THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA| OKANAGAN

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To: **Okanagan Senate**

From: **Dr Isaacson, Policies and Procedures Committee, UBC Okanagan**

Re: **UBC Degrees to OUC Graduates** (approval)

Date: **17 February 2006**

INTRODUCTION

At its inaugural meeting on December 5, 2005, the Okanagan Senate passed the following motion:

> *That the Senate refer to its Policies and Procedures Committee in consultation with the Registrar, the task of considering the granting of UBC degrees to graduates of Okanagan University College, and bringing forward associated recommendations to Senate for approval.*

The Committee has considered the matter and reports as follows:

PART I. RECOMMENDATIONS (FOR APPROVAL)

RECOMMENDATION 1 – GRADUATES OF OUC DEGREES NOW OFFERED BY UBC

That the Okanagan Senate approve in principle the conferral of corresponding University of British Columbia degrees on Okanagan University College alumni holding one or more of the following degrees conferred by Okanagan University College as the sole granting institution between January 1, 1998 and June 30, 2005:

- *Bachelor of Arts*
- *Bachelor of Education*
- *Bachelor of Fine Arts*
- *Bachelor of Science*
- *Bachelor of Science in Nursing*
- *Bachelor of Social Work*

Rationale

Okanagan University College was given degree-granting authority by the Province of British Columbia in 1995, and conferred its first degrees as the sole granting institution in 1998.

The above list of degrees includes those OUC degrees for which UBC Okanagan assumed full responsibility as of July 1, 2005. All these degrees meet or exceed normal academic standards for university degrees in Canada. UBC becomes the institution of record for purposes of parchment authentication and verification of degrees: services that the now-defunct Okanagan University College can no longer provide. This does not mean that UBC will hold the entire academic record, as this will reside with the new Okanagan College, but will have record of the credential being conferred. Okanagan College will be the custodian of the complete OUC student record. Under this arrangement, this group of OUC alumni are welcomed to the UBC community as new members of the UBC convocation.

From 1989 to 1997, OUC delivered degree programs in conjunction with UBC and the University of Victoria, and conferred those degrees under the authority of the partner universities. The parchments from these partner degrees already list a currently operating university as the institution of record, i.e., UBC or the University of Victoria. This group of alumni will retain their original status and will not be eligible to receive new UBC degrees.

It is noted that the Bachelor of Business Administration is not included in the degrees listed within Recommendation 1.

RECOMMENDATION 2 – PARCHMENT SPECIFICATIONS

> *That the parchment issued under Recommendations 1 and 2 above bear the words "Degree first conferred by Okanagan University College on [INSERT MONTH AND YEAR]," in addition to the month and year of approval by the UBC Okanagan Senate.*

Rationale

The addition of this text to the parchment: (a) signifies a relationship between OUC and UBC; (b) clarifies that the holder completed one degree program, rather than two; and (c) denotes the date when the student completed his or her degree program.

PART II. PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES (FOR INFORMATION)

Subject to Senate's approval of the above recommendations, the Registrar intends to implement the awarding of these degrees on the following basis:

1. The Registrar will develop a list of holders of OUC degrees that should be given the opportunity to accept UBC degrees. (It is noted that OUC honorary degree holders will not be included on this list, but instead the Policies and Procedures Committee may consider future nominations of such individuals for UBC honorary degrees.)

2. At the appropriate times, Senate will be requested to approve the following motion in order to confer these degrees: "*That the listed holders of Okanagan University College degrees be granted the opportunity to accept the University of British Columbia degree for which they are recommended, and that the Registrar, in consultation with UBC Okanagan Deans, and the President as Chair of the Okanagan Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments*."

3. Following Senate approval of the conferral of degrees on OUC graduates, these individuals will be added to the roll of convocation at that time and Enrolment Services will produce UBC parchments as appropriate. OUC graduates receiving UBC degrees will not be asked to relinquish OUC parchments.

4. For OUC graduates accepting UBC degrees, the UBC Student Information System will contain identifying data about the person (including a UBC student number) and his/her degree(s) sufficient for purposes of degree verification. However, the full transcript of academic record will be maintained by Okanagan College. Transfer credit will not be assigned by UBC. The UBC transcript will show the conferral of the UBC degree and will note that the full record may be obtained from Okanagan College.

5. For OUC graduates accepting UBC degrees, Enrolment Services will provide contact information to UBC Advancement Services and the UBC Alumni Association, consistent with current practice for all other UBC graduates.