weather. On Monday, February 24th we were joined by over 60 people for thanksgiving. We were joined by crafters, Mi’kmaq youth dancers, Dr. Elder Gerald Gloade, as well as Dr. Elders Lorraine Whitman and Joe Michael. In typical Mi’kmaq fashion, we can report that no one left hungry, and we wrapped up the evening with a round dance.
- **Cluster Hire:** On Monday, January 21st I hosted a three-hour virtual open house for academic units to ask questions in preparing their expressions of interest for the third cluster hire position. The conversation and questions were thoughtful. The job posting will list interested units. Dr. Cunsolo and I have reassured academic units that the exercise is not to evaluate or rank academic units. Merely, we want to ensure that whomever the successful candidate is that they are placed in a unit(s) that can support their professional and personal success. The expressions of interest were due January 31, 2025.
- **Indigenous, Association, and Board Committee (IABC):** The IABC continues its work, and is currently discussing issues around Indigenous identity confirmation, gathering Indigenous data at Acadia, looking at potential educational and support resources, and examining language of the Collective agreement. The next meeting is on March 17, 2025.

- **L’nu Nursing:** The Office of L’nu Nursing (at Tajikeimik) has a Mi’kmaq Indigenous Nurse Education Specialist that is supporting Dalhousie’s nursing program. Her scope of work has now been extended to include Acadia University. Her name is Courtney Pennell. I have been working with Tajikeimik’s Director of Nursing, Julie Francis, to start to workplan the needs of the Mi’kmaq for the school of nursing at Acadia University, as well as conducting a comparative analysis of other Indigenous nursing programs in the country.
- **Indigenous student data collection:** We are continuing work on Indigenous student data collection. Duane Currie, Zabrina Whitman and Allie Campbell met to discuss how the data can be collected, and how it can translate between slate and colleague. The three will reconvene in April with hopes that we can have this work ready for Fall.
- **Communication and Procedural Materials Related to Indigenization:** Several documents, including a campus-wide calendar of Indigenous events, a drafted honorarium document, and an updated Indigenous Protocols Handbook (including procedures for working with Indigenous Elders and knowledge holders, working with communities, and teepee protocols and usage), have been created. Additionally, there are plans to create Terms of Reference for the Elder(s)-in-Residence role to clarify responsibilities. The Indigenous Education Advisory Council has emphasized the need for more Elders with diverse specialties, and a travel protocol for Indigenous guests is also being developed. These documents will be reviewed by Indigenous members of the Council before finalization.
- **Nursing:** We continue to work closely with the Mi’kmaq and the Tajikeimik Health Authority on the nursing program. I attended meeting with all thirteen Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Chiefs, the two district chiefs, the Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations, the Grand Council, all Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq health directors and Tajikeimik staff on February 12th and we have another meeting on March 6th. We have also formed a working group to develop the nursing program with Tajikeimik. Our next step is that I will draft a work-plan for this to guide our work moving forward.
- **Glooscap Partnership** Glooscap First Nation’s Health Director wants to work with Acadia University to increase supports to Indigenous students on campus. We are working on several initiatives that we look forward to sharing with the campus once they are further developed. One project we are currently working on is a sweat lodge in community that will be available to community members and Acadia’s Indigenous students.

