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Minutes of the Senate Meeting of Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Chair A. Kiefte presiding and 40 present and two guests. The meeting took place virtually using Microsoft Teams due to the COVID pandemic University operations.

**1) Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order, noting that there was quorum at present.

**Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by H. Dahringer and seconded by C. Rushton.**

The Chair noted that H. Chipman was present and suggested that Item 4) e) i) Transition Report from the T.I.E. Committee could be brought forward on the agenda and follow the approval of the agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS REVISED CARRIED.

**2) T.I.E. Committee Transition Report**

With respect to the transition report from the T.I.E. Committee H. Chipman commented that the committee would meet monthly and had reviewed the mandate. He discussed the need to ensure that proper examination procedures were carried out and explained that the committee would look into this in view of the different teaching modalities during 2020-2021. He expected that a post-exam survey could be carried out and welcomed feedback from Senators.

H. Chipman noted that when the committee had brought the proposed new timetable slots to Senate for approval during the summer it had been expected that during 2020 a baseline survey would be carried out to see how faculty were finding the current timetable before making the change to the new timetable. The committee now felt that there would be no baseline during 2020-2021 as a result of the Pandemic. The first survey will be carried out in 2021-22.

D. Benoit asked what was considered a conflict in an examination schedule and asked whether the T.I.E. Committee would review this. D. Benoit stated that the current model did not allow a student to have three examinations in a 24 hour period but he noted that he had seen a situation recently where a student had four examinations scheduled in a five exam period which seemed excessive.

H. Chipman responded that the committee had not considered this previously but could certainly do so.

The Chair thanked H. Chipman for attending. The T.I.E. Committee report was received.

**3) Senate Minutes:**

**a) Minutes of the Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

**Motion to approve the Minutes of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 as distributed. Moved by L. Houck, seconded by J. Dymont.**

President Ricketts requested a correction on page 2, the third bullet from the bottom of the page. This should read “*Detail of the financial losses which resulted in a loss of revenue of nine million dollars*”.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS REVISED CARRIED.

**4) Announcements:**

**a) From the Chair of Senate**

The Chair announced regrets from A. Quema, R. Murphy, P. Arnold, N. Kennedy, G. Whitehall, M. Tahoun, D. Seamone, and communicated that J. Chaffer would be joining the meeting late and that L. Narbeshuber would be leaving early. H. Chipman had attended as a guest for the previous item, and M. Tango was present at the meeting as a guest representing the School of Engineering.

The Chair stated that a special meeting of Senate would be scheduled for next Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. An agenda would be forwarded in the next day along with an electronic meeting invitation.

The Chair thanked M. Bishop for forwarding the first communication to the Acadia community following the previous Senate meeting. This will be done every time that a policy change is approved, or if Senate passes any motion that has a broader impact on the Acadia community.

The Chair also thanked M. Bishop for his continued work on voting during virtual Senate meetings. She and M. Bishop had met since the last meeting to identify an alternative method to using Polly polling.

**b) From the President**

President Ricketts noted that important milestones had been passed and he thanked Senators for their help in their continuing efforts. He commented that Acadia had done well to date as a result of great efforts on the part of many. The President noted that positive cases were increasing in Nova Scotia and across Canada which made it more important to keep to the rules and to implement the Public Health orders in the Province. He asked that everyone remain on their guard as Christmas approached. News on a possible vaccine was very positive and President Ricketts noted that scientists were getting closer with this.

President Ricketts reminded Senators that Remembrance Day was on Wednesday and that normally a ceremony would be held with the Legion but that this year this could not occur. However, the Chapel had offered a service on Sunday evening and he thanked Rev. M. Lewis and the Acadia Choir with J. Scott; noting that this was available on the website. A ceremony had been pre-recorded with the Legion and will be shown on Wednesday and in addition, a small private ceremony will be offered at the Acadia Cenotaph to recognise members of the Acadia community who served and lost their lives.

President Ricketts commented on the MacLean's ranking for Undergraduate Universities and was pleased to see Acadia moving up a notch. Acadia also remained the number one primarily undergraduate university in Nova Scotia. He noted that these rankings help the recruiting team with their work as they go out to start recruitment for 2021-22. President Ricketts congratulated the team for managing so well through the last cycle of recruitment and noted that he would be meeting with them later in the week.

C. Mutlu asked about the period between term ending and the winter term beginning. He had heard that a number of students were not planning to return home for Christmas due to COVID-19 concerns and he noted that normally the residences closed by a certain date in December. He asked what plans the University was taking to accommodate these students.

President Ricketts responded that one residence was always kept open for international students during the holiday break.

S. Duguay explained that students in residence had been surveyed one month previously and he was expecting that 40 students would need accommodation and food for the holiday break. There would normally be about one dozen students. Students would be moved to Crowell Tower because other residences needed to be prepared for students that were returning and self-isolating after the holiday break.

C. Mutlu stated that Dr. R. Strang had emphasised earlier in the day that students should not leave the Province so that he expected there would now be more than 40 students considering remaining at Acadia over the holidays.

S. Duguay agreed that this could be the case but did not feel that the announcement made earlier was directed specifically at the university students. The situation remained fluid and could be complicated by RAs having to quarantine on their return to campus in January 2021.

L. Hartmann noted that if a student remained on campus over the break they would normally pay a certain amount and she asked whether the University intended to cover the cost of those students remaining.

President Ricketts stated that the University could not offer free accommodations and food, but noted that during the summer a special rate had been offered and expected that this might be looked at again. He agreed that Crowell Tower was not ideal but wanted to make things as easy as possible for the students.

**c) From the Provost & Vice-President Academic**

D. Keefe highlighted two points. He welcomed the appointment of Dr. Corrine Haigh, Dean of the Faculty of Professional Studies, and noted that she would start her employment at Acadia in May. D. Keefe thanked and acknowledged the selection committee who had worked so diligently to complete the process during a pandemic.

D. Keefe also highlighted concerns that students were becoming overwhelmed and not enjoying the normal connections with their classmates. The University was working to safely provide opportunities for students whereby restrictions in residences would be relaxed and safe study spaces would be offered around the campus.

D. Keefe noted that the special meeting of Senate that the Chair had announced for next Monday would include a number of motions from the A&AS (Policy) committee. The motions are related to proposed modified academic options for the Fall semester.

H. Dahringer asked about the four new tenure track searches that had been authorized by the Provost and VPA and whether a Sociology position was included in these.

D. Keefe confirmed that the top four positions on the list for 2021-22 were Kinesiology, Psychology, Math and Statistics, and English; as had been ranked by the Academic Planning Committee and presented at the September 14, 2020 meeting of Senate.

**d) From the ASU**

L. Houck stated that the ASU had completed their advocacy week with Students' Nova Scotia and also met recently with provincial stakeholders in government. They were busy consulting with students regarding the next few weeks of Fall term.

**e) From the President of the Divinity College**

The was no report this month from the Divinity College.

**5) New Business**

**a) Election of Senate Lay Person**

The Chair explained that Senate would move in camera but that there were four nominees. Senators would be asked to nominate one of the four nominees. An anonymous vote would be used for the process.

Senate moved 'in camera'.

Senate moved 'out of camera'.

D. Looker was elected to the Lay Person position for a three year term 2020-2023.

**b) Motion to approve the proposed modification to the M.Sc. in Environmental Science (*circulated separately*)**

**Motion to approve the proposed modification to the M.Sc. in Environmental Science. Moved by S. Currie and seconded by N. O'Driscoll.**

N. O'Driscoll provided background for Senators stating that the M.Sc. program in Environmental Science had been approved by Senate in June 2019 and had then been externally reviewed in December 2019. This was reconfirmed by Senate in February 2020 and submitted to MPHEC. In May 2020 MPHEC provided follow up and the requirement had been for two additional specific courses which the motion for a modification was bringing to Senate.

D. Keefe asked whether this change completely satisfied the MPHEC conditions.

N. O'Driscoll agreed that this was the case and that Acadia would now be able to start accepting students.

D. Keefe noted that once Senate had approved the addition he would write an official letter to MPHEC to inform them that their conditions had been met.

MOTION APPROVED. ONE ABSTENTION.

c) **Preliminary Fall Term 2020 Enrolment and Admissions Report**  
*(attached)*

**Preliminary Fall Term 2020 Enrolment and Admissions Report.**

M. Bishop pointed out that this report was typically completed for the 1<sup>st</sup> October but that the later Add/Drop date for this term had resulted in pulling data from October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He noted that there had been an enrolment decline of 1% for undergraduate enrolment and virtually no change for graduate enrolments.

M. Bishop did note that the decrease in international enrolment had been balanced by an increase in domestic students and particularly, an increase in part-time students.

The preliminary enrolment and admissions report was received.

d) **Motion from the Admissions and Academic Standing (Policy) Committee to adopt, effective May 2021: the list of potential graduates that is presented to Senate and Faculty Council for approval will have the degrees listed with the same level of detail that is printed on the parchment**  
*(attached)*

**Motion from the Admissions and Academic Standing (Policy) Committee to adopt, effective May 2021: the list of potential graduates that is presented to Senate and Faculty Council for approval will have the degrees listed with the same level of detail that is printed on the parchment. Moved by D. Keefe and seconded by H. Dahringer.**

D. Keefe commented that Senate had asked the committee to look into this during the spring and he pointed out that this would apply from May 2021 onwards.

MOTION APPROVED.

e) **Transition Reports from Senate Sub-Committees**

i) **Archives Committee Report**

The Archives Committee transition report was received.

ii) **Research Ethics Board Report**

A. Redden noted that this was a very busy committee with a number of meetings planned.

The Research Ethics Board transition report was received.

iii) **Honours Committee Report**

A. Redden pointed out that the committee report did not include the membership of the committee and offered to forward a report that included the members.

