

Academic Colleagues Report
Council of Ontario Universities
295th Meeting of Council

The Council of Ontario Universities met on campus at the University of Guelph on April 11, 2013. Our host for the meeting was Dr. Alastair Summerlee, President of the University of Guelph and Chair of COU.

On April 10th, the evening before the meeting, a Council dinner was held at PJ's Restaurant in the Atrium, a student-run restaurant and teaching lab for Guelph's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Dr. Summerlee addressed Council before dinner, explaining the link between each course on the menu and the University of Guelph. With a sense of humour, he also pointed out examples of commercialized IP that had not generated revenue for the researcher or the university. The evening provided an entertaining introduction to the University of Guelph. Members of Council completing their terms were recognized and thanked for their years of service.

On the morning of April 11th, Academic Colleagues and Executive Heads met in separate venues on campus. Academic Colleagues discussed the PC White Paper "Paths to Prosperity: Higher Learning for Better Jobs" and the implications of the "college first" strategy proposed for postsecondary education in Ontario. Colleagues also discussed "Quality: Shifting the Focus", the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) report from the expert panel to assess the strategic mandate agreement (SMA) submissions. Colleagues were generally dissatisfied with the report's dismissal of the university strategic mandate submissions in favour of a push towards the concept of differentiation between teaching universities and research universities.

The Council Meeting brought Academic Colleagues and Executive Heads together for a working lunch. Academic Colleagues presented their discussion paper "CAAT Transfer Students in Ontario Universities: A Review of the Evidence." The paper concluded that there is insufficient data to know how well college transfer students fare at Ontario universities when all factors are considered. Overall, the evidence that is available suggests that college students who choose to pursue further education at universities perform as well as other students.

Council was also updated on activities of the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT), Quality Council, and the Board of Directors of COU Holding Association. There were no items for decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Louise Hill
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