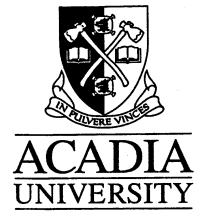


Office of the Senate Secretariat

Acadia University
Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Canada B0P 1X0

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



Minutes of the Senate Meeting of Monday March 13, 2023.

A hybrid meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday March 13, 2023, beginning at 4:00 p.m., with Chair A. Kiefte presiding and 34 Senators present and two guests. The meeting took place in the Langley Classroom, Divinity College, with 9 members attending in person and 25 members attending using Zoom.

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 C. Stanley and seconded by D. Benoit.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS AMENDED CARRIED.

2) Other Business

**a) Academic Data Needs
(D. Currie)**

The Chair welcomed D. Currie, who serves as The Institutional Research Officer. D. Currie started with the presentation on Academic Data Needs. He stated that the basic purpose of this project is to collect and document information that relates to the academic sector, and to inform subsequent implementation of projects, develop standardized definitions, and identify common needs.

D. Currie further discussed the scope of the project which includes two aspects, one regarding the information needs of the academic sector and the other would be the needs of those outside the academic sector for information maintained by the academic sector.

D. Currie described the phases of the project. The first phase involved initial surveying and compilation which involves a questionnaire to collect common needs and themes. The second phase is audience follow-ups where individual or group follow-ups may be conducted. The third phase involves a technical review where specific measures are identified to support information requirements and document how they are calculated. The fourth phase is the audience review which involves feedback on the resulting documentation.

D. Currie further stated that in the first phase the data will be collected from administrators and Senate committee Chairs. Documents include MOUs,

strategic plans, collective agreements, regular media surveys. These data will then be compiled and used to inform conversations in the second phase. D. Currie conveyed that later this week, March 15-April 6, the first questionnaire will be released.

T. McGillivray asked about what precipitated this project. She stated that Acadia already captures and records a lot of data and asked if there would be a phase zero, more of a gap analysis.

D. Currie responded that one reason for not doing gap analysis is that it involves a lot of additional work, but also that the people who are being consulted are the ones managing and using the data. It is not just about new things that we need to collect, but how we collect data that we have and how it is provided to the people that need it.

T. McGillivray said that this sounds more about reporting and not about capturing data.

D. Currie responded that capturing information may result as a byproduct, but this is a reporting and flow-based exercise.

T. McGillivray also suggested that it would be easier to demonstrate and show at the beginning of each consultation session that this is the reporting, and then start building on from there.

D. Currie thanked T. McGillivray for the suggestion and said he will take note of that.

D. Seamone asked a question about the rationale for not consulting faculty or Heads. D. Currie stated that when he had mentioned academic administration, it included unit Heads and Directors, Deans, and others.

D. Benoit asked if 'information needed' meant the information that we currently have access to or the information we wanted to have access to in the future.

D. Currie stated that it could be either.

P. Callaghan stated that in the last year and half, a lot of changes to what is available had occurred as a result of the introduction of the new Colleague system. He felt that we were not seeing a baseline of what reports we have already been relying on.

D. Currie replied that in terms of what we already have, individuals do have some knowledge, but a lot of this is done in isolation. It would still be good for people to give input because people have different perspectives on what is needed and available.

The Chair asked whether this will lead to training about what data is available and how to access it.

D. Currie answered that there is no structured format for training. He explained that some training materials existed for this but more could come later.

T. McGillivray stated that she has done a lot of system integration and stated that it can be hard to determine conclusively when such a project is completed. The organizational change and aspects of its implementation must involve training on how to use the systems to get the information. She strongly encourages people to make others aware of what reports are already generated.

The Chair thanked D. Currie for presenting to the Senate and hearing the comments and addressing the questions. The Chair also invited D. Currie to attend future Senate meetings in later phases if he wishes to do so.

3) Minutes of the Meeting of Senate – Monday February 13th, 2023

Motion to approve the Minutes of Monday February 13th, 2023.

Moved by J. Sachs and seconded by D. Benoit.

The Chair announced two amendments made to the minutes of February 13th prior to today's meeting.

The two amendments are:

1. On page 4, in the 2nd paragraph, line 5, there is a phrase that says "in cross-listed" and it should be corrected to "is cross-listed".
2. On page 4, paragraph 6, it was not Heather Saunders who spoke to the amendment, it was Christianne Rushton.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED WITH TWO AMENDMENTS.

4) Announcements

a) From the Chair

The Chair announced regrets from A. Quema, R. Seale, D. Keefe, A. Robbins, C. Haigh, D. Looker, L. Robinson, T. Surette, D. Zacharias.

The Chair again announced D. Currie as a Guest for his previous presentation.

