



To: Senate	Date of Senate Meeting: 4/16/2026
From: Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)	
Subject: Notice of Motion – Creation of New Academic Entity	

1.0 PURPOSE

For Action For Discussion For Information

2.0 MOTION/DISCUSSION

This is a notice of motion for an item to be presented for action at Senate's May 14, 2026, meeting.

Motion:

That Senate recommends that the Queen's University Board of Trustees:

- I) Create a new entity to be called a College, which will be situated within a Faculty;
- II) Confirm the following principles to be considered in the formation of a College:
 - A College is a unique academic and research unit that provides education and conducts research in an interdisciplinary fashion, crossing traditional boundaries associated with Faculties, Schools, and departments.
 - A College is characterized by a dedicated focus to complementary teaching, research, and academic activities across more than one and usually multiple Faculties, with programs and courses that include interdisciplinary offerings available to students across several Faculties.
 - A College operates within a Faculty but certain governance powers usually reserved for Faculty Boards are exercised by the College's own governance body in the form of an Academic Council.
 - A College is headed by an Associate Dean or equivalent and is a separate budgetary unit of the University with the head reporting to the Provost on budgetary matters, but in all other matters reporting to the Dean of the Faculty.
 - A College has the power to create and amend its own academic regulations and makes recommendations regarding degree, diploma, or certificate programs directly to the Senate, which are not subject to the authority of a Faculty Board.
 - A College cannot be departmentalized.

- A College derives its administrative support services from a Faculty and compensates the Faculty for those as a separate budgetary unit.
- Faculty members within a College remain members of the Faculty in which the College is situated, remain members of that Faculty's Faculty Board, and are eligible for election to Senate in the same manner as other members of that Faculty.
- Students enrolled within a College are enrolled in the Faculty in which the College is situated and remain eligible for membership in the student government bodies established for representation and governance respecting the students registered in that Faculty.
- Students registered in a College remain eligible for all scholarships, awards, bursaries, and programs available to all students registered in the Faculty in which the College is situated.

III) Create a new governing body for a College to be called an Academic Council with the following functions:

- To recommend to the Senate programs of study leading to degrees, and for-credit diplomas and certificates, and the conditions of admission;
- To submit to Senate names for both ordinary and honorary degrees; and
- To control registration subject to the approval of Senate.

IV) Amend the Senate's Purpose and Functions to read as follows: "Senate has the authority to approve the establishment or closure of any Faculty, College, School, department, centre, or institute, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees",

V) Amend the Faculty of Arts and Science's Faculty Board functions to read as follows:

- To recommend to the Senate programs of study leading to degrees, and for-credit diplomas and certificates, and the conditions of admission for academic programs offered by Departments and Schools;
- To submit to the Senate names for ordinary degrees for academic programs offered by Departments and Schools, and honorary degrees;
- To recommend the sessional dates, subject to the approval of the Senate;
- To control registration in academic programs offered by Departments and Schools subject to the approval of the Senate;
- To deal with class failures;
- To exercise academic supervision over students;
- To make such recommendations to the Senate as the Faculty may deem expedient for promoting the efficiency of the University;
- To pass such regulations and bylaws as may be necessary for the exercise of the functions of the Faculty;

VI) Approve creation of a College of Computer Science and the College's Academic Council.

3.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the continued development of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and its application across many different industries and organizations – including health care, business, engineering, education, and creative fields – there is a need for Queen's to move quickly and expand its current AI offerings into full degree programs, including interdisciplinary programs across all Faculties and Schools, beyond the scope that current Arts and Science academic regulations permit. To achieve this, the School of Computing requires: control over its own academic regulations; the ability to adapt and

build programs quickly to be responsive to market needs; and the ability to retain the revenue generated through its programming to support innovation and growth in this rapidly changing landscape. The School's current placement within the organizational structure of the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) does not make achieving these goals possible.

4.0 ANALYSIS

Organizational and Governance Options

To achieve the goals referenced above, it is proposed that a new academic entity (a "College") within FAS be established. This will permit Computing to continue to be part of the Faculty's existing governance and administrative structures, which include a broader arrangement of committees that require a critical mass of faculty members to function and administrative support personnel not currently found in Computing. This initiative will not result in the creation of a full new administrative structure and the head of the College will report primarily to the Dean for academic and administrative purposes, and secondarily to the Provost for budgetary purposes.

Computing will retain a pathway to Senate representation via FAS's Faculty Board election processes and Computing students will retain eligibility for awards and programming dedicated to FAS students. Impacts on student government will be minimized if not eliminated.

It must be noted that there is no precedent at Queen's for an academic unit to participate in some Faculty Board committees/functions and have the jurisdiction to do others on its own. The creation of such a structure requires the Board of Trustees to amend the powers of FAS's Faculty Board to create a new governance body for Computing (the "Academic Council") and to convey some powers directly to the Council but allow for the retention of certain powers by Faculty Board. The initiative will also require the development of a Senate policy on establishing a College based on certain principles, and amendment of the existing Senate policy on establishing a School as an academic unit.

College Creation Process

Despite potential challenges due to its novel nature, the creation of a new academic entity must be pursued if Queen's is to offer competitive programming within the fast-changing landscape all computer science programs find themselves in today. As noted above, the College will continue to exist as an academic unit within FAS but will have its own governance structure permitting development of Computing-specific academic regulations, and an organizational structure that includes retention of revenue and a reporting line to the Provost on budgetary matters.

Only Queen's University's Board of Trustees has jurisdiction to create such a structure, per Queen's University's Royal Charter, including making the necessary amendments to the Board's by-law that established the Arts and Science Faculty Board and conferred various powers on it.

To accomplish this work, a Senate-initiated process is preferred with the Senate being presented with a motion recommending that the Board create the College based on core principles, create an Academic Council and associated functions, and delegate the power to create a College in the future to Senate once the Board has made necessary changes to FAS Faculty Board's functions.

The College will remain part of FAS and subject to oversight by its Faculty Board except in limited areas, which will be under the direct control of the College's Academic Council, thus permitting the College to have control over its own academic regulations but take advantage of the broader structures and regulations necessary for an academic unit to function.

Faculty Board's jurisdiction related to the following will no longer apply to Computing:

- To recommend to the Senate programs of study leading to degrees, and for-credit diplomas and certificates, and the conditions of admission;
- To submit to the Senate names for both ordinary and honorary degrees; and
- To control registration subject to the approval of the Senate.

Computing representatives will remain eligible for seats on all of Faculty Board's committees except for its Curriculum Committee. The Academic Council will have its own Curriculum Committee, or equivalent.

Senate retains its authority with respect to the approval and modification of degree, diploma, and certificate programs. Recommendations in this regard will flow directly from Computing's Academic Council to Senate via the Senate's usual committee structure and following all applicable Senate policies and procedures.