



MINUTES
SENATE ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
21 October 2024 3:30 to 5:00 pm via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Senators

Dr. Marina Adshade
Dr. Shannon Bredin
Dr. Clare Crowston
Dr. Agnes d’Entremont
Dredyn Fontana (Student)
Dr. Sathish Gopalakrishnan
Kamil Kanji (Student)
Dr. Kin Lo

Ex Officio

Jasper Lorien (Student)
Dr. C.W. Marshall
Dr. Steven Pelech
Dr. Jenny Phelps
Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilns
Office of the Senate
J. Cowen

Regrets

Dr. Richard Spence
Dr. Rella Ng

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm by Chair, Kin Lo. The Chair provided a territorial acknowledgment and welcomed new committee member Dr .Lalitha Raman-Wilns, Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

2. Agenda

The Committee reviewed the meeting agenda and considered the motion:
THAT THE Senate Academic Policy Committee adopt the 21 October 2024 agenda as amended.

APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENT

3. Minutes

There are several outstanding sets of minutes.

4. Business Arising

The academic regulation changes for the Master of Archival Studies and the Master of Information and Library Studies, in the School of Information, approved by the Committee at its May 6th meeting will go to November Senate.

5. Faculty of Land and Food Systems: Academic Regulations

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems on Workday-related updates to the academic regulations for Class Standing (formerly Year Promotion), and to Academic Standing, Additional Period Honors, and Advancement. The principal topics of the discussion included:

- There is a lack of consistency with calendar campus-wide policies.
- Failed, Required to Withdraw is the calendar terminology.
- Part of the problem stems from Workday conversion; SIS had 3 failed standings with various options; confirmed the central campus-wide terminology is correct; outcomes are the same.
- Office of the Senate will work with the Faculties at calendar time.
- C. Eaton suggested an editorial change to Failed, Required to Withdraw at page 5 of the proposal.

- It could be confusing for student if “may” be required to withdraw actually means “will” be required to withdraw. C. Eaton will talk to the calendar team - there is likely a data governance reason.
- Sessional evaluations, for example - honours, are typically done on winter sessions as not all students do summer sessions.
- 24 is the normal minimum number of credits for awards and is consistent across Faculties.
- 45 credits for “distinction” is also consistent across Faculties.
- C. Eaton noted this proposal seeks retrospective approval to 2024W. It does make sense here as it gives clarity for students and aligns with Workday. It’s not likely that there will be a circumstance where that would be to a student's disadvantage, but if there was, the Faculty would have to apply the old rule.
- The Chair noted it wouldn’t be applied until next April.
- The Committee agreed to a friendly amendment from Failed Standing to Failed, Required to Withdraw in the list of Academic Standings and the description of Failed Standing that immediately followed.

Motion:

THAT THE Committee approve and recommend to Senate changes to the academic regulations for Class Standing and for Academic Standing, Additional Period Honors, and Advancement Regulations in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, as attached and amended.

**K. Lo
J. Phelps
Carried**

6. Faculty of Applied Science: Academic Regulations

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science on Workday-related changes to Academic Standing and Promotion Requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science. Carol Jaeger, Associate Dean, and Sarah Buse, presented the item to the Committee. The principal topics of the discussion included:

- This proposal uses the terminology of Failed Year, Required to Discontinue which is different from the calendar campus-wide policies language.
- It was again noted there is inconsistency across Faculties. Some Faculties may simply not yet be aware of the changes required with Workday Student.
- Office of the Senate will work with the Faculties to have consistent diction.
- The Faculty originally voted on this back in May so things may have happened since then in terms of harmonization of language. They are happy to work on language and are trying to sort through what Workday requires vs. what they need to say.
- APSC has a more complicated progression in terms of being placed on discipline.
- In the last 2 years, the Faculty has put a huge amount of effort into getting standing deferred exams marked and back to students in time to get students placed into programs before the school year starts. They have been very successful with this as well as with making sure all academic standings are updated.
- As with the previous proposal, this proposal is retrospective to 2024W.

Motion:

THAT THE Committee approve and recommend to Senate changes to the Bachelor of Applied Science academic regulations in the Faculty of Applied Science.