The Chair announced that the new Ad-Hoc Committee on Micro-Credentials had been formed and the members of the committee were Jeffrey Sachs as Arts Senator, Lisa Price as Pure and Applied Science Senator, Christianne Rushton as Professional Studies Senator, Danny Zacharias as Theology Senator, Dianne Looker as Lay Senator.

The Chair also stated that the cross-listing item from last meeting related to HIST 3033 and CREL had been addressed through normal curriculum processes and the paperwork had been submitted for that without needing to come back to Senate as a whole.

b) From the President

President Ricketts had provided written announcements and had nothing further to add at this time.

J. Sachs asked a question regarding the consulting agency that the University is engaging with related to student housing. The president responded that it hasn't yet been selected. He also informed that the University have been working with a few housing agencies recommended by the federal housing agency but nothing has been confirmed yet.

L. Price asked the President if he could give more information regarding the potential nursing program, the progress made so far, when the courses would commence, and what resources were needed for that.

President Ricketts explained that the University would be engaging with a steering committee to work on the nursing program. The curriculum development is being worked on and is in possible partnership with Cape Breton University (CBU). President Ricketts further stated that the University has no commitments yet, and that the program would require more infrastructure and government funding and the proposal right now is that we could manage the program. The process is moving along and if it gets approved this fiscal year, the University could begin intake in September 2023, and there would be impact on the already existing programs. President Ricketts also said that the University is awaiting costing commitment from province regarding the resources needed to deliver this.

The Chair asked if the University had had any discussions with Valley Regional Hospital. President Ricketts responded that the University had discussed potential partnerships with Valley Regional Hospital as well as the NSCC Kingstec campus that delivers a Licensed Practical Nursing program.

T. McGillivray enquired regarding the topic of the University's Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN mentioned in his report. She asked whether there is support for projects for students and faculty, and if there is funding from the UN or the Province.

President Ricketts said that once established, the Strategic Plan would change as we move forward. He added that the Faculties are encouraged to engage in these and that the University is trying to encourage research and student activities. Level 1 has already started off in a rush, but as we go forward, we have more time. President Ricketts added that the University had more student activities the year before. He added that the University should be looking at when and how we implement the SDGs as we go forward. He stated that we have a little more time now to send out the calls and that the information goes out from the sustainability office. President Ricketts also added that the Zero Hunger goals may be a priority next year.

T. McGillivray asked why Acadia is the only university that committed to the UN SDGs.

President Ricketts explained that he is unsure of the reason why many Canadian universities have not signed on to the SDGs. He further stated that many Canadian colleges have engaged but no other Canadian Universities have done so. He also said that there is another network named SDG Network Alliance.

President Ricketts stated that he has spoken with a number of his presidential colleagues to suggest that Canadian universities should consider it.

B. Wilson asked about the nursing program, and wanted to know if there were any members of steering committee who could provide more information.

President Ricketts stated that D. Keefe and S. Currie would be the best people to talk about the nursing program details.

S. Currie clarified that the steering committee was formed for Health Sciences in general and not for the potential nursing program specifically and that the Health Sciences Steering Committee hadn't met for quite some time. There have been conversations with the Provost and Deans and CBU and at this stage it depended on the Province. There is a potential partnership with CBU. Starting a nursing program at Acadia depends on external funding.

J. Sachs asked whether Senate has the authority to approve a Nursing program.

The Chair responded that a previous nursing program had been approved by Senate a number of years ago and that her understanding was that the initial discussions about this had been with that in mind. Any specifics around curriculum would need to come to Senate once worked through.

J. Sachs then asked whether about the university's plans to potentially admit 45 students in September and whether Acadia would be delivering a program accredited by CBU or would be getting accredited itself.

President Ricketts explained that initially, Acadia would function under CBU's accreditation. Then there would probably be a field visit by the accrediting bodies of the College of Nursing to make sure Acadia has the facilities to accommodate a nursing program. Until the program at Acadia is fully functional, Acadia would continue being under CBU's accreditation and later detach from the CBU.

J. Sachs asked whether Acadia would lose its authority to make decisions regarding the nursing program.

President Ricketts explained that initially the first year curriculum would have courses that would be similar to those offered at CBU. Later Acadia would hire nursing faculty who would then develop the curriculum. Until Acadia meets the accreditation for the nursing program, Acadia's curricular freedom would be limited.

L. Price asked about when the Senate approved a nursing program and if it was in the mid 2000s. She also asked if that approval would carry indefinitely.

The Chair believed that it was approved in the early 2010s.

B. Wilson stated that he was on a previous committee that had put together the nursing program before 2010 and that Acadia had identified courses with a pre-clinical program that could handle 25 students at that time. The clinical programs were to have partners with Health authorities locally and Halifax. Acadia had

hired Nursing consultants at that time to guide us meet accreditation standards. The proposal was put forth at Senate but did not go forward beyond that.