- **Admissions challenges:** This month, Admissions articulated that Indigenous admissions is low and competitively we are the only school in the region that does not provide Indigenous or Mi'kmaq specific scholarships and/or bursaries to Indigenous students. As such, students have a greater financial incentive to go elsewhere. Working with External Relations to develop a plan.
- **Agriculture Conference:** Work on the Agriculture Conference progresses. Dr. Donnelly has drafted an incredible conference structure for the event, and we are looking now to find a third facilitator to help with the conference structure. We will present all of the work to the Working Group in April.
- **KCIC Irving Centre Medicinal Plant Project:** Our medicinal plants (sweetgrass and wild tobacco) were officially planted on February 26th by Melanie Priestnitz and Audrey Friedland, one of our indigenous students. This is just the first step on this exciting project. Dr. Elder Lorraine Whitman, and knowledge-holders Tuma Young and Melissa Labrador have offered their time to form a medicinal plant working group to develop the protocols for medicine use.
- **Indigenous performances:**
 - **February 27th** – KOQM is a unique and intimate theatrical performance written and performed by L'nu artist, playwright, and poet, Shalan Joudry, and produced by Nestuita'si Storytelling. KOQM is a journey through time and land to experience the voices of fictional L'nu (Mi'kmaw) women. Through the course of the show, we hear from and meet with women who might have spoken and walked through one area of forest over centuries. Guided by the strength of an ancient tree (“koqm”), the women’s voices share with us their personal stories of grief, humour, and resiliency.
 - **March 2nd** – **Musical Performance by Aysanabee.** Aysanabee is an Oji-Cree young Artist who won this year's JUNO Awards for Songwriter of the Year and Alternative Album of the Year, "the first Indigenous Artist to win these two very coveted awards".
- **Best Practices:** I (Zabrina Whitman) is the vice chair for a national committee at Parks Canada called the Indigenous Stewardship Circle. In February I was invited to attend a two-hour ministerial roundtable meeting in Ottawa with other special interest groups to discuss issues around climate change and environment. While in Ottawa, I also used this opportunity to visit the University of Ottawa to talk to Indigenous engagement staff about best practices for student recruitment, retention and community relations. In early March, I will be travelling to Alberta for another Parks meeting, as well as to Ottawa again. On these trips I will visit UCalgary, Algonquin and Carleton. These campus visits and the conversations I have will inform the “What We Heard Report” that I will release in Fall 2025,

which will be an important framework for strategic planning on campus for issues related to reconciliation and indigenization.

Campus Culture

Celebrating & Supporting People

- **Professional Development & Leadership Opportunities:** We are working on creating a professional development and leadership training series for Heads, Directors, Deans, and other academic leaders in the PVPA portfolio to create community, bring people together in shared learning, and enhance skills, knowledge, and ability in these critical leadership roles. A yearly schedule of events is currently being created with input from these portfolios.
- **Thrive Conference 2025:** Planning for the Thrive Conference is well underway. This professional development opportunity will support Acadia staff in connecting, coming together, learning new skills, and learning more about Acadia. This important initiative is co-sponsored by the Offices of the Provost and Vice-President Academic and Vice-President Finance and Administration. Special thanks to Kim Vaughn, Mary-Jane Sypher, and Lisa Spiegel for organizing this important event!

Financial Health and Sustainability

V. Streamlining & Unifying Academic & Financial Portfolios and Planning

I am continuing to work closely with Erin Beaudin, VP Finance and Administration and CFO, to streamline the academic and financial processes, and unify our portfolios to strengthen and enhance the academic sector procedures, particularly around budgeting, forecasting, and faculty relations. Some key initiatives to date include:

- **Collaborative Budgeting Planning:** We are continuing to work on re-designing the academic budgeting process to provide more collaborative input from the academic portfolios, and to align with the new budgeting processes being developed in the VP Finance and Administration Portfolio. Budget processes are ongoing, with second round completed.
- **Enhancing the Faculty Model:** We are working on enhancing the faculty model by combining data from the Provost's Office, the VP Finance and Administration Portfolio, Human Resources, and AUFA's files. As part of this process, the faculty model is being rebuilt so that all parties have near-real-time access to faculty complement numbers, planning, and forecasting.

- **Open Acadia Restructuring & Growth:** Work continues to restructure Open Acadia, under the leadership of Dr. Lauren Wilson Finniss, and to create the foundations to enhance revenue streams. Interviews for a new Director of Digital and Extended Learning (formerly Director of Open Acadia) are happening this month.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashlee Cunsolo, PhD (she/her)
Provost and Vice-President Academic

**ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND
GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 2025**

No report received as of March 5, 2025.

**VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT EXPERIENCE REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH
2025**

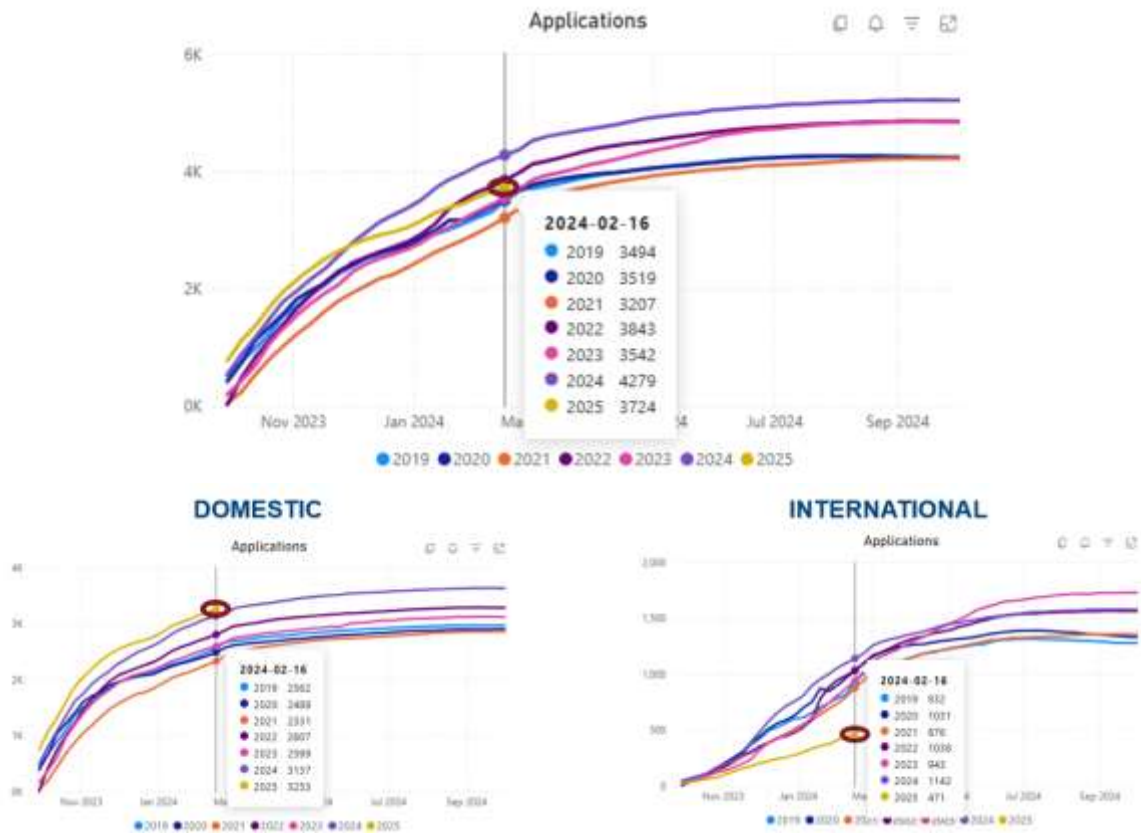
Enrolment Projection Update

Senate, March 2025

The following is an update on current application trends. With the March 1 scholarship deadline behind us, we should start seeing a clearer picture of Fall 2025 enrolment in the coming weeks and months.

Overall, recruitment activities in domestic markets are showing positive results, with applications and deposits at an all-time high. However, international recruitment is challenging, following a series of Federal announcements, and results will be monitored closely as we move into the height of the international recruitment season.

