



Algonquin College
College Academic Council
Annual Report 2017 - 2018

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the Council representatives for their energy, passion, participation, insight and expertise throughout the year. Additional thanks go to Nancy Makila, for her constant efforts preparing all of the materials for meetings and ensuring that we were “energized” by food and coffee.

This was a difficult term at the College with higher than normal stress levels for all parties resulting from the work stoppage. Representatives are to be commended for the effort put forward to contribute to the discussions and to provide feedback to the presentations which resulted in informative, worthwhile and sometimes lengthy meetings. Chairing the Council was a valuable learning experience and I look forward to continuing this year as Past Chair.

The first College Academic Council meeting of 2017-18 was preceded by a first ever Orientation Session for new members to Council. This was a result of the previous year’s Council recommendation to help prepare new members and to expedite business during meetings. The session was organized by several members entering their second or later (or outgoing) term. By all accounts, this was deemed a successful initiative and was well received by new members to Council. During the first meeting in September, Steve Neumann was approved for the Chair position and the Executive Committee was determined.

The Executive Committee, responsible for reporting to the President and for following up on Council recommendations in 2017-2018, included:

- Steve Neumann, Chair
- Jeff Ross, Past Chair
- Brenda Mahoney, Academic representative
- Sherryl Fraser, Administrative representative
- Lisa Lamb, Support Staff representative
- Luke Krolak, Student representative

Another initiative that was started in the previous term was the development of a Priorities Survey which was distributed digitally to all Academic Staff via My Algonquin. The hope was to expedite the priorities selection process for the upcoming Council members. As a result of limited results, it was determined that members should go back to their constituencies to identify any additional priorities for review at the next meeting. It was also agreed that a method to reach out to the student population should be identified before the next term.

As a result of the work stoppage, there were no other Council meetings before January 2018. As a result of the shortened duration of the term, it was determined that Council would select only one priority this year as opposed to the usual three.

Following a discussion on January 29, 2018, the priority identified for the 2017-2018 academic year was:

Etext initiative, more specifically the examination of the terms Required Resource and Recommended Resource and other incidental fees as deemed necessary.

Council agreed that a subcommittee be formed to achieve this.

The March 5, 2018 meeting saw the presentation of the 2016-2017 Ombudsman's Report. One of the highlights was the issue of Group Work and ongoing issues related to this academic activity.

Policies brought forward for Consent;

- AA32 Electronic Devices in the Classroom. Approved
- AA36 Field Trips. Approved
- AA17 Dean's Honours List. Approved

At the March 26, 2018 meeting, Yves Pelletier presented the College Indigenization Strategy. This was an interactive session involving a brief workshop and discussion along with the presentation and a part of a short video created by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Laura Stanbra and Claude Brule provided Council with an overview of the key elements of the development of the Learner Driven Plan. The main elements for involving faculty were reviewed and Council provided feedback. Discussion ensued and the recommended strategies for obtaining faculty participation were supported by Council.

Jim Kyte introduced the topic and provided background on the proposal to have a study break in each term. The presentation looked to obtain feedback on whether this should occur. Further discussion revealed that it was already decided upon and was moving forward for the 2019-2020 academic year. Concerns were raised and addressed.

On May 14, 2018, the Students' Association had new representation and the new members were introduced to Council. The College Academic Council Subcommittee on Required Resources returned to Council to present their work so far. Some of the recommendations were discussed and it was agreed that the subcommittee would conduct further work on the definition based on comments provided. Jonathan Parker submitted a motion for Council to consider for the next meeting.

Discussion of the College Academic Council Priorities Survey resulted in agreement to use the same survey again and that this time students would be included in the distribution and that Support Staff were to be included in future issues.

The final meeting was held on June 4, 2018.

SA07 Student Conduct – Laura Stanbra outlined the proposed changes to the policy asking for input prior to presentation to the Leadership and Executive teams. Council endorsed the recommended revisions.

The motion put forward at the previous meeting concerning Required Resources was discussed and further amended. Council endorsed the motion.

Council indicated that the Orientation Session should be offered again for future members. The Priorities Survey, to be distributed to Students, Faculty and Support Staff would follow shortly.

So ended the 2017-2018 session.

In closing, I wish the next Chair and all Council Representatives a successful year and look forward to serving as past Chair this upcoming session.

Steve Neumann
2017-2018 Chair
School of Media and Design
College Academic Council