This paper is a reflection on the future role of the Association of Canadian Colleges and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE). Over the course of its history as an organization, ACCUTE has dealt with various challenges confronting the discipline of English, including differing perspectives as to how to teach critical studies of literature; uncertainty as to the role of academics in a continuously changing political, cultural, and academic environment; and the role and rights of sessional (part-time) instructors. Perhaps the biggest obstacle facing ACCUTE today is the perception that literary studies and similar academic disciplines in the humanities lack relevancy.

The researcher stressed that ACCUTE needs to continue to strive to determine and effectively communicate its political role as an association and as a community of scholars. In order to become more “visible and useful” in the public domain, ACCUTE should adopt both a long-term strategy and an adaptive approach that can address issues in the short-term. For example, creating committees tasked with public relations could help to ensure that ACCUTE members become more active as policy makers and public figures. ACCUTE’s reach could be extended to the general population by circulating a regular newsletter that highlights members’ opinions on cultural issues. Similarly, when the annual conference is held, additional panels and sessions could be made open to the general public outside the university. Importantly, these activities should be undertaken in the spirit of embracing a broader role for academics, rather than being a self-defence strategy for the discipline of English. As well as fulfilling its political and functional roles, ACCUTE should continue to serve as a significant community for English scholars.

What is this research about?
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What did the researchers find?
The researcher stressed that ACCUTE needs to continue to strive to determine and effectively communicate its political role as an association and as a community of scholars. In order to become more “visible and useful” in the public domain, ACCUTE should adopt both a long-term strategy and an adaptive approach that can address issues in the short-term. For example, creating committees tasked with public relations could help to ensure that ACCUTE members become more active as policy makers and public figures. ACCUTE’s reach could be extended to the general population by circulating a regular newsletter that highlights members’ opinions on cultural issues. Similarly, when the annual conference is held, additional panels and sessions could be made open to the general public outside the university. Importantly, these activities should be undertaken in the spirit of embracing a broader role for academics, rather than being a self-defence strategy for the discipline of English. As well as fulfilling its political and functional roles, ACCUTE should continue to serve as a significant community for English scholars.

What did the researchers do?
The University of Guelph researcher gave an overview of past and current issues facing ACCUTE, and offered her opinion on how the organization can address some of these challenges in the future.
**What you need to know:**
ACCUTE can play an important role in the future direction of the discipline of English, both as a community of scholars and as a forum for improving public perception of the relevance of studies in the humanities.

**How can you use this research?**
Executives of ACCUTE can take these opinions into account when formulating their ongoing mission statement, objectives, and action strategies as an organization.

**Article citation:**

**Keywords:**
ACCUTE, English, humanities, organization, future role

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