Fall 2025/26 Applications



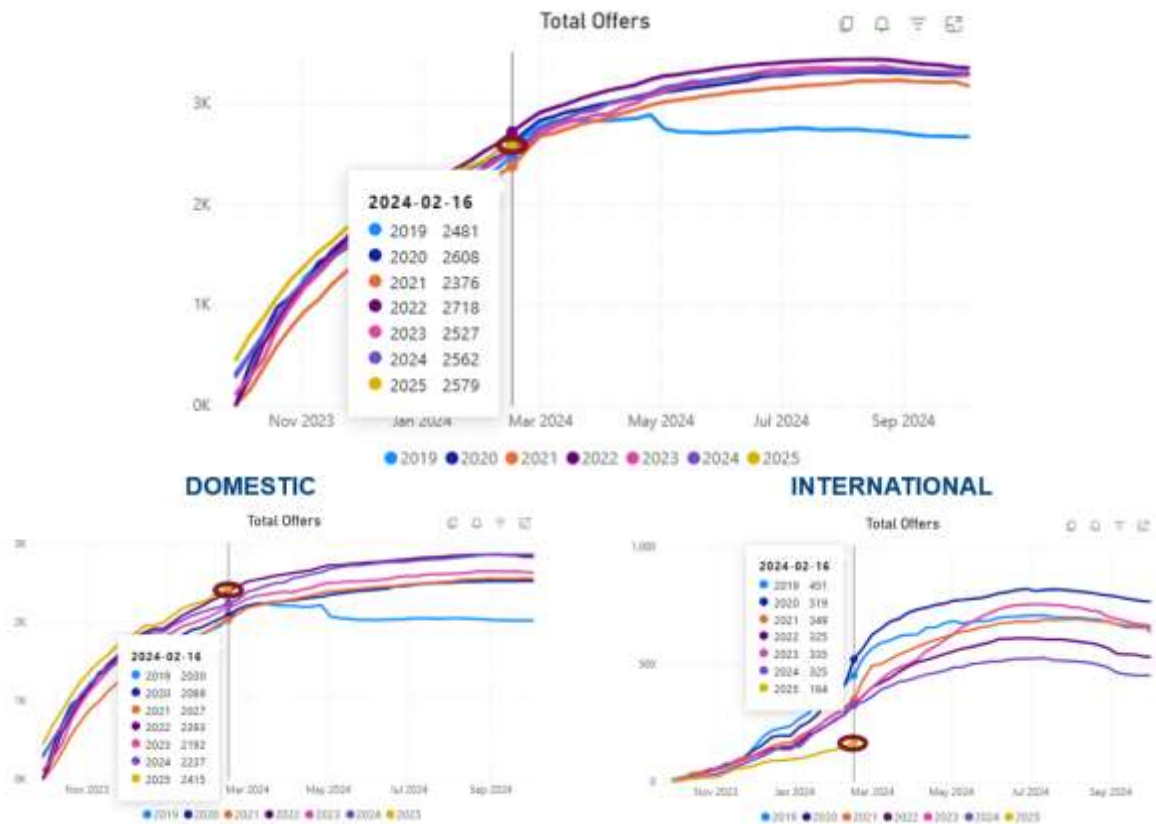
As of February 16th, 2025, domestic applications are up 3.7% on this time last year, with increased interest from NS, NB, AB, BC & NWT (see Table 1). International applications however are down 58.8%. Interestingly, although application decreases are seen across all countries, we are seeing increased applications from Bermuda (104.3% increase) and the United States (52.1% increase).

FALL 2025/26 APPLICATIONS BY PROVINCE & 2025 % change comparison – SNAP DATE Feb 28

PROVINCE	2025 Applications	2025 vs 2024 % Change	2025 vs 2023 % Change	2025 vs 2022 % Change
Nova Scotia	1,928	8.9%	32.4%	13.5%
New Brunswick	415	18.6%	29.3%	50.9%
Newfoundland and Labrador	156	-20.0%	11.4%	25.8%
Prince Edward Island	119	-20.7%	-4.0%	5.3%
Alberta	144	5.9%	18.0%	28.6%
British Columbia	147	12.2%	23.5%	18.5%
Manitoba	10	-28.6%	-37.5%	0.0%
Northwest Territories	4	300.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Nunavut	0	-100.0%	n/a	-100.0%
Ontario	361	-10.2%	5.9%	-6.2%
Quebec	16	-15.8%	6.7%	-11.1%
Saskatchewan	10	0.0%	233.3%	-9.1%
Yukon	4	n/a	-60.0%	n/a
	3,314	4.2% ↑	24.2% ↑	15.1% ↑