The Honours Committee transition report was received pending the update. R. Hare will contact J. Hayes, the Chair of the Honours Committee.

- iv) By-laws Committee Report**
- C. Mutlu stated that there was one update to the submitted report, that P. Arnold would be the FPAS representative on the committee for this year.
- The Chair offered to amend the agenda and minutes to reflect this and thanked him for agreeing to serve as the Chair of the committee.
- The By-laws Committee transition report was received.
- v) Research Committee Report**
- A. Redden noted that there was a date error to be corrected on the Research Committee report. She stated that there were three working groups that also included individuals that were not on the main committee. Progress was planned for research data management for the University, and the committee was continuing to work on policies related to centers and institutes. A. Redden also noted that a research mentorship would be developed on the campus.
- The Research Committee transition report was received.
- vi) Graduate Studies Committee Report**
- A. Redden commented that this was also a very active committee with small working groups working to adjudicate scholarship applications and other items. Progress was planned to update guidelines that were in use.
- A. Redden also planned to make progress on dealing with part-time students and their thesis program completions by developing tracking materials that departments would be able to use.
- The Graduate Studies Committee transition report was received.
- vii) Nominating Committee Report**
- M. Robertson reported that the vacancy on the By-laws committee had now been filled and he thanked Senators for their willingness to serve.
- The Nominating Committee transition report was received.
- viii) Curriculum Committee (Policy) Report**
- The Curriculum Committee (Policy) transition report was received.
- ix) Admissions and Academic Standing (Policy) Committee Report**
- The Admissions and Academic Standing (Policy) Committee transition report was received.
- x) Curriculum Committee (Administrative) Report**
- M. Bishop noted that Item 2 in the report had not been intended to be part of the report and that a revised version of the report had now been submitted.
- The Curriculum Committee (Administrative) transition report was received.

**xi) Senate Disability  
Policy Committee  
Report**

M. Bishop noted that K. Brenton had recently joined the committee.

The Senate Disability Policy Committee transition report was received.

**6) Other Business**

The Chair brought up an item for discussion raised by a Senator who had needed to leave the meeting earlier. This related to the issue of burnout for faculty and students in the virtual learning environment this term. It had been brought up that there seemed to be more low stakes assignments and quizzes being offered this term. Virtual learning and this approach was having an impact on students and the Senator had asked how this might be best addressed at the Senate level. The Chair stated that she had heard this issue come up in other meetings as well.

D. Benoit had discussed this with others and felt that low stakes testing was being introduced without much lead time for the students who were finding that this made it difficult for them to manage their schedules and produce the work on time. He felt that some faculty members were assuming that all students were in local time zones whereas some were in completely different time zones which was proving to be extra challenging in terms of when assessments were taking place or due.

D. Benoit noted that students were used to working hard for several days and then being able to ease off but now the workload was constant and immediate. He stated that while many faculty were not giving a final examination, they were instead setting assignments and tests on a weekly basis. He highlighted the need to provide the students with sufficient lead time to both plan workload and get the work completed.

L. Hartman commented that she was finding the term extremely challenging and had discussed this with the Faculty of Arts Steering Committee recently and she appreciated the faculty members' willingness to listen and discuss this issue. She was intending to leave campus shortly. She noted that some assignments popped up unexpectedly. She was thankful for the classes that ran in a similar way to usual except that the teaching was on Teams. She had found that a lot of students felt as though they were teaching themselves and were sprinting a marathon. L. Hartman had found that time was taken up with going on line after a class to look things up because they had not been grasped during the class, and noted that it was harder to ask questions when on line.

The Chair thanked L. Hartman for sharing her experience. The Chair noted that that she had heard both faculty and students say that the term so far had felt very long.

J. Colton thanked L. Hartman for her comments, and felt that they were very concerning. He felt that surprise assignments should not be given and that the course outline was a contract between the faculty member and the student and should be adhered to. In this current context it was not appropriate to be adding more work than usual and he felt that departmental heads should be having conversations with their faculty. J. Colton noted that in Community Development they were finding that an increasing number of normally good students were not submitting course work on time.

J. Colton understood that the situation was also stressful for faculty members but felt that they had more of an ability to manage their time than the students. He suggested that some hard questions be asked in each department. J. Colton

pointed out that it would be good to consider other approaches and alternatives prior to the winter term.

D. Keefe thanked L. Hartman and noted that this was a common problem all across Canada and that other Maple League universities were seeing the same difficulties. He felt that the move to have more assignments and quizzes, and no mid-term or final examination, had been made with the best intentions but noted that the delivery had become overwhelming to the students.

D. Keefe stated that the A&AS (Policy) Committee would be discussing this the following day and noted that this was his main concern at this time. While noting that the University had managed so far not to have any COVID cases, which was positive, it was apparent that a significant number of students were becoming overwhelmed and that they were at a breaking point. D. Keefe commented that this was not a normal term and that allowances needed to be made.

C. Mutlu stated that a number of faculty would be going forward for renewal, tenure and promotion during 2020-21 and he felt that if the University did not make some allowance for the feedback that was coming from the students, there would be negative teaching evaluations that could affect the faculty member's application for renewal, tenure or promotion. He asked whether the University would be considering the psychological well-being of the faculty.

L. Houck appreciated the conversation and understood that many faculty were also experiencing challenges because of the nature of the semester. She felt that some of the issues were a result of the sense of isolation that the students were experiencing.

P. Callaghan noted that this was a tough balancing act. He hoped that support and reasonable accommodations had been made and noted that in Business efforts had been made to teach both in-person and on-line. However, fewer and fewer students were choosing to attend class in-person. Without the direct contact it became more difficult to coach and support the students. P. Callaghan also felt that lessons needed to be learned in preparation for the winter term.

D. Keefe reminded Senators that the student survey and the faculty survey results would be available soon and he hoped adjustments could be made for the following term.

D. Keefe addressed the issue of teaching evaluations while acknowledging that this was not a normal term. He did not expect that the evaluations would be reflective of the norm and felt that the DRC and URC committees were faculty dominated and would recognise the impact on their colleagues. He felt that there was a need to recognise that everyone was overwhelmed.

R. Newman and her colleagues were very concerned and were dealing daily with students that were on the verge of crisis. Often a conversation could help to normalise what students were experiencing. The Psychology Department was planning to hold a session for students the following week to remind them of strategies to help to reduce stress and the importance of finding balance in the day.

R. Newman encouraged other faculty to check in with their students noting that faculty had become the first line which was not normal. Asking students



how they were doing at the start of the class was a helpful conversation and demonstrated to the students that they were not alone.

M. Tajeddin was a TA for two courses and pointed out that the marking assignment was more extensive because so many assignments were being offered. She suggested in-class activities rather than after class work and felt that some assignments could be carried out while in class.

M. Adam was reducing class screen time to allow more time for a student to remain after class in order to chat or just to reduce the time a student needed to be present. He had been finding it stressful to try to sense the mental health of his students without the benefit of face to face meetings and classes. M. Adam was in favour of opening up the last minutes of his class for general questions amongst the students.

H. Dahringer did not know whether on-line teaching surveys had to be conducted in the Faculty of Arts. She noted that in Appendix A of Article 12, teaching was not the only criteria by which faculty members were assessed for renewal, tenure and promotion.

H. Dahringer noted that faculty could not complete as much research as they would normally manage and expected that the URC would have to assess the Article 12 Appendix differently from the way that it would have been assessed in the past.

C. Mutlu responded that he had been referring to the mental health of faculty members that were applying for renewal, tenure and promotion, pointing out that institutional kindness needed to be extended towards those individuals.

There was no other business. The Chair offered Senators best wishes for the next several weeks in order to get through the end of term in as positive a way as possible. She reminded Senators that Senate would meet again the following Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## 7) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Moved by H. Dahringer.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

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R. Hare, Recording Secretary

## **Announcements**

### **PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SENATE:**

#### **November 9, 2020**

I would like to begin by thanking all members of Senate for everything you have done and are doing to ensure that Acadia University successfully navigates through the continuing impacts of the pandemic. As I said to the Board of Governors at the October meeting, Acadia has undergone more change in the last eight months than in the previous 182 years, and we have only managed it with the support and hard work of the entire Acadia community, including the Board, Senate, faculty, staff, students and *alumni*.

Since the October Senate meeting, a number of important milestones have been passed in our pandemic journey, including the successful completion of the Thanksgiving Weekend without any positive COVID cases, announcement of our plans for the Winter term, approval of our Designated Learning Institute (DLI) status to receive international students, confirmation of our fall enrolment data, and consequently a more complete understanding of our financial position.

#### **Fall Enrolment**

Our current undergraduate FTE enrolment of 3,478 is down by 1.5% from last year, and our graduate FTE enrolment of 274 is down by 1.8%. Our overall FTE count is down by 2.6% from last year. Because of the increased number of part-time students this year, course registrations are especially important and these stand at 17,949, down by 1.8% from last year. This is a remarkable achievement given the huge challenges of the pandemic and is better than our best case scenario FTE projection which was around the -4 to -6% range. Of course, compared to a normal year this is not a good result and there are a number of particularly troubling areas of weakness including lower international enrolment, which is down by 9.5%, and lower first year enrolment, down by 8.8%. These two factors have significant financial impacts and have multi-year implications if they are not recovered quickly.

In addition, our lower residence numbers have had a significant negative financial impact. With occupancy around the 850 mark, down by over 39% and well below the 1,000 threshold to generate commission income from our meal plan, we are dealing with a \$2.5 million reduction on our June budget revenue projection.