S. Currie stated that there is a lot of uncertainty regarding the potential nursing program. It could be a CBU program operating at Acadia campus, or it could be like a version of the engineering program of two plus two where students start their program at Acadia and then go elsewhere to finish it. The program may have to come back for Senate approval. At this point, the Deans are mapping first year CBU courses to Acadia course equivalents.

C. Stanley stated that nursing is a profession governed by an act of the legislative assembly. That act empowers the organization to recognize programs that are given authority to educate future nurses. It is not really CBU's authority nor Acadia's, but the authority of The College of Nurses. He added that Acadia must work with the legislation before we can say that we can start providing the courses.

President Ricketts stated that what the University is looking at is to launch a nursing program under CBU's accreditation, but the University would definitely need some kind of site visit from The College of Nurses to approve Acadia as a location. It is not up to CBU to agree that a nursing program could be started here at Acadia, it would be decided by The College of Nurses. But it is up to CBU whether they wish to partner with Acadia. Beyond this, the approval of funding must come from the Province, and Acadia must also meet accreditation standards set by the College of Nurses.

D. Benoit stated that the motion regarding the approval of a nursing program is mentioned in the minutes of 10th November 2008, on page 6.

The Chair mentioned that in 2013 there is also reference to a nursing program with a partnership with a Yarmouth site.

S. Currie stated that enough had changed over the last number of years since the previous discussions and that a new proposal would be brought to Senate based on this current potential programming.

c) From the Provost and VPA

D. Keefe had provided the Chair with few written announcements prior to the meeting.

The Chair read out the announcements on behalf of D. Keefe.

- i. Regarding the African NS/ African Scholars cluster hire: The committee has received initial feedback from units with potential applicants. There were a number of additional applications received and some individuals had completed the self-identification form since the original applications were sent to the units. The committee has decided to proceed with these as well. Units will receive applications this week.
- ii. Mi'kmaw/Indigenous cluster hire: applications have been received and as required by the MOA, identity is being confirmed by the Mi'kmaw

representatives on the committee and the IABC. This should be completed this week and units should receive applications this week.

- iii. The spring term for a cohort of new students in business or computer science is on hold and will not proceed this year.

J. Sachs wanted to know the reason why the spring intake was on hold for business and computer science.

D. Benoit explained that Acadia was working with a recruitment company on this initiative and had received estimated numbers for it to be viable. The numbers did not end up being what they had projected, so it has been put on hold for now.

P. Callaghan added that there will be future work on this and that all the planning that had gone into it so far would not go waste.

S. Duguay added that the numbers also did not line up with residence life services. The university did not want to push for things that we were not ready for.

d) From the Associate VP Research and Dean of Graduate Studies

A. Redden submitted a written report. She further added that she received a lot of responses about collaborative research grants held by faculty at Acadia with collaborators at other universities. She hopes to submit a summary of these for the April Senate meeting.

5) New Business:

- a) **Motion: Motion from the By-Laws Committee: Motion that the Vice-Provost, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion become a voting member of the Senate.**

Motion: Motion from the By-Laws Committee: Motion that the Vice-Provost, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion become a voting member of the Senate.

Moved by J. Carlson and seconded by T. McGillivray

J. Carlson stated that in the By-laws Committee, there are two Vice Provosts in the membership, one non-voting member and one voting member. For the voting member, their job involves educational policy. This is the rationale for this position being a voting member of Senate.

T. McGillivray added that this position could have influence on academic content to help ensure that we are promoting EDI in courses, and hence the position should be a voting member.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b) **Motion from the By-Laws Committee: Motion that the Associate Vice-President Research and**

Motion from the By-Laws Committee: Motion that the Associate Vice-President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies be added to the Academic Planning Committee.

Dean of Graduate Studies be added to the Academic Planning Committee.

Moved by J. Carlson and seconded by D. Duke

J. Carlson explained that By-laws Committee reasoning is that that Associate Vice- President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies be added to the Academic Planning Committee as their job involves educational policy.

D. Duke agreed that research and graduate studies is a key component in academic sector planning and budgeting and hence it makes sense to have Associate Vice- President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies as a member of the committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c) Motion from the By-Laws Committee: Motion that the Faculty of Arts Constitution be amended as outlined.

Motion from the By-Laws Committee: Motion that the Faculty of Arts Constitution be amended as outlined.

Moved by J. Carlson and seconded by C. Stanley

Three documents had been circulated separately: current 2019 version of Faculty of Arts Constitution, proposed version with additions and deletions marked up, proposed version in clean format.

