

# Governance Policies and Procedures

## OCUL Membership Structure

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Date for review: Fall 2026; reviewed annually

### Background

The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) adheres to and is obliged to the same membership structure as that of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), as OCUL is part of the COU Advisory Committees. Effective in 2024, COU membership comprises Ontario's 20 publicly funded universities as Institutional Members and recognizes four Associated Universities within its membership structure. Associated Universities hold non-voting status at COU. Accordingly, the libraries of these Associated Universities are designated as non-voting members of OCUL. This policy establishes the parameters for participation by Associated Universities in OCUL governance, activities, and services.

### Policy Principles

Although Associated Universities are non-voting, library directors at these institutions are invited to attend the consortium's fall and spring Council meetings and to participate in Council discussions.

Associated Universities have the opportunity and expectation to participate in and support the operation of OCUL where possible, including membership on and engagement with OCUL committees, communities, and other groups.

Associated Universities have the same opportunity as Institutional Members to access services provided by OCUL and its digital service arm, Scholars Portal.

## Financial Process and Fees

Depending on student population and the number of OCUL and Scholars Portal services accessed, Associated Universities either pay an annual fee to participate in OCUL and Scholars Portal services, assessed yearly as part of the regular budget process, or may be included in the same cost-share formulas used to calculate Institutional Member fees.

Associated Universities that are accepted into institutional membership by COU will have their OCUL membership status, including the right to vote, changed to that of an OCUL Institutional Member. However, any resultant change in fees will be made effective at the start of OCUL's next fiscal year.