

**COU Academic Colleagues Meeting Report
May 23 & 24, 2013**

On May 23, 2013 at the Colleagues' Working dinner Dr. Torben Drewes presented a colleagues draft paper entitled The kids are alright (aren't they?). The author compared how university graduates fair with college graduates in getting jobs. A preliminary analysis of Statistics Canada data indicated no significant difference in employability between university and college graduates. Extensive discussion followed as to why. The author acknowledged the quick and preliminary analysis and relevancy of some data used. Remarks were made regarding the broad educational approach used by the university as opposed to narrow job-oriented training at the colleges highlighting the versatility and easier job-to-job mobility of university graduates compared to the college graduates. On May 24, 2013 the colleagues covered a wide range of topics starting with a COU update by Peter Gooch. A 26 page document is available at COU website for university faculty and administration. Over 60 items were summarized or updated ranging from 2013 Ontario budget to college transfer, tuition framework to HEQCO Productivity Project. To accommodate growth there will be reduced government funding for undergraduate and graduate education. Universities unable to enroll allocated spaces will be taken away and given to those recruiting above their allocated number of spaces. Therefore, there will be pressure for recruiting students but that may compromise quality. The HEQCO released paper was not supported by the Ministry and went dormant. Basically, the graduate space allocation based on university differential was not supported. The report from the Colleagues Chair commented on 4-year tuition framework, cost of tuition to be more public and transparent, 100 programs approved, employment as the key performance indicator (KPI), and several round tables, and future colleagues papers. Discussion followed regarding the new province-wide on-line courses offered by several leading Ontario universities that can be counted as degree credits to any Ontario university. It was argued that some resources should be made available to do proper research in order to write good colleagues papers. Several colleagues highlighted the value of the colleagues papers, which they argued are not meant to be research papers, rather than commentary based on some research and the author's general understanding on the subjects. Several past papers are proven to be highly valuable as background information. The chair asked for nominations to fill several vacant positions including the chair and co-chair positions for the next term. The meeting ended at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Azim Mallik" followed by a horizontal line and the date "June 17/2013".

Azim Mallik
Academic Colleague (Alternate)