

**COLLEGE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
 MEETING MINUTES  
 January 29, 2024**

<b>Chair</b>	Heather Bailey	P
<b>Guest Presenter</b>	George Cole	P
<b>Academic Staff</b>		
Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence	Kenneth Hill	R
School of Advanced Technology	Elizabeth Von Moos	P
School of <b>Business &amp; Hospitality</b>	Christopher Dore	P
School of Wellness, Public Safety and Community Studies	Lisa Roots	P
School of Business & <b>Hospitality</b>	Mark Brennan	P
School of Health Studies	Crystal O'Connell-Schauerte	P
Faculty of Arts, Media and Design	Brian Asselin	P
Academic Access Centre	Melanie Farquhar	
Language Institute	Chinedu Mba	P
Pembroke Campus	Matthew Neadow	P
Perth Campus	n/a	
Counsellors	n/a	
Librarians	Brenda Mahoney	P
<b>Support Staff</b>	Pam Auchterlonie	R
<b>Students Association</b>		
President, Students' Association	Abigail Soto Carvajal	P
Director, Students' Association	Nishanth Babu Battula	R
Learning and Teaching Services	Katherine Root	R
<b>Past Chair</b>	Kim Bosch	R
<b>Dean</b>		
School of Wellness, Public Safety and Community Studies	Jane Trakalo	P
<b>Academic Chair</b>		

General Arts and Science & Academic Access Centre	Alana Anderson	P
<b>Ex. Officio Members</b>		
Senior Vice President, Academic	Chris Janzen	P
Vice President, Student Services	Laura Stanbra	P
Registrar	Krista Marsden	P
AC Online Representative	Jessica Brown	P
Associate Vice President, Experiential Learning & Innovation / Coop Education Representative	Kristine Dawson	P
Centre for Organizational Learning Representative	Rebecca Volk	P

## 1. Welcome from the Chair

### 2.1 Approval of the January 29th, meeting Agenda:

Two items — Generative AI - Teaching and Learning and Generative AI - Academic Integrity — were deferred to March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting because the presenters were unable to attend due to illness.

Motion 01292024-1

The Chair called for approval of the of the January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting Agenda. The agenda was approved with the amendments. Motion passed.

### 2.2 Approval of November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes.

Motion 01292024-2

The Chair called for approval of the of the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes. All in favour. Motion passed.

## 3. SVPA Update

Chris Janzen provided an update on the significant changes announced by IRCC regarding study permits and its complex impact involving interactions between federal and provincial governments. The Federal Government has reduced the number of study permits, raising questions about the cap's implications on spring study permits and those issued to private college

students. Ontario is likely to receive fewer permits, and no new study permits will be issued after January 22, 2024, without a letter of attestation from the provincial government.

C. Janzen Acknowledged the ongoing advocacy efforts at both provincial and federal levels and admitted the current state of uncertainty, emphasizing the college's efforts in preparing for various scenarios despite lacking concrete answers.

H. Bailey inquired about the recognition of the need for additional funding to supplement revenue flow due to the direction colleges have taken with international enrollment. C. Janzen described the situation as complicated, referencing a Blue-Ribbon panel set up by the Government to examine related issues and the anticipation of provincial decisions to address the financial challenges faced by colleges.

A. Soto Carvajal asked whether the college has considered the best and worst-case scenarios in light of the situation. C. Janzen confirmed efforts to model various scenarios to prepare for the eventualities, highlighting the significant financial challenge for the college and the ongoing work to understand the implications on expenses.

L. Stanbra added concerns about new requirements for colleges and universities to guarantee housing for incoming international students and the announcement of low-cost loans for building student housing, noting the uncertainty around the practical implementation of these measures.

M. Neadow raised issues related to housing stress at the Pembroke campus due to an influx of international students and the broader community concerns, including food bank usage by international students. C. Janzen mentioned the doubling of the financial guarantee requirement for international students to ensure they can support themselves in Canada, highlighting ongoing efforts to address housing and food insecurity among students.