**K. Lo
S. Pelech
Carried**

7. Policy GA6 Naming Policy - proposed amendments

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Office of the University Counsel on proposed revisions to GA6 Naming Policy. Matthew Murray, Legal Counsel, presented the item to the Committee. The principal topics of the discussion included:

- There has been a very long process, at the request of the Board, to identify items in Board policies that require submissions to the Board for approval or for information in order to understand all of the items that go to the Board and to focus the Board's resources on the most important issues for UBC and its stakeholders.
- The Naming Policy was identified as one of the areas that didn't require as much input from the Board because of the extensive process that that goes into the naming of places.
- It was the recommendation from the Chair and Vice-chair of the responsible Board committee and the VP External that this could be delegated to the President.
- The revisions remove the requirement for Board approval and have the process conclude with the President.
- This is a Board and Senate policy so it requires approval from all three bodies; the Board approved the amendment in September.
- The Committee's previous discussion and approval of the policy was focused on the naming of academic units while this amendment relates to the naming of places so the academic intersection is much less.
- The present discussion was limited to the proposed amendment relating to the approval process for the naming of places; it was not an opportunity to open up the whole policy to amendment.

Motion:

THAT THE Committee approve and recommend to Senate amendments to Policy GA6 Naming Policy, as attached.

**K. Lo
A. d'Entremont
Carried**

8. Draft Policy J-### Academic Freedom

The Committee reviewed the current draft of the policy. The discussion was led by the Chair. The principal topics of the discussion included:

- The working group created to look at consultation feedback from May 2022 finalized the current draft this past August.
- SAPC-O made a number of revisions:
 - change Review Date from 2 years to 12 months to correspond with policy s. 8

- add “of the relevant Senate” to ad hoc section (para 3)
- change the definition of “student” to definition in the University Act.
- Applicability section - ...add “while” before “engaged in academic pursuits”
- Add a reporting requirement to the policy section.
- The post-consultation draft removed items that were really definitions, for example “guided by scholarly integrity” is not a definition, and defined members to be consistent with University Act and the applicability section.
- “enjoy” vs. “have the benefit of” academic freedom – the 1977 statement says members “enjoy certain rights and privileges” – the working group didn’t see a problem so continued the language
- C. Eaton noted the language comes from Roosevelt, a broad notion of “enjoying” rights
- Important differences from the 1977 statement:
 - Current - has a definition of members
 - Current - includes procedures especially with respect to perceived infractions
- Initial academic freedom working group considered “staff” somewhat contentious to define - there are staff engaged in, for example, research and labs, who aren’t faculty; food service staff are not engaged in academic pursuits
- *while engaged in academic pursuits* refines when a faculty member is protected by academic freedom - if outside of academic pursuits, a faculty member is protected by freedom of expression
- Any possible impact of Bill C–63 Online Harms Act is beyond the scope of what the University can do.
- Para 6 “willing” vs “willing and able” to demonstrate that their opinions and ideas... - “willing” protects the right to be wrong; what is within the law constantly changes.
- Anyone who is involved in assessment, including those involved in experiential education in the community, would be under contract and the policy is applicable.
- SAPC-O addressed where the reporting requirement should go – if it were in procedures, there would have to be enabling language in the policy so they left in in the policy

The Committee agreed to remove the extra “or” from policy s.4.

Motion:

THAT THE Committee approve and recommend to the Vancouver Senate approval of *Policy J-###: Academic Freedom.*

K. Lo
C.W. Marshall
Carried

Action item

Jo-anna to inform SAPC-O about the change and confirm they agree.

9. Policy Review Schedule

There are policies which fall under the Committee’s responsibility which are overdue for review.

The Committee needs to set priority for review. Priority won't be chronological - it's a matter of identifying which policies, if any, have issues.

It was suggested that committee members could list their top 3 priorities; this may not be practicable due to committee members not knowing if there are problems.

It would be more efficient to not review policies that aren't yet up for review unless problems have been identified.

Exam policies, Academic Concession and Joint LR7 Disability Accommodation Policy were suggested as possible priorities.

Action item

Create an updated version of the policy list and figure out how to get feedback from the committee.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on 18 November 2024.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.