While we are hoping for a larger than usual intake in January, largely due to students who deferred admission from September, this will not be enough to offset the reductions we have experienced due to the pandemic. One thing that will help us is the ability to receive international students.

#### **International Students**

On October 2, IRCC Minister Marco Mendicino announced a new process to allow international students with approved study visas to travel to and enter Canada to attend a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) effective October 20. Acadia worked with the provincial and federal governments to receive DLI status, and effective November 3 we are now included on the IRCC DLI list along with the other NS universities. I am very proud that our COVID protocols, along with those of St FX, were submitted by the province as the sample protocols for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to approve for use in NS. We made some adjustments to bring those protocols in line with the federal public health rules and procedures, and these protocols were accepted as the provincial template for the province.

This change will permit those international students who had to defer their travel to Acadia until a later date to be able to come here in January, or even before if they have their visas and wish to get an earlier start on experiencing Acadia in person. Hopefully, this will help improve our enrolment over the year and increase our residence occupancy and meal plan usage in the winter term.

### **Winter Term Plans**

As we continue our preparations for the Winter Term, I am continuing to push for a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program for January. Testing will be required for international students returning to our province and the success of the September program is a big motivator to repeat the process for all students coming to NS from outside of the “Atlantic Bubble”. With the right procedures in place both institutionally and provincially, we have demonstrated that we can safely bring students back to campus and into the local community. We are one of the safest places in the world right now, and we want to keep it that way.

### **Update on Provincial Government Relations**

On October 5, members of the President’s Executive Council met with the senior leaders of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) to provide a comprehensive picture of the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Acadia University to date. This was part of a series of meetings that LAE conducted with individual institutions within NS’s PSE sector as part of the process that is designed to lead to a decision on the amount and scope of financial help, if any, that the government is prepared to provide.

Our presentation covered the immediate and multi-year impacts of COVID under the following headings: 1) stress, exhaustion and mental health issues affecting employees and students; 2) impacts and challenges faced by the academic, research and service operations of Acadia; 3) enrolment declines; 4) reductions in residency occupancy and meal plan usage; 5) reduced donations in the final year of the Campaign for Acadia; 6) immediate and multi-year financial and budget impacts; 8) negative economic, social and cultural impacts on Wolfville and the Valley region; and finally 9) institutional sustainability.

At that time, we presented the following financial impacts of the pandemic:

Loss of revenue = \$9 million (includes all forms of revenue)  
Increased COVID related costs = \$1.6 million  
Expense reductions = \$4.1 million\*  
Mitigation reductions = \$3.1 million\*

Net Impact = -\$3.4 million

\*Noting that most of the expense and mitigation reductions are one-time only and do not carry forward into the next fiscal year.

The presentation concluded with an overview of Acadia’s needs and a series of requests for government support, including immediate financial support to offset the revenue and expense impacts of the pandemic, support for facilities operations, and support for student scholarships and bursaries, including international students who have born significant cost increases and have not been eligible for the federal support that was provided to domestic students.

I followed this up with individual meetings with our MP, Kody Blois, and MLA, Keith Irving to keep them up to date on the impacts of the pandemic on Acadia.

A meeting of the MOU Partnership Committee was held on October 23. In addition to the Deputy Ministers of LAE and Strategic Management, the meeting was also attended by the Deputy Ministers of

Finance and Health. The government has commenced its budget process including the year end assessment for this fiscal year and the budget for 2020-21. This includes looking at the enrolment, residence occupancy and financial information provided by the universities, but no commitments were made that any specific government assistance is forthcoming. We were informed that in planning for next year's budget, the government would honour the MOU which means that we will not be facing cuts to the commitment to increase operating grants by 1%. The DM of Health reported on the successful student testing program and the outcome of the discussions with IRCC, and that they are considering a similar program for January but have not committed to it as yet. The next MOU meeting is scheduled for December 17.

With the departure of the Hon. Labi Kousoulis following the announcement of his candidacy for the leadership of the NS Liberal Party, the Hon. Len Metlege Diab has been appointed as the new Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. I am arranging a meeting with Minister Diab both in my capacity as President of Acadia and as Chair of the Board of EduNova. Minister Diab also holds the portfolios of Immigration as well as Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

### **Town Hall Presentation on the Budget**

Due to the delay in the start of term, my usual presentation to the October meeting of Faculty Council was deferred to later, and it was agreed that I should present it at a Town Hall style virtual meeting. The time and date for this meeting is Wednesday, November 18 at 2pm. At this meeting, which will be held *via* Microsoft Teams, I will provide updates on the budget, enrolment, strategic plan, and the Campaign for Acadia.

### **Remembrance Day**

The pandemic means that we cannot conduct our usual Remembrance Day ceremonies in University Hall this year. Instead the Chaplain and I will participate in a prerecorded ceremony with the Wolfville Legion, we will have a prerecorded service in the Chapel that will occur on Sunday, November 8 and then we will hold a small private ceremony at the Acadia Cenotaph on November 11 when we will lay the wreaths and honour the moment of the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day or the eleventh month.

### **Acadia 2025 Public Launch**

Immediately following the approval of the strategic plan by the Board and its endorsement by the Senate in March, the world turned upside down due to the pandemic and we had to put the formal public launch on hold. While we have been focused upon tactical and operational survival over the past seven months, it is now time that we proceed with the public launch as it is critical to our recovery and sustainability. The directions and goals on enrolment, teaching and learning, diversity and inclusion, and regional partnerships remain hugely important, and the climate crisis hasn't gone away. In fact, our theme of *Transforming Lives for a Transforming World* is arguably more relevant now than it was back in March. While some aspects of the plan, such as enrolment, have been negatively impacted in the short-term, we need to get back on track and bounce back. Some other aspects of the plan have been accelerated by the pandemic experience, such as our goals for teaching and learning, the expansion of online learning, and revitalizing our academic core.

As we have learned and continue to learn from our pandemic experiences, we must ensure that we don't simply snap back to where we were in March. In addition to recognizing the negative impacts of the pandemic, we also have to identify what has been beneficial and ensure that these changes, though more rapid and less thought out than we would have liked, are used to the benefit of the academic mission of Acadia, and for our students and employees. Simply put, we need to bounce back from COVID.

The public launch of *Acadia 2025* will be held on Friday, November 27 at 11am. This will be a Microsoft Teams event.

### **President's Anti-Racism Task Force (PART)**

The membership of the President's Anti-Racism Task Force has now been finalized and the work of the PART will now get underway under co-chairs Marjorie Lewis and Patricia McCulloch, and Vice-Chair Zabrina Whitman. This is a very important initiative and fits squarely under the *Acadia 2025* goal of an inclusive and supportive community campus culture. A date for the inaugural has been set for November 20 and regular meetings are being scheduled.

### **2021 Maclean's University Ranking**

Acadia continued to rank very highly in the annual Maclean's ranking of Canadian universities. In our category of Primarily Undergraduate Universities, Acadia ranked #3 overall, up one place from our #4 position of the last two years. Once again, we were ranked #1 in Nova Scotia and we came in at #2 in the Reputational Survey and #5 in Overall Student Satisfaction. Congratulations to Acadia's Biology program which was ranked joint #17 in country (tied with Laval).

For more information on our Maclean's ranking, see our communications announcement at:

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/home/news-reader-page/macleans-ranks-acadia-among-canadas-best-undergraduate-universities-and-tops-in-nova-scotia.html>

### **Maple League**

The Maple League has been very active during the pandemic, providing collaborative initiatives in online course, teaching and learning, research, student and faculty mentoring, experiential learning and community engagement, and diversity, inclusion and anti-racism.

*Virtual Maple League Teaching and Learning Centre (V\_MLTLC) Launched:* This exciting new collaborative initiative has brought together hundreds of faculty, staff, and students from across the Maple League to offer teaching support, communities of practice, and spaces to collaborate and work through challenges related to teaching and learning during the pandemic.

*Received \$100,000 from the McConnell Foundation:* The McConnell Foundation invested \$100,000 in the Virtual Maple League Teaching and Learning Centre. This funding has enhanced student and faculty learning during COVID-19 by funding the launch of the Virtual Maple League Teaching and Learning Centre (V\_MLTLC). The V\_MLTLC amplifies impact and alleviates pressure on individual institutions by pooling efforts to curate and create resources tailored to the institutional model of Maple League universities and provide pedagogical support to faculty with a focus on online and course design and delivery.

*Secured \$160,000 RBC Futures Launch for Experiential Learning:* In September 2019, the Maple League received a technology investment of \$80,000 from RIIPEN, the largest experiential platform in North America. Funded by the RBC Futures Launch, RIIPEN increases our institutional capacities in experiential and work-integrated learning and provides support for faculty who want to incorporate industry projects and case studies into the curriculum. This investment has been renewed for 2020/2021 with plans to expand the use of the RIIPEN platform to more stakeholders across the Maple League.

*Applied for \$1.2 million in External Funding:* There are a number of innovative projects under development across the Maple League. To support these initiatives, we've applied for \$1,295,848.78 from a number of external funding agencies - with a particular focus on federal funding. We submitted funding proposals for four different projects: Maple League Social Incubator - The PATH, Online Learning and Technology Consultants (OLTC) Expansion, Maple League Suite of Online Courses, LinkedIn Learning) submitted to three different funding rounds. Two applications to the Business Higher Education Roundtable of \$100,000 each are for experiential learning and developing online courses.