#### **4. Office of the Ombudsman Annual Report 2022-2023**

G. Cole began by acknowledging the privilege of working on the territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin people and thanked the Ombudsman Review Committee and the Algonquin College Executive Team (ACET) for their support. He credited his team for their efforts in preparing the report. There was 10% total files increase in the reported period. G. Cole highlighted the extensive consultation process and the collaborative effort involved in addressing the concerns raised in the report.

The top presenting concerns highlighted in the Ombudsman's Report:

##### **1. Course Management and Classroom Management:**

The report identified challenges in managing diverse student backgrounds and opinions within an increasingly polarizing society. Examples provided illustrated the complexity of

classroom dynamics, including sensitivities around cultural references and attire. The need for effective classroom interaction management was emphasized.

## **2. Academic Appeal**

## **3. Academic Progression**

## **4. Academic Accommodations**

Identified as a top concern, particularly from a faculty perspective, indicating ongoing challenges in meeting diverse student needs within the academic environment.

## **5. Evaluation**

The process of evaluating student performance was noted as a concern, suggesting complexities in fair and effective assessment practices.

## **6. Student Fees**

L. Roots, M. Brennan, J. Brown provided feedback on the term "classroom management," suggesting it also reflects faculty responsibilities in maintaining a positive learning environment. J. Brown noted the term might not fully encompass online learning scenarios. M. Brennan inquired about handling cases that do not meet the threshold for formal student conduct procedures, highlighting the need for alternative resolution strategies.

G. Cole also touched on the importance of preparing for the report's future focus, especially regarding international students, and mentioned the ongoing observation and intention to include detailed recommendations in future reports based on accumulated data and analysis. The discussion underscored the need for continued attention to these areas to enhance the educational environment for students and faculty. The feedback from council members emphasized the complexity of classroom management and the importance of inclusive terms that encompass both in-person and online learning scenarios.

## **5. Open Discussion**

L. Stanbra noted recent concerns about timetable scheduling affecting faculty, students, and other employees. She announced the formation of a cross-college working group to address these concerns, emphasizing the intention to quickly resolve identified pain points. K. Marsden noted that the working group works on identifying short and long-term goals.

R. Volk announced a comprehensive learning and development survey being launched in response to the employee engagement survey, aiming to gather data on employees' learning needs.

H. Bailey raised the need to adjust the membership list due to academic portfolio reorganization and queried about the process for amending the appendix of Policy AA02. C. Janzen advised that the Council should vote on a recommendation for policy change, which would then undergo the standard policy renewal process.

L. Roots provided an update on the conduct and student behaviour priority, mentioning ongoing discussions and planning to narrow the scope for actionable recommendations.

A. Anderson, within her priority – Consistency in English language testing – update, brought up concerns about insufficient classroom sizes for the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program, impacting international students' experience. This issue, noted as not exclusive to the Language Institute, was recommended by L. Stanbra for further investigation with the Registrar's Office and the new scheduling manager, Leigh Ann Johnson, to address these concerns about space allocation. Additionally, inconsistencies in English language testing requirements for admissions were addressed. While most programs accept Duolingo for English competency, some exceptions exist. Efforts are being made to ensure consistency across programs and clear communication of requirements to prospective students.

L. Roots provided an update on her priority – Student Conduct – mentioning she, along with M. Brennan, J. Trakalo, K. Bosch, and B. Bridgstock, have met twice to discuss. They've had insightful conversations with L. Stanbra and Security, emphasizing the need for clearer processes for varying circumstances. Lisa also mentioned a mix-up in reaching out for LTS support and plans to correct this by contacting K. Root for future meetings. J. Trakalo added that they are considering the scope of their committee to make recommendations, focusing on fostering a culture of respect.

C. Dore highlighted the absence of a clear policy on late arrivals to class, pointing out the need for guidelines to support faculty in managing late-coming students.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.05 pm ET.