



**SENATE ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Monday 27 September 2021 3:31-5:05 pm via Zoom

Attendees

Senators

M. Aronson
E. Bhangu
J. Burnham
J. Gilbert
S. Gopalakrishnan
P. Harrison
C. Krebs
K. Lo (Chair)
C.W. Marshall
S. Matsui
J. Schumacher

A. Pratap Singh
K. Smith
R. Spencer (Vice-Chair)
H. Zerriffi

Ex Officio

J. Fox

Regrets

M. Quayle
K. Ross

Guests

K. Al-Solaylee
S. Burk
P. Klein

Senate Staff

C. Eaton
J. Iverson

Call to Order

The meeting of the Senate Academic Policy Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 3:31 pm on 27 September 2021 by K. Lo, Chair.

Agenda

THAT THE Senate Academic Policy Committee adopts the 27 September 2021 agenda as presented.

Moved: E. Bhangu

Seconded: H. Zerriffi

Adopted by general consent.

Introductions

Committee members and Senate staff introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes

THAT THE Senate Academic Policy Committee approves the 29 March 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Moved: C.W. Marshall

Seconded: E. Bhangu

Approved by general consent.

Business Arising

C. Eaton provided an update on the draft Academic Freedom policy. A copy was reviewed by the Offices of University Counsel and Vice-President, Human Resources. Both groups suggested revisions, which will be incorporated into the policy before being brought back to the Committee for review. The intersection

with Faculty Association needs to be addressed, as does the Okanagan campus's involvement with the policy.

C. Eaton also provided an update on the joint Board and Senate EDI policy. The Vancouver Senate appointed Senator von Bergmann to the Committee. C. Eaton will follow up with the Equity & Inclusion Office.

K. Lo reminded members a draft of the Naming Policy (GA6) was approved for community consultation. The Office of University Counsel is preparing the necessary materials, assuming the draft is also supported by the Board.

**Faculty of Arts
Department Name
Change**

THAT THE Senate Academic Policy Committee approves changing the name of the Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies to the Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies.

Moved: C.W. Marshall
Seconded: P. Harrison

Various members of the committee commented on, and commended the Faculty for, a thorough consultation process that not only consolidated a decade of work but also included student feedback.

S. Burk noted related courses will be recoded to AMNE via the Senate Curriculum Committee.

The Committee voted.

Carried.

**Global Reporting
Program
Consortium
Agreement**

P. Klein provided an overview of the International Reporting Program offered by the School of Journalism, Writing, and Media, a unit within the Faculty of Arts, in which UBC students travel abroad and report on global journalism. In recent years, the program has expanded to include students from universities all over the world, resulting in a more inclusive, diverse and globally-focused educational experience. The School intends to formalize these partnerships with an agreement that clearly establishes requirements of the Global Reporting Program and obligations of both UBC and partner institutions.

THAT THE Senate Academic Policy Committee approves the Global Reporting Program Consortium Agreement.

Moved: A. Pratap Singh
Seconded: C. Krebs

H. Zeriffi noted the agreement acts as a vehicle for UBC to partner in a productive way with lower-tiered institutions and asked if it would allow for differences in resource-sharing depending on the partner institution.

- P. Klein said this is a critical point the School has discussed with funders. There is a universal approach to all institutions, which has been a struggle for some. Partnerships are an important contribution to make as a tier one university in a wealthy country.

C. Eaton asked about the partner institution criteria and who approves those.

- P. Klein said the Board of Governors currently approves the partners.
- C. Eaton said some programs have delegacies for decisions like these. In this agreement, who would do that? Under what guidance? Who is the counter signature? The internal governance for approving partners should be clear so that each new agreement does not need to be reviewed. He suggested this be made explicit in the proposal, and the School director and provost be signatories.

C. Krebs asked how the agreement protects students. Would students be protected under the Academic Freedom policy?

- P. Klein said the document states each university is responsible for its own students. With respect to academic freedom, the assumption is since partner institution students are enrolled elsewhere, the partnership is akin to a fellowship. He said the document sets out ethics standards and perhaps there is an alternate academic freedom standard to adopt.