### **Acadia's Deputy Minister Champion**

I am pleased to announce that Catrina Tapley has been appointed as Acadia's Deputy Minister Champion to the federal government. The Deputy Minister University Champion Program aims to strengthen linkages between the Public Service of Canada and Canadian universities, focusing on shared areas of interest. This includes working to align research needs, providing content expertise, and helping to promote and facilitate recruitment activities on campus. An *alumna* of Acadia, Ms. Tapley is Deputy Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) which is a very important department for the post-secondary sector. We have already had one very positive and productive meeting, and I look forward to working with her to promote Acadia University within the federal government.

### **New Wolfville Town Council**

As you will all be aware, we have a new mayor and Town Council following the municipal election. I met with our new mayor, Wendy Donovan on Monday evening and I look forward to continuing the very positive relationship that we have built with the Town of Wolfville. I am also delighted that our own Oonagh Proudfoot was not only re-elected to Council but was also elected Deputy Mayor. Congratulations to Wendy, Oonagh and all members of the Town Council on their election success.

### **Remember, Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November**

As I write this report on November 5 while also watching the unfolding election story south of the border, I am reminded of my English childhood recitation of the famous rhyme:

Remember, remember, the Fifth of November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot  
I see no reason why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Ricketts  
President and Vice-Chancellor

November 5, 2020

## **PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – NOVEMBER 2020**

### **COVID-19 PLANNING TASK FORCE**

The task force continues to meet biweekly. Some work continues around adjustments to the fall operations, but most of the work is now centred on preparing for the winter term. The task force is paying particular attention to the overall experience for faculty and students. Two surveys are being conducted to get feedback on the fall term and to help prepare for the winter term. One survey is of students and the second is of faculty who are teaching this term. The results from the surveys will be available later this month. There have been multiple reports of both faculty and students being or becoming overwhelmed. The Vice-Provost is working with the ASU on a number of initiatives to help students cope with this even busier and more stressful than usual remainder of the fall term.

### **DEAN OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES SEARCH UPDATE**

The committee held stakeholder meetings, public presentations, and selection committee interviews in a virtual environment on October 1, 6, and 8, 2020. Candidate public presentations were hosted via MS Teams and recordings were made available to the Acadia community. Feedback was solicited from the Acadia community and reviewed by the committee. The committee unanimously recommended Dr. Corrine Haigh. Dr. Haigh has accepted the Dean, Professional Studies offer of appointment, effective May 1, 2021.

### **TENURE-TRACK AUTHORIZATIONS FOR 2021**

Based on current projections for the 2021/22 Academic Year, I have authorized four new tenure-track searches to begin immediately. Following the recommendations of the Faculty Deans, these four tenure-track appointments will follow the APC rankings received by Senate in September. Subsequent authorizations will be considered later in the year once more information is known about faculty complement and projected enrollment for 2021/22.

### **INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

#### **Student Morale**

In light of the recent conflict in southwest Nova and the impact of COVID-19, mental health support remains a priority for all Acadia students.

#### **Mi'kmaq Learning Module 101**

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq is very interested in partnering with Acadia University in developing a proposed on-line Mi'kmaq Learning Module. The proposed on-line course is a long-term project with the potential for multi-university collaboration and working group relationships.

#### **Research**

The following research projects are complete and will serve as the foundation for strategic planning:

- The Indigenous Student Handbook is complete and with Communications for distribution.
- The environmental scan across Canada and other relevant post-secondary institutions around the world analyzing Indigenous programs and courses; Indigenous faculty and staff; Indigenous student support; and pedagogy. This follows on recommendations from a proposal submitted by Dion Kaszas in spring 2020. The results have been shared with the Equity and Diversity and Inclusion Audit sub-committee.
- Research on counselling services available in Nova Scotia. This content has been shared with Erica McGill and James Sanford. An environmental scan has been completed on Indigenous programming and services across Canada and internationally, and a research paper is in the works.

#### **Internal/External Collaborations:**

**Research and Ethics Panel Discussion** — Dr. Suzie Currie and the Faculty of Science Working Group on Indigenous Issues are providing input and support regarding possible

activities. This support follows that of the Equity and Diversity Working Committee sub-committee, and work on an ethics and research panel discussion with Dr. Anna Redden. Mi'kmaq and allies are interested in this project.

- **Career Service Program and Co-op** — This winter, two Indigenous students may have employment opportunities through the Co-op Office. One student would be working in the finance department at Glooscap. Funding available through the TD fund.

## **FACULTY OF ARTS**

### **Department of English and Theatre**

Anne Quéma has three forthcoming articles: "Engendering Biopoetics of Testimony: Louise Dupré, Chus Pato, and Erín Moure." *Canadian Holocaust Writing*, edited by Ruth Panofsky and Goldie Morgentaler, *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*, vol. 32, 2021. "Bioarchives of Affect: Erín Moure's The Unmentionable." *Studies in Canadian Literature*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2020. "Phonotopia of Migrations: Oana Avasilichioaei's *Liminal*," *Forms of Migration*, Falschrum Books, 2020.

Jon Saklofske is a co-applicant and Community Cluster co-lead on "Implementing Open Scholarship: Foundations for Social Engagement at Scale," a project led by the Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) Partnership and recently funded (\$2.5 million) by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership grant program.

### **Department of History and Classics**

Vernon Provencal of the History and Classics department published a monograph, *Faulkner's Reception of Apuleius' The Golden Ass in the Reivers* (Bloomsbury, 2020).

Jamie Whidden presented '*Liberal Constitutionalism, Revolutionary Nationalism: the Legal Geography of Empire*' to the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (Virtual, October 17, 2020).

### **Department of Languages and Literatures**

In October 2020, an invitation was extended Bernard Delpeche to co-supervise a doctoral thesis with Dr. Gerry l'Etang from the Université des Antilles in Martinique. The topic of the thesis presented by the doctoral candidate Jean Durosier Desrivieres is called: "La poésie bilingue de Monchoachie et de Georges Castera fils."

Kate Ashley's monograph *Robert Louis Stevenson and Nineteenth-Century French Literature* has been accepted by Edinburgh University Press and will be published in March 2022. An excerpt of her translation of Henry Céard's *La Saignée (Bloodletting)* has been published in *revue ellipse mag*. Dr. Ashley has also been elected President of the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia branch of Canadian Parents for French, a national research-based advocacy organization dedicated to furthering bilingualism by promoting opportunities for students to learn and use French.

### **Department of Politics**

On Tuesday, October 27, Rachel Brickner gave a lecture, "Care is on the ballot: Why COVID-19 should push American voters to pay greater attention to the care economy," as part of the "Big Thinking on the Hill" series organized by the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences with a slightly different take on the US election.



### **Department of Sociology**

Jaro Stacul has been awarded a Post-PhD Research Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for a project entitled 'A Populist Solidarity? An Examination of Right-Wing Populism in Contemporary Poland.'

In July 2020, Lesley Frank began her term as a SSHRC CRC Tier 2 in Food, Health and Social Justice.

### **FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE**

#### **Earth and Environmental Science:**

The Discovery Centre in Halifax has announced that Dr. Sandra Barr will be included in the Nova Scotia Science Hall of Fame at their annual Discovery Awards event on 26 November 2020. This award is given to internationally recognized Nova Scotians who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to society through discoveries in the fields of Science and Technology. They are role models for young Nova Scotians. In her nomination statement, Sandra was identified as a pre-eminent geoscientist of Atlantic Canada who, with over 100 thesis students, has mapped nearly half of Nova Scotia and a substantial portion of New Brunswick, determining the geological history of the most complex parts using techniques ranging from microscopic petrological study to radiometric dating and paleontology.

#### **School of Nutrition and Dietetics:**

The School of Nutrition and Dietetics is pleased to announce the completed renovation of the Calvert Food Commodities Laboratory on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Huggins Science Hall. The renovation is owing to the generosity of an estate gift from Catherine Marshall Perrigo Calvert (class of 1946; Bachelor in Science in Home Economics with Honours (Nutrition)) in memory of her relative Joseph Crandall (1771-1858). The gift supported a significant upgrade to the Food Commodities Laboratory, benefitting all students in the BSN program, as well as students in other programs (e.g., those studying food microbiology), student athletes, and on-campus and community groups.

We look forward to welcoming Acadia and community friends to the beautiful new lab.

Our appreciation to our colleagues who work in Acadia Advancement and Facilities Management for facilitating the upgrade.

### **FACULTY OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

#### **School of Kinesiology**

Dr. Said Mekary and 7 kinesiology honours students have co-published an article, "High-Intensity Interval Training Improves Cognitive Flexibility in Older Adults" in the most recent edition of the journal *Brain Science*.

Dr. Colin King was recently elected as the new Chair of the Education and Research Committee for the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy (e-blast included on <https://www.wfatt.org/>).

## **RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES**

### **New Awards, Grants and Contracts**

#### **Parks Canada - Contribution Agreement**

**Dr. Kirk Hillier** (Biology) is leading a research project to develop management techniques to help mitigate the impacts of a new invasive insect species, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, on hemlock forests in Southwest Nova Scotia. This project is being funded under the Parks Canada General Class Contributions Program. Total Funding - **\$111,005**

#### **Mitacs Globalink Research Award — UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) - University of Nottingham**

**Dr. Mike Corbett** (Education) was recently awarded a Mitacs Globalink Research Award for a project entitled *Place based teacher professional development programme*. The Mitacs student intern involved in the project, Brittany Wright, will travel from England to conduct her research at Acadia in the near future. Total Funding - **\$6000**

*Note: Globalink Research Awards help faculty at Canadian universities strengthen existing international research collaborations and connect with colleagues around the world through the mobility of senior undergraduate and graduate students. Student recipients of the Globalink Research Award will develop research skills, cultural fluency, and professional networks, becoming part of Canada's next generation of global innovators.*

#### **Research Collaboration Agreement – Cape Breton University**

**Dr. Sandra Barr** (Earth & Environmental Science) is collaborating with Dr. Deanne van Rooyen from Cape Breton University. This NSERC Discovery Development Grant (DDG) project will support a graduate student for two years. Total Funding - **\$10,000**

#### **Research Collaboration Agreement – Aethera Technologies Inc.**

**Dr. Matthew McSweeney** (Nutrition & Dietetics) is partnering with Aethera Technologies Inc. to help validate their innovative heating and drying technology. Dr. McSweeney will identify key chemical and quality components of newly dried food products and then analyze/compare various products for these key components. Total Funding: **\$8,750**

### **Upcoming Research Program/Funding deadlines**

**SSHRC Partnership Development Grant:** November 15, 2020

**Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (Stage 3):** November 15, 2020

**University Research Fund (Article 25.55)** November 20, 2020

**SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant:** December 15, 2020

**SSHRC Insight Development Grant:** February 2, 2021

## **ACADIA STUDENTS' UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SENATE:**

**COLLEGE OF DIVINITY/FACULTY OF THEOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SENATE:**

No announcements this month.