J. Carlson stated that the By-laws Committee had reviewed the changes and they were now coming to Senate. The main changes include the addition of table of contents, and a change to gender neutral language. The preamble was added in conformity with the constitution of the Faculty of Professional Studies, Faculty of Science, and Faculty Council of the university. Two awards committees were deleted because they were inactive, and one was added. There was also the addition of clarifying language around the membership of Dean of Arts and the Steering Committee.

D. Duke said that he had heard concerns regarding the language at the end of preamble but recognized that the language is consistent with the constitutions of Pure and Applied Science and Professional Studies, particularly the last sentence. He added that he is supportive of this motion. But also continued that regarding the item 1(d) found on page 7, which reads “A mandate of the Dean, a member of the Faculty of Arts, officer of administration and ex-officio member of as officer of council is” followed by a number of mandate items. He stated that there is some confusion and that he received concerns regarding the language. He suggested a friendly amendment to remove everything between comma after Dean and comma after Senate, so it reads as “The mandate of the Dean as an officer of Council is”.

J. Carlson responded that the meaning would not change with D. Duke’s suggested amendment. He further stated that he did not think that we could amend the constitutional changes here, as they had already been approved by the Faculty of Arts Council.

The Chair asked whether this suggested amendment and concern could be brought back to the Faculty of Arts and brought back to Senate in May or

June. The Chair further asked whether there would be a substantial effect on the Faculty of Arts if it were delayed by 2 months after being clarified there.

J. Carlson did not feel it would have a significant effect if it were delayed and brought back to the Faculty of Arts.

K. Pinder was concerned that this had already taken over a year to get to the Senate and that it would affect the work of the Faculty of Arts. She was in favour of proceeding with the language brought forward, which was approved by the Faculty of Arts previously.

The Chair suggested that the Senate proceed with debating the motion as it stood without the amendment suggested by D. Duke. She felt that the Faculty of Arts could choose to discuss the suggestion internally and bring another version back to Senate at a later date.

D. Duke was comfortable withdrawing the amendment.

D. Seamone stated that she appreciated the point of bringing this topic back to the Faculty of Arts Council.

President Ricketts stated that one of the main concerns he had, was regarding the Preamble. He thought that it had been sent back to the By-laws Committee so that they would look into the other faculty constitutions in order to address the wording. He said that the fact that the Senate cannot make any constitutional amendments is unacceptable. Secondly, he expressed concerns regarding the way the Dean of Arts is treated in the Faculty of Arts Constitution. The Faculty of Arts Constitution does not allow the Dean of Arts to be elected as Chair of The Faculty of Arts Council. He stated that Dean is the Chief Academic Officer, and the constitution should recognize that. He also expressed another concern that the Dean is not even on the Steering Committee, which seems to be in a position of authority. He felt that we needed to have a serious look at this and ensure that this constitutional change does not impinge on the authority of Board or institutional mandate and authority of Dean to be the Dean of the faculty. President Ricketts suggested that the Senate Survey results from earlier this year suggested that many Senators do not feel comfortable speaking against matters at Senate such as this one. There are significant problems, and he wants the By-laws Committee to get involved in a consultation process in order to solve some of these issues, and to solve the issue of the language in the Preamble. President Ricketts suggested that this must go back to the By-laws Committee. He said he would like to vote against this motion.

J. Sachs mentioned that he did not share President Ricketts's opinions regarding this motion. This is Faculty and Senate business. He conveyed that he does not see this as a Board business. He further said that the Senate is charged with implementing educational policy of The University and that the Senate is well within its powers to approve the documents.

J. Carlson stated that he disagreed with President Ricketts. As a member of Faculty of Arts By-laws Committee, they did consider the constitutions of the other Faculties and that is why the preamble was brought in. He said that it has

been drafted by the Faculty and approved by the Senate as per the Act of Incorporation. He stated that there would be no necessity of authority from The Board in this aspect. He further said that this is about The Faculty of Arts Council organizing itself to decide educational policies and has nothing to do with Dean's role there. The Dean was always considered a member of Faculty of Arts Council. He said that he would like Senate to move forward with this motion.

K. Pinder conveyed that she agrees with J. Sachs and J. Carlson. In addition, she stated that the results from the Senate survey that President Ricketts brought up had not been fully analysed nor presented in front of the Senate yet and she felt that the President is not accurately representing some of the results from the survey. Any Faculty could articulate what is best for their Faculty. She suggested that we should not require that the structure of the Faculty of Arts Council must look like the other ones.

D. Seamone explained that the Faculty of Arts never had the Dean as the Chair. She also said that what is before us is a document that reflects how the Faculty of Arts has been working.

Peter Ricketts moved that this matter be referred back to the By-laws Committee of Senate. The motion was not seconded.