R. Spencer asked if the School is confident other parties will not want to make changes to this agreement.

- P. Klein said UBC likely would not engage in partnerships where other institutions do not abide by the conditions set out in the agreement.
- R. Spencer said those principles should be fleshed out more fully, and that he supports the proposal.

H. Zerriffi agreed the document needs to specify signatories, and should also clarify who has the authority to change the agreement; the partner-picking question is the School's responsibility. He noted the document does not address intellectual property. There are power imbalances in terms of right to publish, and again, students need to be protected.

- P. Klein said section 7.1.3. attempts to address that. The School hopes the agreement will enforce the expectations of students. Not everyone will get equal credit, but at least public acknowledgement.

A. Pratap Singh asked for clarity on the role of UBC students in the program.

- P. Klein said UBC students earn 6 UBC course credits. Participants are largely from the School, but other students have joined in the past. Typically, everyone in the program travels, as the idea is for students to have a global journalism field experience. The Schools works closely with Go Global.

C.W. Marshall asked if things like a student's gender creates access issues.

- P. Klein said yes, and students are sometimes limited by places they can travel. To this point, citizenship is an important consideration, as it can open access. The program aims to give students a real-world experience of journalism, and part of that is the limitation.
- C. Eaton noted Policy SC12 Student Safety Abroad would still be applicable.

P. Harrison agreed it is important someone in the Office of the Provost be involved in the internal governance process. He also agreed the document should set out clear principles upfront, and that those revisions be made before the proposal is recommended to the Senate.

With respect to section 3.1.1., K. Lo asked if the proposal is too narrow in only specifying vaccination, and asked about general health costs.

- P. Klein said vaccinations are explicitly addressed because they are predictable costs.
- P. Klein said Go Global becomes involved if students fall ill. This is a real concern that might require a clause in the agreement. K. Al-Solaylee said he would like to see additional travel medical insurance reflected in the document.

With respect to section 2.1.5., C. Eaton asked if drawing particular attention to this one policy implies others are not applicable?

- P. Klein said it is not meant to be an exception; rather, the document highlights key policies for students to follow. C. Eaton suggested adding language that students must comply with UBC policies and regulations, including but not limited to, the Statement on Respectful Environment for Students, Faculty and Staff.

K. Lo summarized the amendments:

1. Add paragraph on internal governance (who approves)
2. Address protection of students' academic freedom
3. Address protection of students' intellectual rights
4. Clarify immutable principles of the policy that must always be present

The Committee agreed to review the amendments via email. C.W. Marshall moved to amend the motion on the floor, adding "subject to further Committee approval of the requested amendments" to the end. J. Gilbert seconded. The Committee voted on the amendment.

Carried.

The Committee returned to the main motion, which had been amended to read:

THAT THE Senate Academic Policy Committee approves the Global Reporting Program Consortium Agreement, subject to further Committee approval of the requested amendments.

Carried.
Abstained: J. Fox

P. Klein agreed to amend and resubmit the proposal. C. Eaton agreed to consulting with the Office of University Counsel. The goal is to recommend this agreement to the Senate at its October meeting.

**Committee
Roundtable**

Members were invited to suggest areas of focus for the Committee:

- With respect to the intersection with the Senate Tributes Committee, J. Gilbert said it would be useful to discuss Naming Policy (GA6). C. Eaton said the Committee will review the policy again, and that Tributes is specified in the latest draft.
- J. Schumacher suggested reviewing the Indigenous Strategic Plan to outline goals and priorities that fall within the Committee's purview.
- P. Harrison suggested reviewing the implementation of recent student-facing policies to determine their effectiveness. C. Eaton added a review of Policy V-1 Format, Development and Administration of Senate Policies could help address this suggestion.
- J. Fox suggested a possible digital learning materials policy in collaboration with the Senate Teaching & Learning Committee.
- C. Eaton noted the forthcoming external review of the Senate will require Committee input into the self-study document.
- K. Smith suggested reviewing term lengths, especially in light of the addition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. C. Krebs noted September 30 and November 11 will always be on the same day, which has implications on instructional days for courses. C. Eaton said the provincial government is still considering how to move forward.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 25 October 2021 3:30-5 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.