Motion to approve the proposed modification to the MSc in Environmental Science (*to be circulated separately*)

Acadia University  
Preliminary Fall Term 2020  
Enrolment and Admissions Report  
(Prepared by the Office of the Registrar)

SUMMARY

The undergraduate enrolment for Acadia as of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was 3624 head count, 3478 FTEs. This represents a decrease of approximately 1% for head count from 2019; with a decrease of 1.5% for FTEs.

Undergraduate international enrolment for Acadia as of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was 503 head count, 478 FTEs. These represent decreases of approximately 8.5% head count, 9.5% FTEs from 2019.

Graduate enrolment for Acadia as of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was 530 head count, 274 FTE. This represents no real change for head count, and FTEs from 2019.

The following briefs are provided in this report:

Undergraduate Head Count and FTE Enrolments

Graduate Head Count and FTE Enrolments

International Undergraduate Head Count and FTE Enrolments

Undergraduate Faculty Enrolments, Undergraduate Year in Program

Source of New Undergraduate Students

Self-Reported Data

Please Note:

-Enrolment Data is derived via SQL query of EDEN

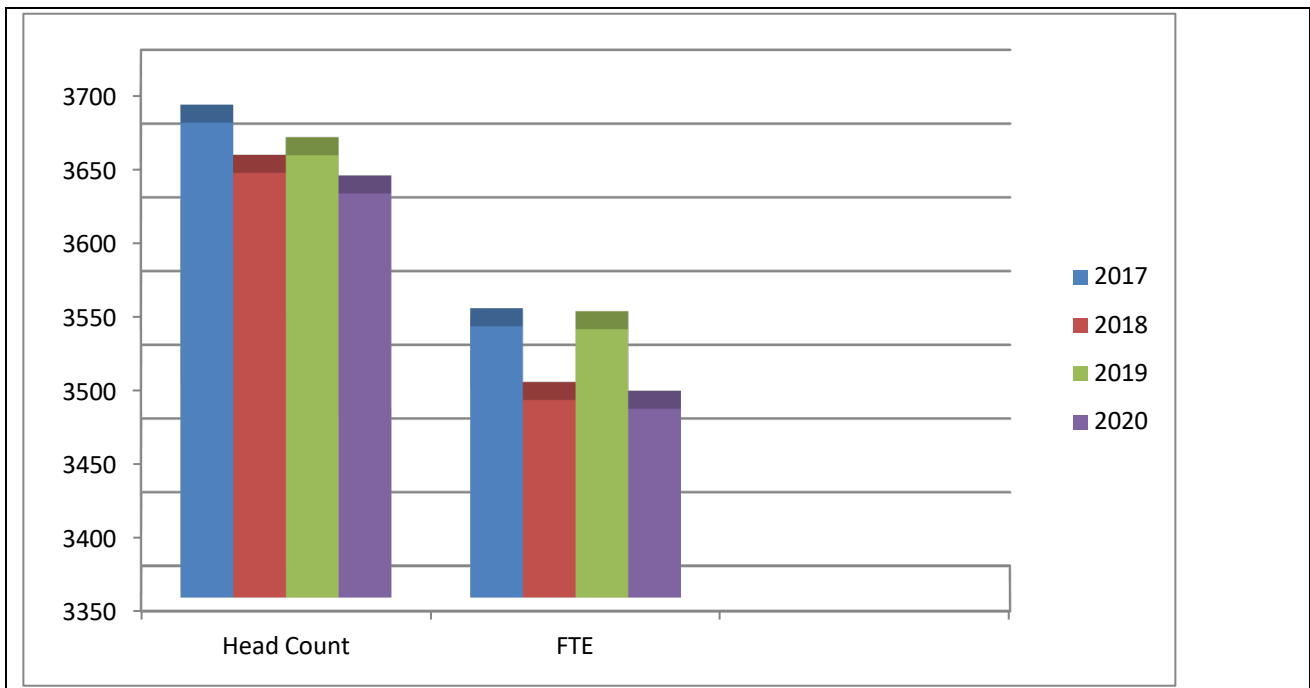
The undergraduate enrolment for October 2020 was 3624 head count, 3478 FTE. Of those, 3261 were F/T, 207 P/T, equivalent to 56 FTE.

The undergraduate enrolment for October 2019 was 3650 head count, 3532 FTE. Of those, 3492 were F/T, 158 P/T, equivalent to 40 FTE.

The undergraduate enrolment for October 2018 was 3638 head count, 3484 FTE. Of those, 3437 were F/T, 201 P/T, equivalent to 47 FTE.

The undergraduate enrolment for October 2017 was 3672 head count, 3534 FTE. Of those, 3383 were F/T, 194 P/T, equivalent to 55 FTE.

**Undergraduate Enrolment**



**Undergraduate Enrolment Summary**

	Head Counts						FTEs					
	2020	2020	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2020	2020	2019	2018	2017
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Total	Total	Total	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Total	Total	Total
Overall	3419	205	3624	3650	3638	3672	3419	59	3478	3532	3484	3534
Intl subset	466	37	503	550	518	505	466	12	478	528	500	482

International enrolments are included in the overall enrolments

**Acadia Graduate Students Head Count and FTE Enrolments**

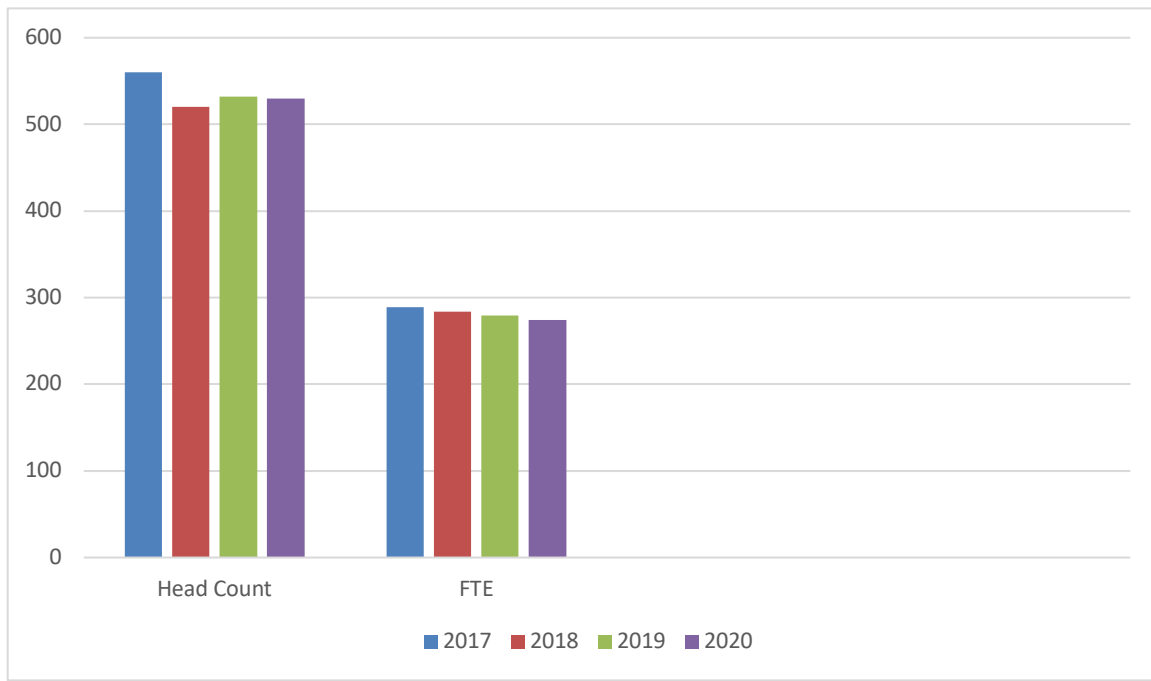
The graduate enrolment as of October, 2020 was 530 head count, 274 FTE. Of those, 163 were F/T, 367 P/T for 111 FTEs.

The graduate enrolment as of October, 2019 was 532 head count, 279 FTE. Of those, 173 were F/T, 359 P/T for 106 FTEs.

The graduate enrolment as of October, 2018 was 520 head count, 284 FTE. Of those, 185 were F/T, 335 P/T for 99 FTEs.

The graduate enrolment as of October, 2017 was 560 head count, 289 FTE. Of those 182 were F/T, 378 PT for 107 FTEs.