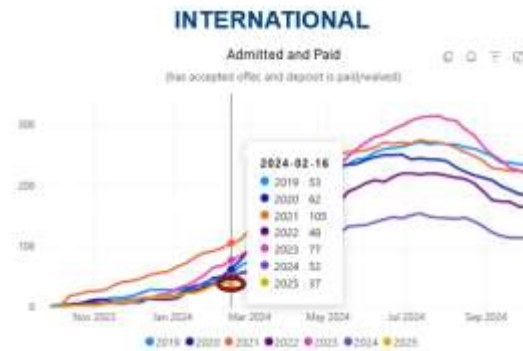
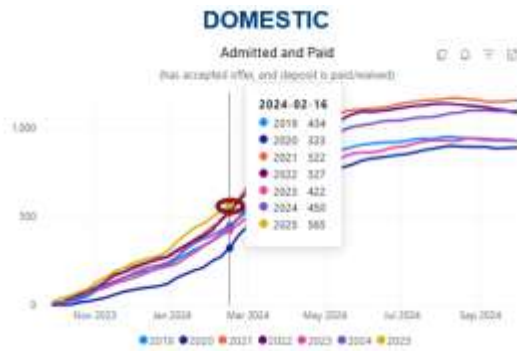
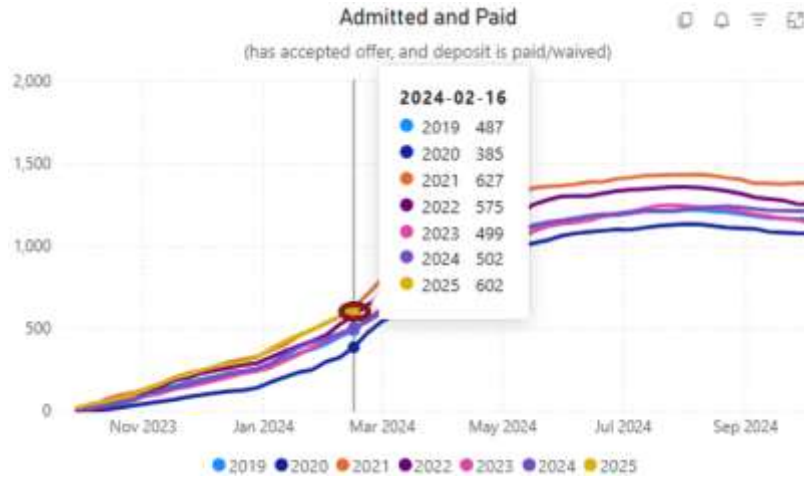
Table 1 - Applications by province as of February 28th, 2025, in comparison to the same period in 2024 and 2023. Increased interest can be seen from NS, NB, AB, BC & NWT.

Fall 2025/26 Total Offers



In comparison to the previous year, there is only a 0.7% increase in the number of offers (Domestic 8.0% increase, International 49.5% decrease).

Fall 2025/26 Admitted & Paid



Overall, there is an increase of 19.9% students who are admitted & paid (Domestic 25.6% increase, International 28.8% decrease).

Warm Regards,

Scott Duguay
Vice President, Student Experience

ACADIA STUDENTS' UNION REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 2025

No report received as of March 5, 2025

ACADIA DIVINITY COLLEGE AND FACULTY OF THEOLOGY REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 2025

No report received as of March 5, 2025

Motion that the Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning Excellence be added to the Academic Program Review Committee (APRC).

The current membership of the APRC is as follows (from the Constitution, VIII(e)i, p. 20):

"The membership of the Academic Program Review Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article VI. 1. and shall be as follows:

One member from the Faculty of Arts

One member from the Faculty of Professional Studies

One member from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science The Provost and Vice-President Academic *

The Registrar or delegate

One member of the Board of Governors

The Dean of the Faculty in which the review is being conducted

The duties of this committee extend into May–August. Members should be available through this period.**"

The duties of APRC are as follows (from the Constitution, VIII(e)ii, p. 20):

"(1) to determine policy and procedures for conducting program reviews;

(2) to determine annually which academic units are to be reviewed;

(3) to select the members of each unit review committee;

(4) to oversee the process of review in each case;

(5) to make recommendations to Senate on the basis of the findings of each unit review committee; (6) to deal with such matters as Senate may from time to time entrust to the Committee."

