Faculty of Arts Council
Dean of Arts Report
26 November 2019

Potential Developments (in varying stages)

Legal Studies major

Critical Health Studies major (combined BA/BSc)

Early discussions about:

Revising Certificate in French Studies

Exchange with St. Pierre et Miquelon

Food Studies major

Indigenous stream BA/BEd

Events

Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Conference

Atlantic Deans of Arts and Science (and Science Atlantic)

Heathers

Many talks and speakers

Updates and Information

- Budget
- ESST Program Review, 9-10 January
- History/Classics and Social and Political Thought Reviews coming up
- SSHRC Leader (in Ottawa 4-6 Dec)
- BAC Renos
- Politics Statement on Student Conduct

Department of Politics' Statement on Classroom Conduct and Freedom of Speech:

The mission of Acadia University is "to provide a personalized and rigorous liberal education; promote a robust and respectful scholarly community; and inspire a diversity of students to become critical thinkers, lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and responsible global leaders." The freedom to explore, express, and evaluate different ideas is a critical part of this mission. In the Department of Politics, students are always encouraged to share their opinions and challenge accepted ways of thinking. By the same token, students should expect to have their own beliefs and values challenged, both by their instructor and by their classmates.

The free exchange of ideas can be an uncomfortable, confusing, and even upsetting experience, but it is vital to the learning process. As such, the learning process is only possible in an environment where all feel respected and dignified. A classroom is a community, one where every individual is an equal member. For this reason, uncivil, disrespectful, discriminatory, harassing, or disruptive communication and/or conduct are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. There are times when it can be hard to tell the difference between speech that is controversial and speech that is hateful. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the instructor to make this distinction, following guidelines laid out in Acadia University's <u>Policy on Harassment and Discrimination</u> and the <u>Nova Scotia Human Rights Act</u>.

For more information, as well as for resources for students who believe they may be victims of harassment or discrimination, please visit Acadia's <u>Equity Office</u>.