**Graduate Enrolment**



**Acadia Graduate Enrolment Summary**

	Head Counts			FTEs								
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2019	2018	2017	
Overall	163	367	530	532	520	560	163	111	274	279	284	289
Intl subset	25	16	41	51	43	37	25	5	30	43	38	33

International enrolments are included in the overall enrolments

**Acadia Undergraduate International Head Count and FTE Enrolments**

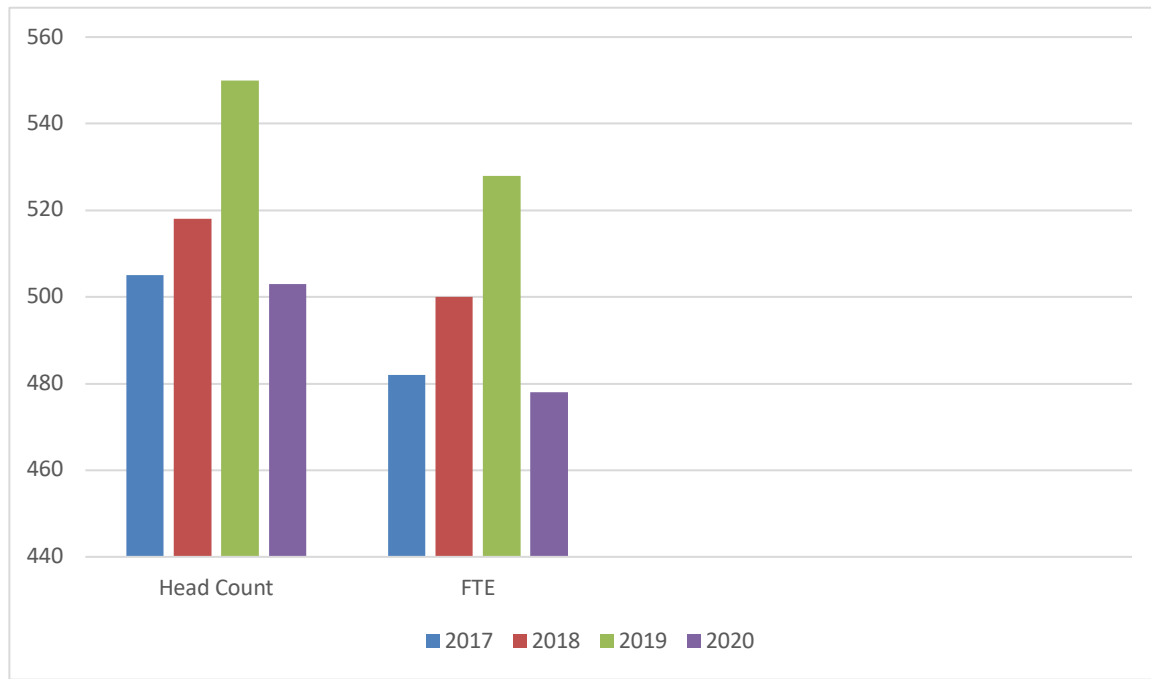
Undergraduate international students as of October, 2020 was 503 head count, 478 FTE. For 2020, international students represented 14% of paid, enrolled, UG students and 14% of FTEs.

Undergraduate international students as of October, 2019 was 550 head count, 528 FTE. For 2019, international students represented 15% of paid, enrolled, UG students and 15% of FTEs.

Undergraduate enrolment of international students as of October, 2018 was 518 head count, 500 FTE. For 2018, international students represented 14% of paid, enrolled, UG students and 14% of FTEs.

Undergraduate international students as of October, 2017 was 505 head count, 482 FTE. For 2017 international students represented 13.5% of paid, enrolled UG students and 13.5% of FTEs.

**Acadia Undergraduate International Enrolment**



**Acadia Undergraduate International Enrolment Summary**

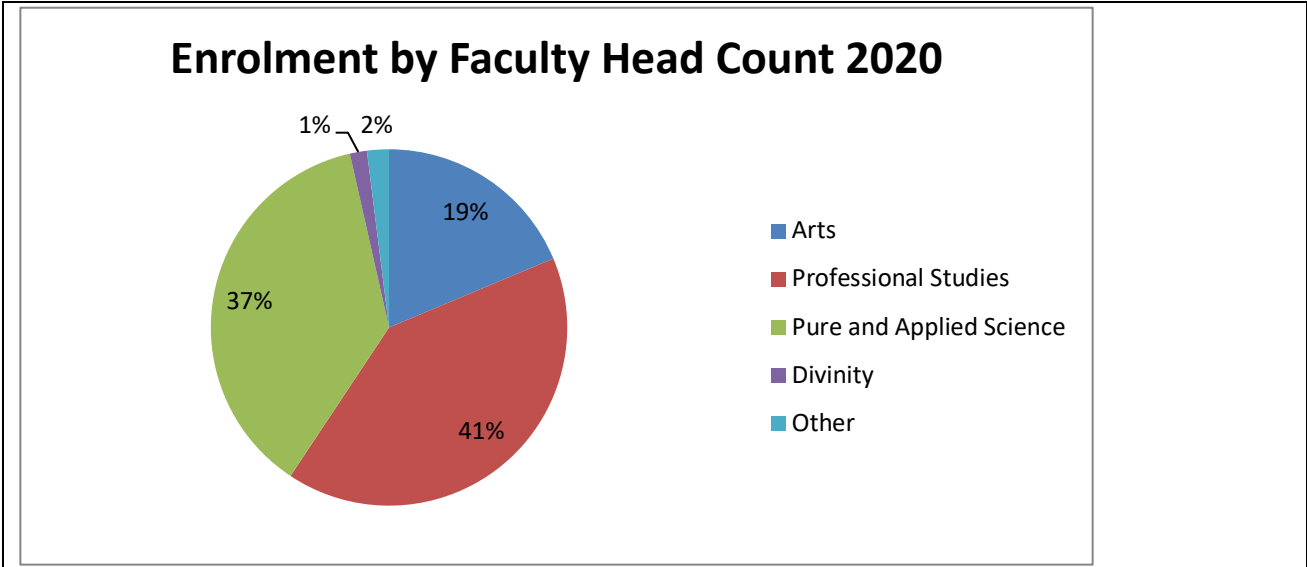
	Head Counts						FTEs					
			2020	2019	2018	2017			2020	2019	2018	2017
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Total	Total	Total	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Total	Total	Total
Intl	466	37	503	550	518	505	466	12	478	528	500	482

**Undergraduate Faculty Enrolments**

2020	Head Count	FTE	2019	Head Count	FTE	2018	Head Count	FTE	2017	Head Count	FTE
Arts	677	658		654	642		816	805		871	857
Prof. Studies	1473	1457		1461	1450		1274	1258		1283	1272



Pure and Applied Science	1346	1305		1389	1363		1349	1327		1351	1324
Divinity	56	24		55	17		69	24		65	19
Other	72	31		91	60		130	70		93	58

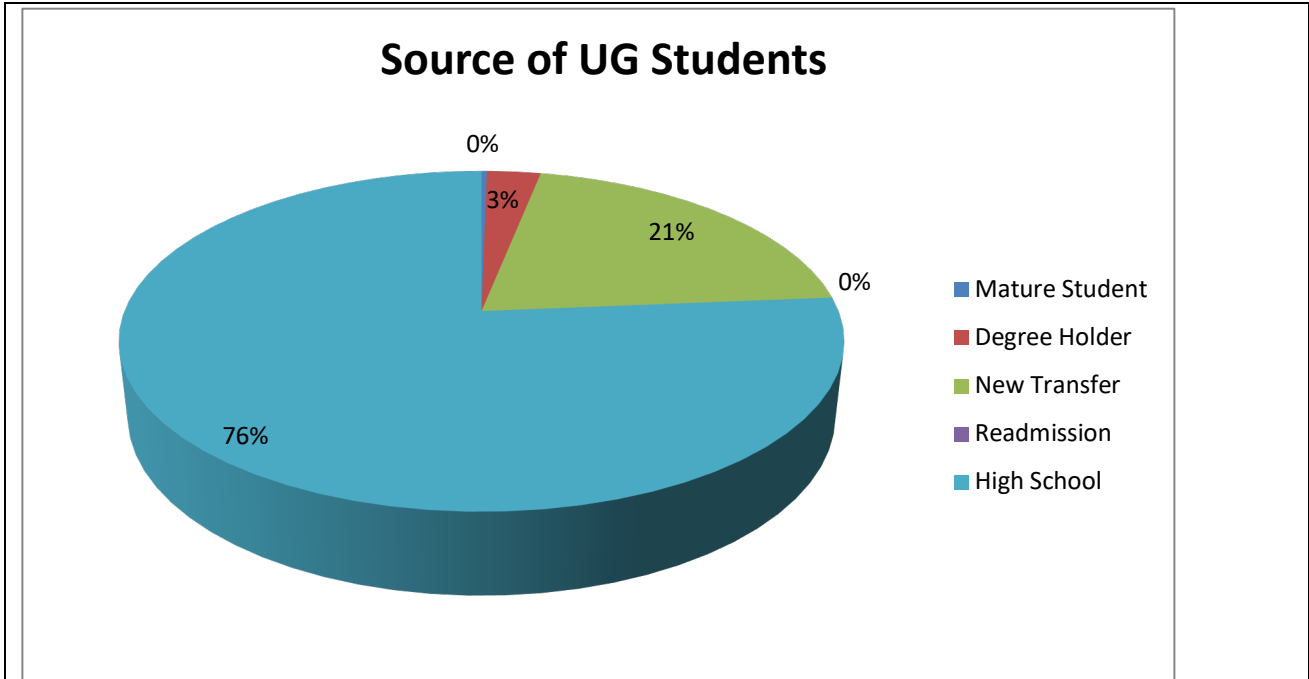


**Undergraduate Headcount Enrolment by Year in Program**

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Year 1	1170	1235	1245	1272
Year 2	848	827	871	871
Year 3	753	765	740	685
Year 4	618	589	551	619
Year 5	66	71	84	96
BEd.	168	154	142	120
Non-Credit	1	9	5	9
Total	3624	3650	3638	3672

**Acadia Source of New Undergraduate Students**

Acadia continues to receive students into our respective undergraduate programs from a number of sources. As expected, applicants from high school comprise over 75%, with transfer students being the next largest group.



