

Council of Ontario Universities
Academic Colleagues Report
For the September 21, 2015 Lakehead University Senate meeting

Academic Colleagues met in the COU Council Room in Toronto on the evening of May 26, 2015 for a working dinner. The topic of discussion was the relevance of creativity and innovation competencies in the university curriculum. Liliane Dionne, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and alternate Academic Colleague for the University of Ottawa, made a presentation and led the discussion.

The following morning, May 27, Academic Colleagues gathered again in the same room for their regular meeting. Peter Gooch (COU) provided an update on current Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) activities including the Ministry's ongoing funding formula review, the Ministry's announcement that only the York-Seneca capital expansion project would be funded in this round although another round is anticipated, COU's work with Graduate Deans to develop a survey methodology for graduate outcomes of graduate programs, and the Ministry's initiation of a review of all Engineering programs at Ontario universities. COU has been very busy with so much going on at MTCU. Academic Colleagues also discussed the selection of Co-Chairs and the nomination of Academic Colleagues to serve on Executive Committee. In the past, the COU Nomination Committee put forward the names of two Academic Colleagues to serve in both roles. Academic Colleagues decided to elect their own Co-Chairs separately from the nomination process for Executive Committee, and to aim for staggered two-year terms for each Co-Chair. My two-year term as Co-Chair has ended and I did not stand for re-election. The COU Nomination Committee has nominated me for a second two-year term on Executive Committee, to be decided by Council at their next meeting in Toronto on October 15, 2015.

The search for a new President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities was successfully concluded with the appointment of David Lindsay. He will officially assume the position on January 1, 2016. Bonnie Paterson has graciously agreed to extend her term as President and CEO until December 31, 2015 to ensure a smooth transition.

In other news this summer, Sheldon Levy, President of Ryerson University and former Chair of COU, will be the next Deputy Minister of MTCU. His appointment begins December 1, 2015. Sheldon is well known to many at Lakehead. He was the guest speaker at the Board of Governor's retreat on Lakehead's campus on January 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Louise Hill,
COU Academic Colleague for Lakehead University