

Labrador Campus of Memorial University

Constitution of the Academic Council of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies

Land Acknowledgement

The Labrador Campus of Memorial University is situated on the homelands of the Innu and Inuit of Labrador. We recognize their ancestral and continued ties to these lands and waters, and uphold the inherent rights of Innu and Inuit of Labrador for access to and self-determination in research, education, and reciprocal knowledge sharing. As an institution of higher education in Labrador, we hold shared responsibility for supporting and sustaining the lands, waters, peoples, languages, and cultures of Labrador. As part of our shared responsibilities, the Labrador Campus of Memorial University will support knowledge promotion, protection, creation, and interpretation, enabling diverse just futures, grounded in Indigenous partnerships consistent with visions of self-determination. We are committed to strengthening relationships and to working with the Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the NunatuKavut Community Council to change the colonial roots of our institution, our ways of knowing and doing, and our programming.

Preamble of the Labrador Campus

WHEREAS the lands and waters of what is now called Labrador are the homelands of the Innu and Inuit of Labrador, and their ancestors; *and*

WHEREAS the Innu and Inuit of Labrador hold inherent rights to self-determination and self-governance for the preservation and protection of Indigenous ways of life, culture, languages, and ways of knowing; *and*

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) asserts Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination and states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural characteristics, while retaining their rights to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the state” (Article 5); *and*

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) further states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions, providing education in their languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning” (Article 14); *and*

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) further states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information” (Article 15); *and*

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) further states “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions” (Article 18); *and*

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) further states “Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security” (Article 21); *and*

WHEREAS the Labrador Campus recognizes the Truth and Reconciliation’s 94 Calls to Action (2015), and seeks to redress inequities in access to education, research, and resources experienced by Innu and Inuit in Labrador, as well as throughout the North; *and*

WHEREAS the Labrador Campus is committed to supporting educational and research opportunities for Innu and Inuit of Labrador, the diverse peoples of Labrador and the North, and society in general to secure a positive, flourishing, and thriving future for generations to come.

I. Principles of the Labrador Campus

The Labrador Campus shall base all decisions on the following principles:

- The lands and waters of Labrador are the basis of knowledge, resources, and relationships;
- Innu, Inuit, and Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being are central to programs, policies, resources, and infrastructure;
- The UNDRIP principles related to education, research, and Indigenous self-determination are foundational for programming and activities;
- Programming, resources, and leadership are Northern-led, Northern-based, and Northern-focused, located in and developed by, in, and for the North;
- Leadership emerges from partnerships and relationships;
- Excellence comes out of respectful engagement; *and*
- A respectful workplace is foundational to all forms of success.

II. Functions of the Academic Council of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies of the Labrador Campus:

The Academic Council of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies is the primary forum for deliberating academic governance issues within the Labrador Campus. Academic Council meetings of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies are open to all members of the Labrador Campus and the broader university community.

The functions of the Academic Council of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies shall be:

- i)* To approve for recommendation to the University Senate, through normal routes for Undergraduate and Graduate programs, all degree regulations, courses, programs of study, and candidates;
- ii)* To approve all regulations, courses, programs of study, and candidates for diplomas and certificates;
- iii)* To discuss and make recommendations upon any other academic matter affecting the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies and the Labrador Campus; *and*
- iv)* To receive items of academic information from within the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies, the Labrador Campus, and the University, as well as the Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the NunatuKavut Community Council.

III. Membership of the Academic Council:

The voting membership of the Academic Council shall be:

- a) *Of the Labrador Campus:* The Dean of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies (SASAS);
- b) All full-time faculty members of the School (including cross-appointed faculty, if specified in cross-appointment letter);
- c) Appointed members by the Nunatsiavut Government (1), NunatuKavut Community Council (1), and Innu Nation (1), drawn from the Labrador Campus Advisory Council;
- d) Elder representative (1), drawn from the Labrador Campus Advisory Council, or designate(s);
- e) Two student representatives (1 undergraduate, 1 graduate) from the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies, to be elected by the Labrador Campus student body. The tenure of office for the student delegates shall be one year, and a delegate is eligible for re-appointment for a one-year term;
- f) *Of the University:* the President, the Provost & Vice-President (Academic), the Special Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs, the Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous), or designate(s);
and
- g) One instructional staff/contractual teaching staff representative, to be appointed in a manner determined from within their own group.