Here is the rationale provided by the VP Academic (Ashlee Cunsolo):

"Given the role and mandate of the Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning Excellence and how clearly it intersects with the mandates of the APRC, we believe this position and Dr. Wilson Finnis is an important addition to the committee, and will bring needed insights and expertise to this committee."

Here is the language from the website describing the role of the office of the V-P Teaching and Learning Excellence:

"The Office of the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning Excellence supports faculty and the broader teaching community in expanding the reach of high-impact teaching and learning practices at Acadia University through creating opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and continued learning."

And the V-P Teaching & Learning Excellence **areas of responsibility:**

"Areas of responsibility include:

- [Teaching Initiatives](#)
- [Open Acadia](#)
- [Learning Technologies and Instructional Design \(LTID\)](#)
- [English Language Centre](#)
- [Career and Experiential Learning](#)

The Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Excellence chairs the [Senate Faculty Support Committee](#), and is a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Implementation Committee."

POLITICS
Summary of Curriculum Changes 2024/25

Proposed Modification to an Existing Course – Form 3 The following course modifications were discussed and approved at the Politics department meeting on October 17, 2024 to be presented to FA Curriculum Committee on October 21, 2024.

POLS1303, 1403, 1503 – removal of pre-req to open up the courses to the rest of the campus to increase access to these courses.

POLS2000 – modification of pre-req as this non-credit course will be a requirement in the proposed Certificate in Democratic Leadership.

POLS3133 - Students in the proposed Certificate in Democratic Leadership will need to be eligible to take this course. The revised prerequisite will allow students who have completed other courses in the program to have access to it. A lower minimum grade threshold is needed to enable a wider array of students, including lifelong learners, to access to the course. Students in the Certificate program will be required to obtain a minimum final grade of C- in each course.

POLS3053, POLS3073, POLS3583 – removal of pre-req(s) to make the courses available to the whole campus.

POLS3203, POLS4023 - Students in the proposed Certificate in Democratic Leadership will need to be eligible to take these courses. The revised prerequisite will allow students who have completed other courses in the program to have access to them. A lower minimum grade threshold is needed to enable a wider array of students, including lifelong learners, to access to the course. Students in the Certificate program will be required to obtain a minimum final grade of C- in each course.

POLS4793 - Title/course was registered by faculty that is retired. The 5000 level equivalent/pair course is titled Political Economy. This was the courses have similar titles and reflect current faculty expertise/interests more accurately.

Proposed Course Deletion – Form 2

POLS3603 – This course has not been taught since 1999. There is nobody in the Department of Politics who is likely to teach it. Similar content will be covered in the recently added POLS3203 Political Leadership in Atlantic Canada, which will be regularly offered as part of the proposed Certificate in Democratic Leadership.

POLS4203 – This course has not been taught since 2012. There is nobody in the Department of Politics who is likely to teach it. Similar content will be covered in the recently added POLS3203 Political Leadership in Atlantic Canada, which will be regularly offered as part of the proposed Certificate in Democratic Leadership.

POLS4983 – This course is no longer supported by faculty member.

POLS4443/5443 – This is a topics course and has not been taught for a while. We already have a topics course in theory at this level.

Proposed Modification to a Program – Form 4

WGST3203 - WGST 3203 Black Women in Politics is a new course in Women's and Gender Studies, which is being offered for the first time in Fall 2024. The course explores the political expressions of Black women in Canada and the United States from slavery to the present. With a core focus in politics, this course fits the scope of the curriculum objectives of the Department of Politics and would offer Politics students an important opportunity to learn about race, gender, and politics. This change will cross-list the course to count as credit for Politics.

New Course Proposal – Form 1

POLS2023 - This will be the foundational, anchor course in the proposed Certificate in Democratic Leadership. It is an essential building block that will provide an introduction to the study of democratic leadership. Iterations of the course will be offered at all five Chairs' universities so that there is a modicum of commonality between five versions of the certificate program.

POLS3253 – There are currently no courses in the department of Politics dedicated to the topic of ethics and politics. This course is being created to address this gap in anticipation of introduction of the Certificate in Democratic Leadership program. The Political Ethics course will be a required course for this certificate program and may also interest other Politics students and students from other programs.