T. McGillivray stated that she was struggling with this Constitution as it does seem to minimize the role, function, scope, and accountability of the Dean of Arts. She was not comfortable voting on this when she did not understand why the Dean of Arts was excluded from the Steering Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Chair stated that she did not disagree with the Faculty of Arts being consistent with the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science, Faculty of Professional Studies, and the Faculty Council of Acadia in having the preamble language. The Chair stated that she did not necessarily agree with the interpretation that the preamble language comes directly from the phrasing in the Act of Incorporation and that it precludes Senate from having the right to amend or recommend amendments to the Constitutions of Faculties. She feels that Senate should never impose changes with a heavy-handed approach but feels that it could be appropriate for Senate to suggest Faculty Council amendments if they had to do with overarching university academic policies. The Chair clarified that these were comments pertaining to the existence of the preamble language and her work looking into the history of this and the formation of the Faculties and their Constitutions in the 1980s. Her comments were not specific to today's Faculty of Arts Constitutional changes.

6) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6.07 p.m. Moved by C. Stanley.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

G. Menon,
Recording Secretary of Senate and
University Secretary

Announcements**PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORT - MARCH 13TH, 2023****President's Report to Senate
March 2023***President's SDG Panel on Oceans and Life Below Water*

On November 24, 2021 during the SDG Canada Week, Acadia became the first and only Canadian university to sign the UN SDG Accord, and remains so at this time. Under the *Caring for Our Planet* direction in our *Acadia 2025* strategic plan, we have been promoting the UN SDGs by adopting a goal for each academic year. This year we chose SDG #14 Life Below Water, and on March 7 we held the first annual President's panel at which we highlighted three Acadia researchers, one from each of the Faculties of Arts, Pure and Applied Science, and Professional Studies to talk about their ocean related research. The three presentations were:

“Stock structure and migration of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna” by Dr. Mike Stokesbury, Professor, Department of Biology.

“Indigenous Species Management, Stewardship, and Reconciliation: Lessons from East Coast Fisheries” by Dr. Katherine Morton Richards, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology.

“Instrumental innovation: Advancing SDG 14.A in Nova Scotia” by Dr. Ryan MacNeil, Associate Professor, Rath Professor of Entrepreneurship, F.C. Manning School of Business.

The panel was well attended and the presentations were followed by a lively discussion and Q&A session. My thanks to Jodie Noiles and the Acadia Sustainability Office for organizing what we hope will become an annual event at Acadia.

The SDG theme for the 2023-24 academic year will be SDG #2 Zero Hunger.

Provincial Priorities

Acadia is currently pursuing a number of key funding priorities with the Government of Nova Scotia, including:

- 1) Request for provincial funding to support the construction of the Centre for Student Success, which would see a complete renovation and rebuild of our two existing old student union buildings.
- 2) Academic proposals to fund the establishment of two new health programs at Acadia - a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.Sc.N.) and a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD); both of these require up-front and ongoing provincial funding in order for them to be implemented.
- 3) Acadia is proposing two student housing initiatives to be included under the imminent Student Housing Strategy being prepared by the Department of Advanced Education; these include a proposal for on-campus independent living accommodation to complement our existing traditional residence capacity and aimed at attracting upper level undergraduate and graduate students to live on campus, and also a proposal for an affordable housing development (which would include a student housing component) on a portion of university owned land south of Skyway Drive and Basin Drive; Acadia is engaging a

consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan for these two potential developments.

All of the proposals were met with interest as each of them align with provincial government priorities of health care, population growth, and housing.

CONSUP PSE Solutions Initiative

At a meeting of CONSUP on January 20, we discussed the evolution of the *Shared Vision* initiative (which I have reported on previously) into what we are now calling *PSE Solutions*. This change reflects discussions with the current provincial government on how CONSUP can align its activities more closely to the priorities of the government and delivering real solutions to the major issues facing the province. *PSE Solutions* will involve greater levels of collaboration between universities in a number of areas, including both purchased and managed services. A number of projects are currently in progress under the Technology Transformation component, including the incorporation of AST's student information system under the Saint Mary's Banner system, and the onboarding of the MyCreds academic document management software (this project includes NSCC). I am co-chairing the Steering Committee for the *Nova Scotia as an Education Destination* component along with Peggy Shannon, President of NSCAD. This component is looking at how the PSE system in NS can grow to support the provincial population growth strategy and enhance the province's reputation as a prime destination for PSE education. Other components of *PSE Solutions* include Student Experience, Administrative Services, Infrastructure, and Shared Facilities.

CONSUP also discussed the importance of supporting the provincial government's priority of increasing the number of highly trained health care professionals. Although shared academic programs are not specifically included in the *PSE Solutions* initiative, the need to collaborate to address the crisis in providing more health care professionals and workers is seen as an important priority for both CONSUP and the government.