### Undergraduate Sources of New Students Enrolment Summary

	2020/FA	2019/FA	2018/FA	2017/FA
High School	806	890	889	942
Degree Holder Transfer	30	21	25	21
New Transfer	217	207	214	182
Readmission	0	0	5	6
Mature	3	3	12	3
Totals	1056	1121	1145	1154

### Acadia - Source of UG Head Count Canadian Students by Province of Residence

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Alberta	102	91	96	134
British Columbia	83	95	113	92
Manitoba	14	16	17	21
New Brunswick	310	301	331	341

Newfoundland and Labrador	46	52	49	48
Northwest Territory	5	4	5	3
Nova Scotia	2059	1976	1903	1904
Ontario	388	445	487	509
Prince Edward Island	58	69	74	72
Quebec	18	15	23	20
Saskatchewan	13	17	18	14
Yukon	4	4	4	4
TOTAL	3100	3085	3120	3162

**Self-Reported Enrolments – Total**

Headcount 1 <sup>st</sup> Year				
Year	Aboriginal	Black Nova Scotian	Other	Total
2017	78	187	3967	4232
2018	104	226	3828	4158
2019	102	228	3852	4182
2020	120	243	3791	4154

Notes: Includes all UG, GR students.

**Self-Reported %**

Year	Aboriginal	Black Nova Scotian	Other
2017	1.8%	4.4%	94%
2018	2.5%	5.4%	92%
2019	2.4%	5.4%	92%
2020	2.8%	5.8%	91%

Admission and Academic Standing Committee  
(Policy) Senate Motion  
November 9, 2020

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**Senate Motion:** To adopt, effective May 2020, the list of potential graduates that is presented to Senate and Faculty Council for approval will have the degrees listed with the same level of detail that is printed on the parchment.

**Report to Senate**  
**Timetable, Instruction Hours, and Examination Committee**

1. Committee chair:

Hugh Chipman was elected committee chair for 2020 - 2021 during an October 21, 2020 meeting.

2. Meeting dates: Sep 28, Oct 21, Nov 18, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17 and Apr 21

3. Acceptable modalities:

The committee agreed to meet by MS Teams this year.

The committee passed a motion (October 21, 2020) to allow voting by email, if the committee could not meet in person and there was an immediate need to make decisions.

4. Committee mandate: At their Oct 21 meeting,

Committee reviewed the committee mandate (page 29 of document "Membership for 2020-2021 on Senate and University Committees at <https://senate.acadiau.ca/files/sites/senate/Committees%20and%20Membership/COM20-21%20Draft%20Version%202.pdf> ). There was agreement with the duties outlined in that document

Duty #8 on that list ("to ensure that proper examination procedures are carried out;") was discussed. Covid-19 has affected examination procedures and the consensus was that the committee might look into this. This might include exam procedure modalities, post-exam survey of students and faculty in Dec/Jan to determine what worked and what didn't, exam procedures (e.g. question of requiring video cameras to monitor student activity during exams), etc.

An item not on the official duties list, but identified in summer 2020 relates to the newly approved timetable for classes. The committee previously agreed to conduct a survey of faculty, staff and student experience with the 2020-21 class timetable, to establish a "baseline" prior to implementation in 2021-22 of the new timetable for classes. The committee feels that with the current pandemic conditions, and the adaptation to the timetable of classes (additional 30-minute gaps), a survey in 2020-21 would not provide useful baseline information. The committee recommends conducting the first survey in 2021-22, during the first year of implementation of the new timetable of classes.

Respectfully submitted  
Hugh Chipman  
October 23, 2020

## SENATE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE TRANSITION REPORT

October 27, 2020

Committee membership: Pat Townsend (ex-officio/Archivist), Wendy Robicheau (ex-officio/Archivist), Dale Keefe (ex-officio/University Librarian), Xiaoting Wang (Arts rep.), Michael Dennis (Arts rep.), Paul Doerr (Arts rep. and perpetual committee Chair), Michelle Boyd (Professional Studies rep.), Catherine Morley (P & A Sci rep.), Melody Maxwell (Theology rep.), Eleanor Palmer (Alumni appointee), Britanie Wentzell (Presidential Appointee), Shirley Soleil-Day (Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada rep.), Zachary Goldsmith (Student rep.).

Committee Mandate: As representatives of their various constituents, members of the Senate Archives Committee will work collaboratively: (1) to advise and guide on long-term and short-term directions that are consistent with the mandate and strategic direction of the Archives; (2) to advocate for the Archives within the University, the Convention of the Atlantic Baptist Churches and the local community; (3) to make an annual report; (4) to address other Archives-related issues that shall arise from time to time.

The Senate Archives Committee met on October 20 at 3 pm. Paul Doerr was re-elected Chair. The committee received a thorough and engaging report from Archivist Wendy Robicheau. The committee agreed to meet virtually on either November 17 or 24 (dependent on Doodle poll results) and again in late March.

The committee discussed its mandate at some length. One committee member thought that adding a clause indicating support for academic activity was warranted. Committee members also expressed concern at the implications that the current public health emergency might have on the University Archives, particularly given the impact of Covid on archives elsewhere in the country. The committee felt that the profile of the Archives in the university needed to be raised, and that this might be done best via the three faculty councils.

## **Research Ethics Board**

Elected chair: Stephen Maitzen

**Scheduled meetings (2020-21):** July 2, August 6, September 3, October 5, November 4, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8

Mode: Microsoft Teams

Members: David Duke, Ph.D., Faculty Representative  
Michael Jeffrey, M.A., Community Representative  
Stephanie Jones, Ph.D., Faculty Representative  
Cheri Killam, J.D., Community Representative  
Ryan MacNeil, Ph.D.  
Stephen Maitzen, Ph.D., Chair  
Anna Redden, Ph.D., Dean of Research and Graduate Studies (*ex officio*, non-voting)  
Mary Tajeddin, B.Sc., Graduate Student Representative (non-voting)  
Shon Whitney, M.Ed., Community Representative

Mandate of the Committee:

- 1.1 Research requiring ethics review**
- 1.2 Authority of the REB**
- 1.3 Membership of the REB**
- 1.4 Scholarly review**
- 1.5 Proportionate review and minimal risk**
- 1.6 Types of review**
- 1.7 Meetings and attendance**
- 1.8 Record-keeping**
- 1.9 Decision-making**
- 1.10 Reconsideration**
- 1.11 Appeals**
- 1.12 Conflicts of interest**
- 1.13 Review procedures for ongoing research**
- 1.14 Review of multi-centred research**
- 1.15 Review of research in other jurisdictions and countries**
- 2.1 Requirement for free and informed consent**
- 2.2 Voluntariness of consent**
- 2.3 Observational research**
- 2.4 Participation of legally incompetent subjects**
- 2.5 Substitute consent for legally incompetent subjects**
- 2.6 Dissent of legally incompetent subjects**
- 2.7 Research in emergency health situations**

## **Senate Honours Committee Plans for 2020-2021 Short Report for November Meeting of Senate**

### **Committee Membership:**

1	Dean of Research and Graduate Studies	Anna Redden
1	Registrar	Mark Bishop
1	Arts	Can Mutlu
1	Arts	Jennifer MacDonald
1	Prof. St.	Stephen MacLean
1	Prof. St.	Claire Mallin
1	P&A Sc.	Joseph Hayes
1	P&A Sc.	Morgan Synder
1	Honours Student (Arts)	Cassandra Alfieri
1	Honours Student (Prof. St.)	Brooke Thompson
1	Honours Student (P&A Sc.)	Jordi Chaffer

### **Schedule of Meetings:**

#### Fall Term:

*September 14:* Committee met to discuss goals for the upcoming year.

*November 10:* Committee will meet to discuss business arising from the previous meeting.

#### Winter Term:

*TBD:* Meeting to finalize business arising from previous meetings

*TBD:* Meeting to adjudicate Summer Honours Research Awards

### **Main Issue to be addressed this year:**

The main issue to be address this year is the impact of the pandemic on Acadia University Honours Processes. Given the potential to spread coronavirus with physical copies of Theses (which must be signed by multiple parties), the committee is exploring options to avoid the need for original signatures on the Theses for the 2020/21 year. The committee is also looking into potential campus-wide options for an Honours Thesis conference in the Spring.



**Senate Bylaws Committee  
Plans for 2020-2021**

Committee members 2020-2021:

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

The duties of the Senate Bylaws Committee are:

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

Committee held its first formal meeting of the year on 2 October 2020.

1. C. Mutlu is appointed as chair of the Committee for the 2020-21 academic year.
2. The Committee meets as regularly as needed by the Senate, with virtual MS-Teams as the preferred medium for the 2020-21 academic year.
3. The Committee attends to issues as they arise; It is currently addressing a request from the Members of the Senate Curriculum Committee (Admin) to undertake whatever consultation and procedural steps are required to have Senate consider adding the Associate Registrar as an *ex officio* member.
4. The Committee identified looking into if any faculty by-laws have been, or need to be, updated as a goal for the 2020-21 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bylaws Committee  
Can E. Mutlu, chair  
Igor Semenenko  
Glenn Wooden*

## **Senate Research Committee Report**

### **Fall (November 2020)**

#### **Committee Membership for 2020/2021:**

Dean of Research & Graduate Studies: Anna Redden ex-officio (Chair)  
Arts Faculty: Michael Dennis  
Professional Studies Faculty: Said Mekary  
P&A Science Faculty: Mojtaba Kaviani  
Theology Faculty: Spencer Boersma  
Librarian: Ann Smith  
Canada Research Chair: Mark Mallory  
Graduate Student: Shane Mason  
Undergraduate Student: Jordi Chaffer

The first meeting of the Senate Research Committee for 2020/2021 was held on 27 October. The Committee membership and Terms of Reference were reviewed. Updates were provided on a range of RGS activities since the Spring meeting, followed by discussion of activities for the current academic year.