POLS3263 - In recent years, the absence of much of the Global South in the field of IR has come under increasing scrutiny. Numerous scholars have highlighted the importance of acknowledging this omission, understanding its origins, and working deliberately to address it. “International Relations & the Global South” answers this call, and seeks to introduce students to the ongoing debates in an effort diversify and expand their understanding of the field.

NEW Program proposal:

Certificate in Democratic Leadership – to be reviewed for September 2025 start.

Senate Curriculum Committee (Administrative)

Minutes

February 28, 2025

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

A meeting of the Senate Curriculum Committee (Admin) occurred on Friday, February 28, 2025, with Melanie Coombs presiding over Teams.

Attendees:

Melanie Coombs, Chair of Curriculum Committee (Admin)(Faculty of Pure and Applied Science)

Mark Bishop, Registrar

Hayley Van Kroonenburg, Registrar's Office

Jennifer Richard, Dean of Libraries and Archives (Acting)

Inna Viriasova (Faculty of Arts)

Stephen Henderson (Faculty of Arts)

Nathan Grieve (Faculty of Pure and Applied Science) Christopher Killacky

Sam Taylor (Student)

Guest:

Shawna Singleton, Academic Program Development, Quality Assurance, and Planning Coordinator

Regrets:

Jeff Torbert (Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee (Policy)), Ashley Doyle (Professional Studies)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Motion to approve the agenda. Stephen Henderson. Seconded by Jennifer Richard.

Politics

Certificate in Democratic Leadership discussion.

Ask for clarification regarding COMM 1213, groupings 1 & 2, and 9 hours, and PLAR.

Item	Course/Program	Type of Submission	Comments from Committee
1	Certificate in Democratic Leadership	New Program Proposal	*See below.
2	POLS 2023		No comment
3	POLS 3253		If the Certificate in Democratic Leadership is not approved, the

			prerequisite will have to be modified to remove any reference to the Certificate.
4	POLS 3263		No Comment
5	POLS 3603	Form 2: Program Deletion	No Comment
6	POLS 4203/POLS 5203	Form 2: Program Deletion	POLS 5203 responsibility of Graduate Studies Curriculum Committee
7	POLS 4983	Form 2: Program Deletion	No Comment
8	POLS 4443/POLS 5443	Form 2: Program Deletion	POLS 5443 responsibility of Graduate Studies Curriculum Committee
9	POLS 1303/1403/1503		Sam Taylor asked if first year students would have prioritized registration. Hayley van Kroonenburg indicated that first year students are the first group that registration is opened up to.
10	POLS 2000		If the Certificate in Democratic Leadership is not approved, the prerequisite will have to be modified to remove any reference to the Certificate.
11	POLS 3133		If the Certificate in Democratic Leadership is not approved, the prerequisite will have to be modified to remove any reference to the Certificate.
12	POLS 3053		No Comment
13	POLS 3073		No Comment
14	POLS 3583		No Comment
15	POLS 3203		If the Certificate in Democratic Leadership is not approved, the prerequisite will have to be modified to remove any reference to the Certificate.
16	POLS 4023		If the Certificate in Democratic Leadership is not approved, the prerequisite will have to be modified to remove any reference to the Certificate.

17	POLS 4793		No Comment
18	Cross-Listed Courses, add WGST 3203	Form 4 Proposed Modification to a Program	No Comment

*Comments regarding the Certificate in Democratic Leadership

In the admission requirements where it says: “Admission to the Certificate in Democratic Leadership follows the normal admission requirements to the Bachelor of Arts (Politics). Non-traditional learners are also encouraged to apply. Successful completion of COMM 1213, or equivalent, with a minimum grade of 60% may be required.” **Need to know who gives permission and decides permission to take the certificate.**

On line 3 “d) With written approval of the program coordinator, a student whose Honours essay clearly aligns with the certificate program may apply to include a maximum of 3 credit hours toward the requirement of an additional 3h from Group 1 or 2.” **Need clarification on what are the group 1 and 2 referring to.**

In line 3 “e) With approval of the Head of Department, in consultation with the program coordinator and the Registrar’s Office, up to 9 credit hours in applicable courses may be transferred from other institutions and/or obtained through Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition. A minimum of 9 credit hours in courses prescribed for this certificate program must be completed through Acadia University.”

