
Council of Ontario Universities

Council Meeting

Held on Thursday April 7 and Friday April 8, 2011 at the University of
Ottawa

ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE'S REPORT TO SENATE

As is usual the overall meeting involved an Executive Heads' Round Table, two Academic Colleagues Meetings, and the Council Meeting. Among the main topics discussed at these meetings were:

Academic Colleagues Discussion Paper: After quite extensive discussions among the colleagues, the Discussion paper on *Teaching Stream Faculty* was presented and discussed at the Council meeting. The Executive Heads expressed somewhat varying views of the importance of this matter. The importance of providing and possibly requiring that Ph.D. students receive training in teaching was raised and discussed. Some support for this was expressed. This Colleagues Discussion Paper is available on the COU webpage.

Credit Transfer: The attention in this area has thus far mainly been concerned with credit transfers between colleges and universities. A Briefing note on this topic was introduced and the government announcement that defined the funding that is to be made available in this area was reviewed. The discussion that followed was mainly concerned with the way in which the funding will be split between institutions and with the development of an effective way of distributing future funding. The need to have a new group that looked at university-to-university transfers and at program-to-program transfers within each university was discussed and generally supported. As yet no clear end-point to work in this area can be defined.

On-Line Learning Update: The Ministry's decision that the On-Line Institute (OOI) would not be a degree granting body and would not develop its own on-line courses was discussed. Membership of the institute will be voluntary and its aim will be to make information about on-line courses in Ontario available to all. There was some discussion about whether the available information from OOI should include course evaluations. Some questions about whether institutions or OOI control access to the course material were also asked.

Quality Council: The update on progress was discussed. Clearer definitions of what is meant by "new programs" and by "significant changes" have been included in the Guide to the Quality Assurance Framework. More than half of the Institutional Quality

Assurance Process (IQAP) documents received from universities have been ratified, six being ratified as submitted and six being ratified subject to one or two minor changes. Revised IQAP's are being received from the remaining universities and will be ratified as soon as possible. All existing undergraduate and OCGS graduate program evaluations have now been completed and the Quality Council has now appointed its first Appraisal Committee.

University Pension Plan Update: The Update was briefly reviewed. Although this is clearly an extremely important matter there were no questions and no discussion.

Postsecondary Education Mental Health and Addiction Issues: The situation at Queen's and the front-page Globe and Mail article on this that had appeared that day were clearly on most people's mind and influenced the discussion. In response to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) 10-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, COU and the Ontario University and College Health Association (OUCHA) made submissions to the ministry. As a result the ministry organized a Mental Health and Addictions Postsecondary Education Summit. COU's Reference Group on Accessibility has struck a Sub-Group on Mental Health. This sub-group is initially considering Legal Aspects, Awareness, Training, Policy Refresh and Development, and Partnerships. In the discussion that followed, all speakers indicated that this was an area of deep concern at all institutions. The point was made that in future developments of new teaching methods and in the use of on-line learning attention must be given to the impact they will have on mental health.

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AUCC Report: A website that features various federal election related matters has been developed. The upcoming provincial elections and their implications were briefly discussed. It was noted that a study that tracked the income implications of a university education had found that, over a career, those with a university education earned about \$1.3M more than those who did not have such an education. It was also noted that both COU and AUCC are working on aboriginal and mental health issues and that 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of AUCC.

Nominations Committee Report and Revised Constitution of the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS): Queen's Principal, Daniel Woolf, was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of COU.

Patrick H. Oosthuizen
Academic Colleague

April 10, 2011