Meetings frequency for 2020/2021 (MS Teams): min of 2 per semester plus Working Group meetings.

Goals and priority activities for the coming year include the following:

- Focused activity (via 3 Working Groups which may also include non-Committee members) on:
  - 1) Research Data Management (Working Group chaired by Maggie Nielson),
  - 2) Policies related to Centres and Institutes, roles of Directors, and reporting, and
  - 3) Research mentorship and celebration.The working groups will meet separately to make progress on policies, guidelines, plans and/or activities and report back to the full committee when it meets.
- Make progress on reviewing and recommending revisions of the 2015-2020 Strategic Research Plan, with reference to Acadia's Strategic Plan 2020-2025.
- Review duties and policies related to the Research Committee and forward any recommendations for amendments to Senate via the Senate By-Laws Committee.
- Identify and support research and professional development opportunities for faculty and both graduate and undergraduate research students.
- Contribute to highlighting and celebrating research of faculty and students.
- Contribute to the planning of Maple League research activities.
- Any other matters that Senate directs to the Committee.

Submitted by

Anna Redden  
Dean, Research & Graduate Studies  
Chair, Senate Research Committee

## Senate Graduate Studies Committee Report

### Fall (November 2020)

#### Committee Membership for 2020/2021:

Dean of Research & Graduate Studies: A. Redden ex-officio (Chair)

Graduate Program Coordinators:

14 Masters: C. Mutlu, G. MacKinnon, F. Mendivil, M. Mallory, A. Quema, S. Blythe, L. Price, A. Tong, S. Rudrum, S. Barr, G. Donnelly, I. Spooner, G Whitehall, E. Shakshuki

1 PhD: L. Aylward

Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee (non-voting) ex-officio – P. Williams

Graduate Student Representatives (1 per Faculty):

Arts – A Mason, Prof. Studies – vacant, P&A Science – H. Manek, Theology - M. Poworoznyk

The first meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for 2020/2021 was held via Teams on 19 October. The Chair referred to the Committee Terms of Reference and Graduate Program Coordinator Duties and provided an update on programs proposed and under review, and both recent and upcoming activities.

Meeting frequency (via MS Teams): 2 per semester, plus subcommittee meetings for assigned tasks.

Goals and priority activities for the coming year include the following:

- Adjudicate graduate student external scholarships (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, ResearchNS, NS Provincial) and the Acadia Outstanding Master's Research Awards – via sub-committees.
- Review policies and practices related to Graduate Studies, including thesis guidelines, and make recommendations for amendments and RGS website updates where needed.
- Examine year-to-year trends in graduate student enrollment, retention and completion rates, opportunities with the Maple League, and make recommendations where needed.
- Develop procedures to better track the progress of part-time students and thesis/program completions.
- Identify and support professional development activities for graduate students.
- Promote, support and celebrate graduate student research.
- Contribute to discussions for revising Acadia's Strategic Research Plan (2015-2020). May involve one or more joint meetings with members of the Research Committee.
- Review all proposed graduate program changes and any new proposals prior to Senate review.
- Any other matters that Senate directs to the Committee.

Submitted by

Anna Redden  
Chair, Senate Graduate Studies Committee

## **Senate Nominating Committee**

**Members:** Peter Ricketts, Michael Robertson, Paul Callaghan, Robert Seale, Claire Mallin, Ian Wilks, Caroline Cochran

### **Report to Senate**

Nov 2, 2020

The Nominating Committee met on October 9, 2020 and nominated Caroline Cochran to continue serving as Chair for this committee. Caroline Cochran has accepted the nomination. The committee has agreed to hold their next meeting in late January or early February of 2020.

Since January of this year, our committee brought forward nominations for the following positions:

- Deputy Chair of Senate
- Faculty Elections Officer
- Representatives of Senate on the Senate Executive
- Senate Lay Person

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Cochran, Chair

Senate Nominating Committee

## **Senate Curriculum Committee (Policy)**

### **2020 Transition Report – November 2, 2020**

The Committee held its first meeting on Friday October 9, 2020 and Peter Williams was elected Chair.

We selected a day of the week and time for our meetings. We held our second meeting on Friday Oct 30 and our next meeting is scheduled for Friday Nov 20. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled on an as needed basis at each meeting.

We will meet via Teams for this academic year.

We reviewed our mandate and determine that we would work on the following items for the coming academic year.

1. Continuation of review of definitions of credentials for consistency and adherence to MPHEC qualifications framework. Agreement to further this work as a Committee this year. Learning Objectives (outcomes) requirements perhaps being needed for degrees as per MPHEC. Graduate attributes would be a similarly aligned concept for consideration.
2. ACE Colleague impacts on furthering policy. Identified full year course impact as it doesn't align with Term basis of Colleague Student. Discussion arose of pedagogy basis and concerns of moving away from full year offerings.
3. Credit hour definition/s. This has been raised at Senate on different occasions and on different Senate committees. Is it reflective of a contact hour, outcome, and discipline perspectives? The Committee agreed to, if time allowed, to renew this discussion. Labs being reflected as separate entities on transcript for follow-up.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Williams

**Membership:**

Provost and VP Academic (Chair): Dale Keefe  
Dean of Pure & Applied Science: Suzie Currie  
Dean of Arts: Laura Robinson  
Dean of Professional Studies (Acting): Ann Vibert  
Arts Head or Director: Vacant  
Arts Representative: Christian Thomas  
Professional Studies (Director): René Murphy  
Student VP Academic: Lydia Houck  
Professional Studies Representative: Paul Lauzon  
Registrar: Mark Bishop  
Director of Open Acadia: Jeff Banks  
Theology Representative: Matthew Walsh  
Pure & Applied Science Representative: Anthony Tong  
Pure & Applied Science Head or Director: Paul Arnold

The Committee met on October 13, 2020 and reviewed the tasks assigned to it by the Senate of Acadia University.

- The Chair of this committee is C. Dale Keefe, Provost and Vice-President Academic.
- Acceptable modalities for the upcoming year include meetings held via MS Teams given COVID-19 protocols.

**The Admission and Academic Standing Committee (Policy)'s mandate is as follows:**

Duties: To interpret and to apply the conditions of admissions and academic standing as outlined in the University Calendar and to make recommendations to Senate with respect to policy as it relates to admissions, failures, and academic regulations.

**Goals for the coming year are identified as follows:**

1. Review and recommend a Classroom Conduct policy
2. Review and recommend a "D" Grade Exception policy
3. Review and recommend whether we should list area of specialization of the degree on the list of graduates when presented to senate.
4. Review and recommend the Dean's List top 5% eligibility policy
5. Recommend a Micro Credential policy

Respectfully submitted,  
C. Dale Keefe, Chair

### **Senate Curriculum Committee Administrative**

Committee Members 2020-2021:

Michael Corbett, Igor Semenenko, Allison Walker, Kait Pinder, Peter Williams, Mark Bishop (Transitional Chair).

Committee met on October 13, 2020 via Teams

Michael Corbett agreed to serve as Chair, with Kait Pinder indicating an interest in serving next year. Unanimous agreement.

Unanimous agreement for virtual modality to conduct meetings. There was some discussion of platform (Teams versus Zoom). It was decided that Teams would be the primary platform which could be reviewed if issues arise.

Discussion of meeting frequency. Agreement to have concentrated meetings over 2-3 days once curriculum submissions are received (after Nov. 27th deadline). If additional meetings are required, Committee agreed to consider as needed.

Items of discussion:

1. Discussion of minor curriculum items versus those of substance, and the possibility of asking Curriculum Committee Policy to permit fast tracking these types of items to allow Committee to focus on more significant changes.

Motion to adjourn at 12:02pm.

Submitted by Mark Bishop

### **Senate Disability Committee**

Committee members 2020-2021:

Cindy Trudel, Marissa Mcisaac, Donna Seamone, Shawna Peverill, Jenny Lind, Kelly Brenton (added November 3<sup>rd</sup>) Mark Bishop (Transitional Chair).

Senate Disability Committee met on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Unanimous agreement that Teams meetings to be used as modality for the conducting of meetings.  
Unanimous agreement that email voting is fine if needed between meetings or if a timely action is needed.

The Committee has agreed to meet at least once more in the Fall to finalize the Chairship, agenda items, mandate.

Agenda items for the year for consideration were discussed. Items that arose were:

1. Course based tuition. This item was forwarded last year to senior administration, and a written response is desired.
2. Retroactive accommodations.
3. Faculty member suggestion for an Excel list from Accessibility services for one file per /faculty member and/or course rather than individual student by course. This could save data entry and requests as well as facilitate faculty awareness.
4. EDI Audit. Questions for the upcoming audit, from an accessibility student support perspective.

Marissa Mcisaac provided an update of students supported. Approximately 675 students being supported, with 129 new students seeking support. The nature of work has changed with many more online workshops and appointments instead of online. Faculty have been quite supportive in the new environment.

Marissa detailed personnel changes, including a current vacancy which is in progress of being filled.

Submitted by Mark Bishop