Needs to be updated to reflect the 15 h instead of 18 h total course hours.

Needs to remove: and/or obtained through Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition as this hasn’t been approved on campus yet.

Date on draft needs to be updated to 2025.

Needs to add any Letters of Endorsement to the MPHEC proposal if there will be any.

Motion to approve Politics submissions with the exception of the Certificate in Democratic Leadership proposal. The committee will vote on the Certificate in Democratic Leadership via email.

Moved by Inna Viriasova. Seconded by Sam Taylor. All in favour.

Inna Viriasova noted that the Department of Politics had not be apprised that the Politics submissions were tabled at the December meeting. Mark Bishop said that the

Registrar's Office had been contacted about this. He suggested that in the future when proposals are tabled, that the Department Head be advised.

Philosophy

Item	Course/Program	Type of Submission
1	Bachelor of Arts Honours (Philosophy)	Form 4: Course Modification

The committee feels that Philosophy needs to provide more information regarding the Directed Readings courses before approving the proposed modification. Inna Viriasova suggested that they submit forms for the directed readings courses indicating how these courses will fulfill the honours requirements and MPHEC criteria. Melanie Coombs will contact the Head of the Department.

The remaining submissions will be dealt with via email.

Before the meeting ended, Shawna Singleton noted that the Physics proposal to modify the Honours program would not meet the MPHEC criteria if it does not require 6h of 4000 level courses for the non-thesis option. Melanie Coombs said that she would follow up with the Department.

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Inna Viriasova (Faculty of Arts)
Stephen Henderson (Faculty of Arts)
Nathan Grieve (Faculty of Pure and Applied Science)
Christopher Killacky (Faculty of Theology, Acadia Divinity College)
Sam Taylor (Student)

Guest:

Shawna Singleton, Academic Program Development, Quality Assurance, and Planning Coordinator

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Before the meeting ended, Shawna Singleton noted that the Physics proposal to modify the Honours program would not meet the MPHEC criteria if it does not require 6h of 4000 level courses for the non-thesis option. Melanie Coombs said that she would follow up with the Department.

On Mar 3, 2025, the SCC-Admin voted over email to approve these additional curriculum changes:

1. Additional KINE forms:

Item	Course/Program	Type of Submission
1	BKIN	Form 4: Modification to program
2	BKIH	Form 4: Modification to program

These forms are to update a required course for KINE students that has been added by BIOL to increase the number of options. There were no comments.

2. Additional LANG - LAWS cross list form:

Item	Course/Program	Type of Submission
1	LAWS 3023, LANG 3023	Form 1: New Course

This change is to update a cross-list. There were no comments.

3. Physics

Item	Course/Program	Type of Submission
1	Honours in Physics	Form 4: Modification to program
2	PHYS 4523	Form 1: New Course

These changes are to update the alternative path to the Honours program to ensure students have an independent project and to update the optional courses for the Honours program. There was discussion to update the requirements to have two required 4th year courses to be in alignment with the MPHEC guidelines. The Physics department agreed to update the wording and provided new forms for consideration.

On Mar 4, 2025, the SCC-Admin received and then voted over email to approve these additional curriculum changes:

1. Certificate in Democratic Leadership

Item	Course/Program	Type of submission	Comments
1	Certificate in Democratic Leadership	NEW Program proposal and MPHEC application	<p>Initial Comments: - How do students get approval to take the program?</p> <p>Edits were suggested throughout the document: - Group 1 and 2 Update of - update line 3 e) to reflect the 15 h instead of 18 h total course hours. - remove this part: and/or obtained through Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition as this hasn't</p>

			been approved on campus yet. - Update the date to reflect the correct year - Question about whether endorsements be included?
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Recommendations were made to POLS regarding the Certificate of Democratic Leadership application and changes were made and received.