

Senate Standing Committees

Terms of Reference

1. If a member of any one of the Senate Standing Committees is from a Department or Program directly or potentially involved in a proposal, application, or any other matter before that same committee, that member shall recuse herself/himself from the meeting or any other type of communication (including electronic) pertaining to that file, so as to neither participate in the deliberations nor issue any votes pertaining to that file.
2. In all Senate Standing Committees, the Chair shall only vote to break a tie.
3. Not more than one (1) academic member of a given committee may be from the same Department or Program.
4. Faculty members of the Senate Standing Committees serve for two-year staggered terms; students serve for one-year terms.
5. In addition to the Terms of Reference included in this document, individual committees may develop their own detailed procedures.

1. Academic Planning Committee (APC) The committee concerns itself with the future of St. Thomas University as defined by the University's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan. Academic planning is the committee's sole responsibility. In particular, the committee reviews the structure and content of newly proposed academic programs (Minor, Major, and Honours degree options) and modifications to existing academic programs. Such modifications include, but are not limited to, a new minor, major, certificate, or stream within an existing degree program **or modifications that represent significant changes to an academic program as defined by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC)**. The committee also reviews proposals for the creation of academic departments, pursuant to the President's policy on the creation of academic departments. It considers matters of academic planning on its own initiative, or in view of representations made to it by the Administration, the Senate, or individual members of the University community, and makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the Senate, the President, the Vice-President (Academic & Research), the Dean of Social Sciences, or the Dean of Humanities, where applicable. It also advises the Senate on the promotion and coordination of the continuing education and extension programs of the University. Membership: Three (3) members of the academic staff and one (1) student. Report: When necessary and once annually in May.

2. Admissions and Academic Standing Committee (AASC)

The committee recommends to the Senate policies and regulations to govern the admission of students to the University and the academic standing of students within the University. It advises the Registrar concerning responses to written petitions from students who seek exemptions from the academic regulations of the University. It advises the Director of Admissions concerning responses to written petitions from students who seek exemptions from the admissions regulations of the University. It advises the Senate on methods of evaluating the academic performance of the students of the University.

It recommends to the Senate policies and regulations governing scholarships, bursaries and other academic student awards granted by the University. It assists other award granting groups upon their request.

Membership: The Registrar (or designate), ex-officio, the Director of Admissions (or designate), ex-officio, three (3) members of the academic staff and one (1) student.

Report: At least once annually, in March.

3. Committee on Appointments to the Academic Staff (CAAS)

The committee is governed by Article 5 of the 2013-2016 Full-time Collective Agreement. Its Terms of Reference may change if this article is revised or removed from subsequent editions of the Agreement.

As per Article 5.01.5, the committee receives copies of proposals made to the Vice-President (Academic & Research) by Departments and Programs for new established positions, as well as recommendations made by the VP (Academic & Research). The committee considers these documents and makes recommendations to Senate by April 30.

As per Article 5.01.6, “[a]t any time that the number of full-credit courses taught by part-time faculty (excluding intersession, extension, and course reductions provided for in this Agreement) exceeds four (4) in Departments with four (4) or fewer established positions; or exceeds one-quarter of the total courses taught in Departments with more than four (4) established positions, the CAAS shall conduct a review and provide a report with recommendations to Senate.”

As per Article 5.02.5, “[i]f the Department or Senate is not satisfied with the President’s decision [concerning the filling of a vacant established position] the Senate may ask the CAAS to review the matter and to report its finding to the President, the Senate and the Department within thirty (30) days.”

Membership: Four (4) members of the academic staff.

Report: Twice. For new established positions, April 30th, in accordance with Article 5.01.5 of the 2013-2016 Full-time Collective Agreement: This provision may change if Article 5.01.5 of the 2013-2016 Full-time Collective Agreement is revised or removed from subsequent editions of the Agreement.

The committee may also report in June, if a review is conducted of staffing levels in departments that exceed the quota of courses taught by part-time faculty, as per Article 5.01.6 of the 2013-2016 Full-time Collective Agreement.

4. Campus Planning Committee (CPC)

The Campus Planning Committee (CPC) evaluates the physical plant in relation to the academic functions of the University. It carries out its duties on its own initiative or in view of representations made to it by the Administration, the Senate, or by members of the University community. The CPC makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the Senate or the President, on faculty office allocations, physical maintenance, classroom space, and the space requirements of research chairs, research centers, institutes, and student work projects. The mandate of the CPC does not include making recommendations concerning administrative support staff, nor does it include the allocation of classrooms for teaching purposes.

Membership: Four (4) members of the academic staff and one (1) student.

Report: Twice annually in January and July.

5. Curriculum Committee (CC)

The Curriculum Committee advises the Senate on new courses, on proposed changes to existing courses, and on descriptions of the curriculum proposed for publication. Proposals involving course number and course name changes require no Senate approval.