MOU Renewal

A meeting of the MOU Partnership Committee was also held on January 20, and we began discussions with the Department of Advanced Education (DAE) on the process to renew the MOU which will enter the final year of its current term in April 2023. The process and timeline are as follows: March-June: Consultation period during which time DAE will seek a negotiation mandate from Treasury Board; June-August/September: MOU Drafting in consultation with CONSUP; September-October: Submission to Executive Council. The next step for CONSUP is to review our priorities for the MOU, including our financial request regarding the operating grant, tuition fees, and any other fiscal supports. The Vice-Presidents Finance and Administration from all the universities are working on preparing the business case for our funding request.

We also received an update from the DAE Deputy Minister on the status of the University Governance Review that was required under Minister Wong's mandate letter from the Premier. After submitting all of the information and their summary report to the Executive Council, and after a meeting to discuss the matter, the DM told us that it was unlikely that there would be any further action taken and that the focus was morphing into a more strategic discussion on addressing priorities through *PSE Solutions* and other collaborative initiatives. It is not clear if this review is now complete, or if it is simply a matter of other urgent issues pushing it far down the list of priorities. Interestingly, the amendments to the St. Francis Xavier University Act passed Third Reading and received Royal Assent on November 9, 2022. The amended legislation reduced the size of their Board of Governors from 45 to 24 but did not include the addition of any Order-in-Council appointees.

The MOU Partnership meeting included updates from the Indigenous Working Group and the African Nova Scotian and Black Student Working Group, which is looking to adopt a provincial approach to addressing the Scarborough Charter, which Acadia signed last year. Also, the DAE reported that their Student Housing Strategy is under development and is planned to be released in March. It was confirmed that CONSUP would be briefed on this strategy before it is sent to Cabinet.

Research Nova Scotia

On December 20, 2022 the provincial government announced an additional \$25 million in funding for Research NS (rNS). This is welcome news as it is something the rNS Board, of which I am a member, has been working on and this will help support research at Acadia as well as the other NS universities. Also, the rNS Board facilitated a presentation on Provincial Government Priorities from Karen Oldfield in her capacity as Deputy Minister of Priorities and Planning and supported by other provincial government DMs. The presentation described the government's strategic planning process and their focus on three areas and their associated priorities:

Solutions for Health – mental health, primary care, and dignity for seniors

Solutions for the Economy – economy and the workforce, business, and housing

Solutions for the Future – environment, education, and supporting Nova Scotians

A lot of emphasis was placed on the need for more RNs, LPNs, PAs, and HCWs. It was stated that NS could use 1,500 new nurses today, and this bodes well for our proposal to establish a nursing program at Acadia as well as our other health care education initiatives.

NS in Ottawa Day

On the federal level, in my capacity as Chair of the Board of EduNova, Shawna Garrett (EduNova's President and CEO) and I led the *Nova Scotia in Ottawa Day* on Tuesday, February 6, 2023. The event was held at the Chateau Laurier and showcased NS to a number of key federal departments and national agencies and organisations involved in international education. Federal departments attending included IRCC, Global Affairs Canada, ISED, and ACOA. Other agencies and organisation such as CIBE, ApplyBoard, Universities Canada, and Colleges and Institutes Canada were also present. We had personal presentations by IRCC Minister Sean Fraser, NS Labour, Skills and Immigration Minister Jill Balser, and NS Advanced Education Minister Brian Wong among others. We had a strong provincial team attending from the NS government, universities, NSCC, private language colleges, the NS International Student Program, and EduNova. The daytime sessions were followed with an evening reception which included guests from numerous embassies and high commissions in Ottawa, as well as many NS federal politicians and civil servants.

New Federal Deputy Minister Champion

Also attending the *NS in Ottawa Day* was Catherine Blewett, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and President of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Following the retirement of IRCC DM Katrina Tapley late last year, DM Blewett has been named as Acadia's new Federal Deputy Minister Champion. She has a great deal of experience in public service in NS and Ottawa, including terms as Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council and Associate Secretary to the Cabinet 2019–20), Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (2016–19), and Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet, Government of Nova Scotia (2015–16). In her time at DFO, DM Blewett led Canada's oceans initiatives for the G7 and achieved Canada's mandate on ocean protection targets of 5% by 2017. She has a BA and MPA from Dalhousie.

MOU with Town of Wolfville and ASU

The historic MOU that Acadia University signed on October 12, 2018 with the Town of Wolfville and the ASU includes a requirement for a formal review every four years to ensure that the shared goals and key principles are still relevant and current. The Town and Gown Committee has been engaging in a thorough review process and is now working on amendments to the agreement. The parties are still very supportive of continuing the MOU and ensuring that we work collaboratively to ensure an effective working relationship that acts in the best interests of the town, the university, and our students. The intention is to present a revised MOU for approval by the governing bodies of the three parties Board in early summer. For Acadia, this will involve taking it for approval to the June meeting of the Board of Governors.

