

Council of Ontario Universities
Academic Colleagues Report
Meeting of Academic Colleagues September 13, 2013

Academic Colleagues met on Friday, September 13 at the University Club in Toronto for a retreat and orientation. The meeting was chaired by Mary Louise Hill (Lakehead) and Mark Green (UOIT), the new co-chairs for Academic Colleagues.

New and returning Academic Colleagues were welcomed and introduced. Barb Hauser presented an overview of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and this was followed by an overview and discussion of the role of Academic Colleagues by Colleagues themselves.

Peter Gooch (COU) presented an update on COU activities, as is customary at meetings of the Academic Colleagues. We were informed about four Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Roundtables with universities, the first on differentiation, followed by others on online learning, credit transfer, and graduate student allocations. Ontario colleges were invited to participate in the first three Roundtables. There is strong consensus among universities and all Executive Heads agree that data does not support categorization of Ontario universities. There is hope that MTCU heard and will respond to advice on this matter.

Academic Colleagues discussed plans for 2013-14. There was agreement to move away from lengthy discussion papers in favour of shorter pieces to post publicly online. Paul Axelrod (York) proposed writing a short piece on the social benefit of university research. Colleagues thanked and bid farewell to Erica Simmons who is leaving for a new position after several years as Senior Policy Analyst at COU.

The next meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities is scheduled for October 31 in Toronto. On the evening before the Council meeting, October 30, the David C. Smith award will be presented to Dalton McGuinty at a dinner reception in Toronto. Lakehead will host the spring meeting of Council on April 3, 2014 in Thunder Bay.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Louise Hill
COU Academic Colleague for Lakehead University