



Acadia Students' Union
Students' Representative Council
Report to Council

Subject: Creation of an Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC) Report Number: 2017-12-05-01	Author: Oliver Jacob Title: Chairperson
	Date: December 5 th , 2017

Recommendations:

That Council strike a Community Engagement Advisory Committee with the terms of reference attached as Schedule A of this resolution.

Further That this resolution come into full force and effect immediately upon its passing thereof.

Background

The Acadia University Senate completed a strategic planning project in 2014/2015 to identify the issues that the institution should focus on over the next five (5) to ten (10) years. As part of this exercise, they provided updated mandates to several of the standing committees and they also created two (2) ad hoc committees (Community Engagement and Relationships with Other Post-Secondary Institutions) to discuss these distinct issues that did not fit into the established framework. Since its creation in late 2016, I have served on the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Community Engagement as the student representative. Our mandate involves investigating the community engagement practices that are currently ongoing at Acadia, look for ways to strengthen relationships between Acadia and our community, and look into the co-curricular transcript to see how it could be reinvigorated/replace/discontinued. Given that this committee is formed as an extension of Senate, its' mission only extends to academics on campus (including research engagement). It, therefore, does not cover community engagement in terms of student-led community engagement through clubs/societies, internal organizations, and other primarily independent student-governed initiatives.

Discussion:

The Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC) would be tasked with studying the current state of community engagement, in terms of student-community connections outside

of classroom and research environments. They would also be directed to look into how the Acadia Students' Union can foster and strengthen these connections. They will also be given the task to study the co-curricular transcript and its potential for continuance. This mandate is essentially identical to that of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Community Engagement, which will allow the two committees to work together and share experiences/input from an whole campus perspective (including students, faculty, staff, community members, etc.). The membership of the committee would be the Chairperson (as Chair), VP Student Life (as Vice-Chair), Community Relations Officer, one (1) additional Non-Executive Member, and up to four (4) regular Union members. Additional non-voting members may be appointed by the committee as it sees fit as it reaches out to other stakeholders and community groups that relate to its mission.

Options

- a. Strike the Community Engagement Advisory Committee with the draft Terms of Reference
- b. Alter the draft Terms of Reference attached in any way
- c. Reject the Creation of a Community Engagement Advisory Committee

Policy Considerations:

None

Financial Considerations:

None

Meeting Dates:

None

Consultation:

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Community Engagement

Documents:

Schedule A – Draft Terms of Reference

**Report and Process Certified By
Chairperson:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a black rectangular box. The signature is cursive and appears to be the name of the chairperson.

Schedule A
Draft Terms of Reference

(1) Mandate

- (a) The Community Engagement Advisory Committee will serve to promote and facilitate grassroots community engagement between Acadia students and community members that enhances the quality of student life at Acadia University and within the Acadia Students' Union.

(2) Goals

- (a) To document and celebrate the ways in which Acadia students are currently leading engagement with the broader community;
- (b) To consider how Acadia can strengthen its links to the broader community in future and build upon the innovative student-community connections that have already been made.
- (c) To study the status and usage of the co-curricular transcript and propose mechanisms to enhance its use in future.
- (d) Engage with key people and groups on campus and in the community (ASU-ratified clubs/societies, Internal Organizations, the Student Life Committee, community groups, etc.)

(3) Composition

- (a) The Community Engagement Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following voting members;
 - I. Chairperson (as Chair);
 - II. VP Student Life (as Vice-Chair);
 - III. Community Relations Officer;
 - IV. One (1) additional Non-Executive Member, as appointed by Council;
 - V. Up to four (4) Regular Union Members, selected by Council as outlined in the *Procedural Policy* as amended.
- (b) The Community Engagement Advisory Committee shall include the following individuals as non-voting members;
 - I. Any other person as the committee may deem helpful in the exercise of its duties

- (c) Quorum for meetings of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee shall be at least 50% of voting members.

(4) Frequency of Meetings

- (a) The Community Engagement Advisory Committee shall meet at least monthly, or as needed.

(5) Term of Appointment

- (a) All members of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee shall be appointed to a term coinciding with the current term of Council, ending on April 31st, 2018.

(6) Mandatory Review

- (a) The Chairperson shall review the Community Engagement Advisory Committee and make a recommendation to Council regarding its continuance by the last meeting of the current term of Council.