2022/23 BMO Lecturer with the Hon. Bill Morneau Rescheduled

The Hon. Bill Morneau, former Canadian Minister of Finance, will present the 2022/23 BMO Lecture on March 23, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Harvey Denton Hall Auditorium. Mr. Morneau will speak about his new book entitled *Where To From Here: A Path to Canadian Prosperity*. This lecture is a rescheduled event due to the postponement of the original lecture on January 26 due to bad weather conditions. All are welcome to attend with registration at: <https://bit.ly/BMOlecture>.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter Ricketts
President and Vice-Chancellor
March 8, 2023

PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 13TH, 2023

No report received by March 10, 2023.

ASSOCIATE VP RESEARCH & DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 13TH, 2023**Canada's Top 50 Research Universities 2022**

National reporting from [Research Infosource Inc](#) in late January shows Acadia remaining among the Top 50 Research Universities in Canada for research revenue in FY2021 (\$7.8M), and leading all primarily undergraduate universities in Atlantic Canada in corporate research income (\$2.3M). Nationally, and in our class, Acadia placed 2nd for corporate research income as a percentage of overall research income, and has been in the top five in this applied research category for the past four years.

INTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED TO FACULTY

Acadia University Research Fund (Article 25.55) Winter Competition; Total Awarded = \$88,386 (N=21)

- **Kate Ashley** (Languages & Literature) - *Les Soirées de Médan - website* - **\$3,167**
- **Dan Blustein** (Psychology) - *An intervention to shift older adults' attitudes about virtual reality* - **\$5,000.**

- **Marianne Clark** (Kinesiology) - *Exploring the perceptions of young people on the relationship between physical activity and menstruation and role of social media in shaping menstruation-related information.* - **\$3,937**
- **Mariah Cooper** (History & Classics/WGST) - *Committitur Gaole per Statutum: The Entanglements of the Court of the General Eyre* - **\$4,751**
- **Tristan De Borba** (Music) - *Heavy Stones- a recording project* - **\$4,000**
- **Stéphanie Gauvin** (Psychology) - *Preliminary Evaluation of a Newly Diagnosis Class for Individuals Diagnosed with Breast or Gynecological Cancers* - **\$5,000**
- **Matthew Lukeman** (Chemistry) - *Excited State Proton Transfers in Naphthylphenols* - **\$5,000**
- **Nelson O’Driscoll** (Earth & Environmental Science) - *Seasonal trends inmercury speciation,water quality, and mercury bioaccumulation in a bog-impacted by herring gull guano and water table restoration on Brier Island, Digby County, Nova Scotia* - **\$5,000**
- **Robert Proulx** (Languages & Literature) - *“Cinquante ans de chansons québécoises sur l’écologie” (50 years of Quebec songs on the theme of Ecology). Paper to be given at the International Conference of Acadian and Quebec literatures (APLAQA) “1973-2023 Agir/ Non Agir / Réagir Du temps de l’héritage au temps de l’action? (Act / Don’t Act / React, From time of heritage to time of Action?) to be held at Université de Poitiers (France).* - **\$2,348**
- **Anne Quéma** (English & Theatre) - *Dis)(Re)Learning with Liz Howard’s Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* - **\$2,151**
- **Jon Saklofske** (English & Theatre) - *Digitizing the Athenaeum* - **\$3,982**
- **Elhadi Shakshuki** (Computer Science) - *Preliminary Results of EEBL System for the Smartphone VANET* - **\$4,567**
- **Chris Shields** (Kinesiology) - *Physical Activity and Exercise Promotion in Diabetes Care in Canada 10 years After the Introduction of the “Toolkit”* - **\$4,212**
- **Mo Snyder** (Earth & Environmental Science) - *Producing a comprehensive sinkhole map of Irishmans Road Recreation Site, West Hants, NS* - **\$5,000**
- **Mike Stokesbury** (Biology) - *Range-Wide Assessment of Genetically Distinct Lake Trout (Salvelinus namaycush) identified in Nova Scotia* - **\$5,000**
- **Deanne van Rooyen** (Earth & Environmental Science) - *Geochronology and tectonic evolution of the Money Point area, Cape Breton Island.* - **\$5,000**
- **Terrance Weatherbee & Donna Sears** (Business Administration) - *Nova Scotia Wine Tourists: A Longitudinal 360o view* - **\$5,000**
- **Jamie Whidden** (History & Classics) - *Saad Zaghloul, Egyptian Revolutionary: A Political Biography* - **\$4,790**
- **Julianna Will** (English & Theatre) - *Euripides Among the Victorians* - **\$2,009**
- **Peter Williams** (Physics) - *V552 Cas – Is It a RS Canum Venaticorum Variable Star?* - **\$3,454**
- **Brian Wilson** (Biology) - *Insulin-like Peptide 5 and inflammation in the Central Nervous System* - **\$5,000**

