



## **Senate Educational Equity Committee (SEEC)**

### **Annual Report**

### **May 10, 2012**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Senate Educational Equity Committee is responsible for academic equity-related policy in all matters pertaining to the academic mission of the University.

The responsibilities of the Committee include:

- Assisting in broadening campus community awareness of principles, goals and benefits of educational equity;
- Promoting activities that foster a safe, supportive and inclusive campus community that values diversity;
- Promoting opportunities to share experiences and diverse perspectives among campus members;
- Reviewing and, where necessary, recommending revision to existing policy or the creation of new policy related to educational equity;
- Initiating, recommending and overseeing research to inform the development or implementation of recommendations regarding educational equity-related policy;
- Setting up subcommittees or task forces and inviting such representatives necessary to ensure the participation of equity interest groups at Queen's in the work of the Committee;
- Encouraging and supporting academic units in developing and implementing educational equity plans;
- Receiving reports from the responsible administrative bodies on the effectiveness of the implementation and administration of educational equity-related policy;
- Coordinating the execution of its responsibilities with other bodies at Queen's responsible for equity-related policy and with the officers of the University who have responsibility for the implementation of equity-related policy.
- Report at least annually to the Senate on the work and activities of the Committee

## ACTIVITIES

The SEEC met eight times during the 2011-2012 academic year. The majority of the Committee's focus was reviewing the University Student Appeal Board (USAB) ruling submitted to the SEEC in May 2011. The Senate referred the USAB Report to the SEEC to consider and decide whether any changes were required to University policies and practices.

In addition to the work mentioned above, the SEEC also discussed programs, policies and initiatives on campus, such as:

1. The Queen's University Quality Assurance Program (QUQAP)
2. The Student Applicant Equity Census
3. The Diversity and Equity Taskforce (DET)
4. The I Count Queen's Equity Census
5. The Canadian Federation of Student Drop Fees Campaign
6. The Queen's National Scholar Program
7. OPIRG - the Student Fee Referendum
8. Admission of Students: Mature Student Status
9. The JCAA Report on Equity Compliance
10. An Accommodation Statement on Course Syllabi
11. The Development of Educational Equity Guidelines

To discuss the above reports, programs, policies and initiatives the SEEC invited:

1. Mr. S. Pinchin, Associate University Registrar, to attend the SEEC sub-committee meeting on October 27, 2012 to discuss the Student Applicant Equity Census Proposal to the Council of Ontario Universities.
2. Mr. H. Smith, Coordinator of the Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, to attend the November 2011 SEEC meeting to discuss the USAB ruling.
3. Mr. H. Smith to attend the SEEC sub-committee meeting on November 15, 2012.
4. Ms. A.M. Grondin, VP Campaigns and Community Affairs of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students, to attend the January 2012 SEEC meeting to discuss the Canadian Federation of Student Drop Fees Campaign.
5. Professor N. Bala, Chair of the University Student Appeal Board, and Mr. H. Smith to attend the March 2012 SEEC meeting to discuss the USAB ruling.
6. Professor S. Wilcox, Board member for the Ban Righ Foundation, to attend the April SEEC meeting to discuss the mature student status.
7. Ms. H. Penning, Equity Advisor, to attend the April SEEC meeting to discuss the accommodation statement on the syllabi.

The SEEC also provided feedback, in the form of a letter, in response to the programs, policies and initiatives, to:

1. The Senate for the USAB referral concerning the Faculty of Arts and Science
2. The Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) and the Associate Vice Provost and Dean (Student Affairs) for Financial Access to Post-Secondary Education by Equity-Seeking Students
3. The SORC for the SEEC Mandate and Educational Equity Policy revisions.

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

The SEEC was pleased to have one newly elected member join the Committee, N. Saleh. Also, the SEEC had a new Equity Office designate, E. Singh, a new AMS representative, T.K. Pritchard and new SGPS representatives, E. Amirault and R. Westland.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

The SEEC's future work will focus on:

- Working on the Educational Equity Guidelines
- Discussing the Mature Student Status
- Commenting on the Aboriginal Council report
- Providing feedback on the Student Applicant Equity Census results
- Working with the Principal's Office to help in the redesign and reimplementation of the QNS Program
- Reviewing the Human Rights Office report
- Reviewing the "Best Practices" research proposal by M. Lewis
- Providing feedback on the internationalization plan as it is developed
- Discussing Financial Access to Queen's by Equity-Seeking Students
- Following up with the Provost Office regarding the Diversity and Equity Taskforce

Respectfully submitted,



Leila Notash, Ph.D., P.Eng.

Chair, Senate Educational Equity Committee

#### SEEC Membership

*I. Bujara, Human Rights Office  
D. Dávila Aquije, AMS Elected Representative  
N. Deshpande, School of Rehabilitation Therapy  
A. Girgrah, Office of the AVP and Dean of Student Affairs  
C. Hoessler, Grad representative  
A. Husain, Provost and VP Office*

*C. Morrison, Faculty of Education  
R. Westland, SGPS Representative  
T.K. Pritchard, AMS Representative  
N. Saleh, Queen's University Libraries  
E. Singh, Equity Office  
M. Zulkernine, School of Computing and Electrical and Comp*

*Chair: L. Notash*

*Secretary: J. Christie*