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Laurier professor named executive director of Academic Council on the United Nations System

WATERLOO – Laurier political science professor Alistair Edgar has been appointed executive director of the prestigious Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) for a three-year term.

Edgar previously held the executive director position from 2003 to 2008, the first five years ACUNS was hosted at Wilfrid Laurier University. Laurier continues to host the council for a second term, which runs until 2013.

“Dr. Edgar’s area of expertise in post-conflict peace and reconstruction, as well as in various aspects of global governance, make him a good fit academically for this position,” said Deborah MacLatchy, Laurier’s vice-president: academic and provost. “Coupled with his previous and ongoing commitment to ACUNS, it was an easy decision for the ACUNS board of directors and myself to make this administrative appointment.”

Edgar has a BA in history from Cambridge University, an MA in political science/international relations from the University of British Columbia, and a PhD in political science/international relations from Queen’s University. From 1992 to 1993, Edgar was a John M. Olin Doctoral Fellow in Economics and National Security at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. He began his academic career at Laurier in 1993.

Edgar said he is pleased to return to ACUNS and is looking forward to working with his friends and colleagues once more.

“ACUNS is a dynamic and exciting association with a great variety of engaged members around the world, and with tremendously valuable links to the United Nations, national governments, and other international and local organizations,” he said. “The opportunities to learn about new ideas in this environment are hard to match anywhere else.”

Outgoing ACUNS executive director Patricia Goff has returned to her full-time teaching and research activities as an associate professor at Laurier.

ACUNS is an international association of educational and research institutions, individual scholars, teachers and practitioners active in the work and study of multilateral relations, global governance and international cooperation. Through its core activities ACUNS stimulates, supports and disseminates research and analysis on the UN, multilateralism and international organization. A special effort is made to ensure that advanced research conducted in universities finds its way into the programs of the UN system.

ACUNS was founded at Dartmouth College in 1987. It was later hosted by Brown University and Yale University. In 2003, ACUNS moved to Laurier. For more information visit www.acuns.org.