EXTERNAL GRANTS TO FACULTY

Parks Canada - General Class Grants and Contributions Program

- **Dr. Allison Walker** (Biology) received **\$50,000** in funding for her project entitled: *Fungal diversity and change in Eastern hemlock forests impacted by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.*

Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries - 2023 AtlanticOER Development Grants

- **Dr. Eva Curry** (Mathematics and Statistics) received **\$2000** in funding to produce an OER textbook and instructional videos, indexed question bank and activities, and study skills resources for students that will align with current calculus courses.

RESEARCH & SERVICE AGREEMENTS

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

- **Dr. Mark Mallory** (Biology) received **\$25,000** in funding for his project entitled: *Review of long-term vertebrate research in Arctic Canada.*

Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

- **Dr. Mark Mallory** (Biology) received **\$17,250** in funding for his project entitled: *Temporal Trends of Contaminants in Arctic Seabirds Eggs.*

OTHER AWARDS/RESEARCH FUNDING

National Research Council – Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) Projects - \$15,000

- **Dr. Andrew McIntyre** (Computer Science; AIDA) was awarded **\$5000** to collaborate with Vermeulen Farms Ltd. Project Title: *Investigation into Strawberry Production Monitoring.*
- **Dr. Robin Browne and Kendra Sampson** (K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens) were awarded **\$5000** to collaborate with Helping Nature Heal Inc. Project Title: *Investigating effects of Abundance on mycorrhizal colonization.*
- **Dr. Amitabh Jha** (Chemistry) was awarded **\$5000** to collaborate with Halucenex Life Sciences Inc. Project Title: *Development of novel prodrugs for therapeutic use.*

OTHER ACTIVITIES

On February 13, 2023 the US Consul General Ms. Lyra Carr visited Acadia University to tour the labs in the Huestis Innovation Pavilion (ALAB, Agri-Tech Lab, Food Formulation Lab and Perennia Plant Health Lab), followed by a presentation about Acadia's applied research given. Ms. Carr's visit concluded with a reception hosted by the President's Office, and further engagement with faculty, staff and students.

RESEARCH GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS / SUBMISSION DATES

Internal

- Harrison McCain Foundation Grants – April, date TBA
- SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG) – May, date TBA

External (not inclusive of all opportunities)

- SSHRC Connection Grants (4/yr) – February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1
- SSHRC Insight – October 1

- SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants (4/yr) – March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
- NSERC Research Tools and Instruments – October 25
- NSERC Discovery – NOI due Aug 1; application due Nov 1
- NSERC Alliance (partnership) Grants – Open Call
- MITACS (student and post-doc internships; various programs) – Open Call
- CLARI (Change Lab Action Research Initiative; <https://actionresearch.ca/>) – Open Call

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Redden, PhD

Associate VP Research and Dean, Graduate Studies

ACADIA STUDENTS' UNION – MARCH 13TH, 2023

No report received by March 10, 2023.

COLLEGE OF DIVINITY AND FACULTY OF THEOLOGY – MARCH 13TH, 2023

No report received by March 10, 2023.

Proposed Motion to the Senate on Additional Senators

Whereas the Act of Incorporation defines the responsibility of Senate as being “to control, regulate and determine the educational policy of Acadia University”;

Whereas the Senate cannot faithfully and efficiently discharge this duty unless it can draw upon the knowledge and experience of all those charged with implementing the educational policy of Acadia University;

Whereas the faculty is more likely to trust the outcomes of Senate’s deliberation when it sees itself reflected in Senate’s composition;

Whereas non-permanent part-time and Contractually Limited Term (henceforth “non-continuing”) faculty teach a significant proportion of courses at Acadia University, as well as supervise labs, perform service, and conduct research;

Whereas section III(i) of the Senate Constitution states that faculty senators shall serve for a term of three years, a length of time that makes it extremely unlikely for any non-continuing member of the Acadia faculty to serve as a senator;

And Whereas the absence of non-continuing faculty in Senate represents an obstacle to equity and inclusion at Acadia University;

It is moved that the Senate Bylaws Committee shall consider the rationale and feasibility of adding as voting members of Senate three (3) non-continuing faculty and to make a recommendation of its findings to Senate.

In particular, the Senate Bylaws Committee shall consider the proposal to add as voting members of Senate one non-continuing faculty from each of the three Faculties. Each of these Senators would serve for a term of one (1) year and would be nominated by the Senate Nominating Committee and confirmed by the Senate.