The non-voting membership of the Academic Council shall be:

- h) *Of the Labrador Campus:* the leads for main units of the Labrador Campus (including, but not limited to, research, finance and administration, registrar, student life, marketing and communications, Pye Centre for Northern Boreal Food Systems);
- i) Faculty members holding a joint or cross-appointment(s) at the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies with other Faculties and Schools at any other Campus of Memorial University (unless voting rights are specified in letters of appointment); *and*
- j) Delegates of other Faculties and Schools, including those that offer programs within the Labrador Campus;
- k) All other per-course instructors at the Labrador Campus;

- l)* All other students who are studying at the Labrador Campus;
- m)* A minimum of one (1) representative from the Registrar (St. John's Campus);
- n)* A minimum of one (1) representative from the Libraries;
- o)* A minimum of one (1) representative from the School of Graduate Studies;
- p)* The Chair may accord individuals observer status on the recommendation of the Academic Council. Observers have neither voice nor vote, but may speak by leave of the Council.

IV. Officers:

Officers of the Academic Council shall consist of the Chair, who shall be the Dean of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies; the Chair of the Curriculum Committee, who shall be elected from amongst the faculty members; and the Secretary, who shall be the Labrador Campus Registrar.

V. Powers and Duties:

The powers and duties of Academic Council shall be to:

- i)* Approve for recommendation to the University Senate all degree regulations, courses, programs of study, certificates, diplomas, and candidates for degrees, certificates, and diplomas of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies;
- ii)* Approve all new programs and any changes to existing programs for degrees, certificates, and diplomas, offered under the auspices of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies;
- iii)* Approve all regulations and policies governing courses and programs offered under the auspices of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies;
- iv)* Deliberate on all academic matters of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies and the Labrador Campus;

- v) Lead the examinations of the courses in the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies for all programs, and review the results of the examinations;
- vi) Elect members of all standing committees and chairs of such committees on the recommendation of a Nominating Committee. Additional nominations for committees may be received from any member of the Academic Council for any standing committee;
- vii) Consider all reports submitted by the committees and subcommittees of the Academic Council;
- viii) Make rules and regulations for governing the proceedings of Academic Council and its committees;
- ix) Consider any other matters as it determines necessary and report these to Senate.

VI. Meetings:

Regular meetings of Academic Council shall normally take place up to eight times per year, on a day to be specified in the By-laws. Extraordinary meetings may, upon appropriate notification, be called by the Chair.

VII. Quorum:

Quorum for the Academic Council of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies is 50% plus one (50% +1) of voting members from the total membership, as defined in sections a, b, c, d, e, f, and g of the Membership of the Academic Council of the School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies, who are not on leave and must include at least one member from the subgroup c (members appointed by the Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the NunatuKavut Community Council). Meetings may be attended in person or by audio or video conference.

VIII. Committees:

- i)* Academic Council shall establish standing committees as it deems appropriate and shall determine the Terms of Reference of such standing committees.
- ii)* Academic Council may establish ad hoc committees and may delegate to such committees whatever functions it deems necessary.

IX. By-Laws

By-laws may be introduced or amended only at regular meetings of the Academic Council by two-thirds majority of those present and voting, provided that notice of motion has been given at the previous meeting of Academic Council or in writing and circulated to all members not less than ten calendar days prior to the meeting of Academic Council.

X. Amendments to the Constitution

Recommendations for amendments to the Constitution shall be by way of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous regular meeting of Academic Council and that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and circulated to all members not less than fourteen calendar days prior to the meeting of Academic Council.