

The committee was created in response to a need for a more direct channel through which the Department could obtain, on a systematic basis, advice to ensure that its programme of academic exchanges is relevant in light of rapidly changing circumstances. The creation of such a body was recommended to the Department in the Report of the Commission on Canadian Studies.

For many years the Department of External Affairs has enjoyed mutually rewarding links with the Canadian academic community, particularly with academics interested in issues of Canadian foreign policy and the fostering of direct ties with academic communities. These links have taken various forms including the secondment of personnel, participation in seminars on foreign policy themes, sitting on juries for academic exchange programmes and the selection of professors for special assignments such as in the area of Canadian studies at universities abroad.

The committee held its first meeting on September 13, 1978.