Membership: Three (3) members of the academic staff, one (1) student, one (1) representative from the Harriet Irving Library, and one (1) representative from the Registrar's Office.

Report: When necessary and twice annually, in December and March.

6. External Review Coordinating Committee (ERCC)

The ERCC coordinates the external review process and formulates, based upon the recommendations of the Review Team and the Department's response, recommendations for the Senate. The Committee shall conduct its work in accordance with the Policy on External Reviews.

Membership: Five (5) members, including the Dean of Social Sciences or the Dean of Humanities where applicable as Chair and four (4) members of the academic staff who are Chairs or Directors or have been Chairs or Directors of Departments or Programs which have been externally reviewed not less than two years prior. Members will serve for two-year terms. To facilitate the mentoring process, Chairs of Departments or Directors of Programs which will be reviewed in the following year may attend ERCC meetings as non-voting observers.

Report: As per the Policy on External Reviews.

7. Learning and Teaching Development Committee (LTDC)

The Learning and Teaching Development Committee reports to the Dean of Social Sciences or the Dean of Humanities where applicable and to the Senate. Its mandate is to further advance the quality of learning and teaching, fostering reflection on and discussion of teaching among the faculty at St. Thomas. The committee promotes and liaises with similar organizations and offices at other universities, recommending appropriate actions to Senate, the Dean of Social Sciences, or the Dean of Humanities where applicable.

Membership: Three (3) members of the academic staff, two (2) students, and the Learning and Teaching Development Officer as Chair.

Report: When necessary and annually in May.

8. Research Committee (RC)

This committee makes recommendations to the Senate regarding the policies and regulations governing research. It allocates research funds for faculty after evaluating the merits of the research proposals received. In addition, it reviews requests for research grants in lieu of salary and makes recommendations to the President (via the Office of Human Resources)."

Membership: The Vice-President (Academic & Research) as Chair (or designate), and six (6) members of the academic staff.

Report: Twice annually, May and December

9. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

The committee submits names to the Senate for all vacancies on Senate standing committees which are to be filled by Senate elections, including vacancies in the position of Chair of the committees. The committee makes nominations to Senate committees on the basis of the following criteria: the expression of an interest and willingness to serve on the part of nominees; balancing the need for continuity and renewal on committees; finding a gender balance; ensuring diverse representation from various academic disciplines; and ensuring all faculty members have an equal opportunity to provide university service.

Membership: Chaired by Vice-President (Academic & Research) where applicable, ex officio; one (1) member of the Senate and two (2) members of the academic staff. Elections to this committee are made by the Senate in March of each year.

Report: When necessary and once annually in May.

10. Student Academic Grievance Committee (SAGC)

In accordance with the Regulations of the St. Thomas University Calendar, the SAGC examines and decides the outcome of student grievances, including but not limited to the following matters:

- a. student appeals of decisions made regarding academic misconduct;
- b. student appeals of final grades; and

c. student appeals with respect to any other academic matter that cannot be resolved at the level of the Department and Vice President (Academic & Research).

Membership: The Registrar (or designate) as Executive Secretary, ex officio, three (3) members of the academic staff and one (1) student who is not the Student Advocate.

Report: Annually in September.

11. International Education Committee (IEC)

The IEC promotes, assesses, and advises the Senate on Study Travel Proposals, academic exchanges, and other international educational opportunities for faculty and students.

Membership: Seven (7) members, including the Dean of Humanities as Chair, three (3) members of the academic staff, the Director of Admissions or designate, one (1) representative from the Registrar's Office, and one (1) student.

Report: When necessary and once annually in May.

12. Senate Committee on Reconciliation (SCR)

The Senate Committee on Reconciliation reflects the reconciliation needed for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities served by St. Thomas University to work towards decolonization of the University (which includes students, staff, faculty, and administration).

The Committee determines practical steps and specific timelines for advancing reconciliation through initiatives that address education, dialogue, and collective action. The Committee is responsible for drawing the University's attention to ways to build on and expand existing relationships between the University and Indigenous communities in the region.

Membership: Eleven (11) members, including the Vice-President (Academic and Research), Dean of Humanities, Dean of Social Sciences, the Endowed Chair and/or other faculty representative of the Native Studies Department, two additional full-time faculty elected by the Senate, University Elder-in-Residence, Indigenous Student Services Coordinator, one additional Student Services representative serving Indigenous students, and two Indigenous students, preferably enrolled in different years of study

The STUSU is invited to send an observer to SCR Committee meetings to promote liaison on events, initiatives, and information.

The Committee will normally meet on a bi-weekly basis from September to June, and as needed during July and August.

The Committee Chair or designate reports to Senate once per year at the April meeting.