Appendix

GNWC Academic Governance and Administration of Degree Programs

September 30, 2006

The GNWC Academic Governance and Administration of Degree Programs proposal is intended as a general guideline document applying to any degree program that would be jointly offered by the four GNWC partner institutions and housed at the Great Northern Way Campus. Several points relative that proposal are discussed in the following.

A) UBC Senate Policy on Joint Degree Programs

UBC Senate policy gives eight points to be considered in the development of joint degree proposals, found at www.students.ubc.ca/senate/policies.cfm?ID=2. Rather than incorporate the UBC-specific questions into the GNWC Governance and Administration document, the full UBC Senate document is reproduced below and responses are interpolated in *italics*.

It is understood that all specific joint degree program proposals would come before the UBC Senate Academic Policy Committee prior to its consideration by the UBC Senate Curriculum Committee, and that approval of the proposed Governance structure does not constitute prior approval of any specific degree program.

UBC Document on Evaluation of Joint Degree Proposals

The following are guidelines for joint degree proposals, prepared by the [UBC] Academic Policy Committee:

A proposal for a joint degree program should be reviewed and approved initially by the UBC Senate Academic Policy Committee prior to its consideration by the Senate Curriculum Committee. Because each proposal for a joint degree is likely to involve different idiosyncratic arrangements, these proposals should be considered by the Academic Policy Committee on a case-by-case basis. The guidelines we are creating with our recommendation takes this point into account. Such a review process will allow the UBC Senate to ensure that academic matters are appropriately addressed, and the degree designation on the parchment conforms to UBC Senate approved policy (e.g., Senate Minutes, October 1997).

The proposal for a joint degree program must clearly demonstrate why such a program cannot be covered by UBC's current exchange arrangements. The advantages of a specific joint degree proposal to students, UBC and their partner institutions, should be clearly cited and be readily apparent.

The specific program proposals will be supported by clear statements of the advantages of the proposed joint degree program to students and to the partner institutions.

The proposal for any degree program will be expected to provide satisfactory answers to questions of the following kind and should be addressed in the proposal.

1. Is there assurance that a student will be registered in both institutions?

GNWC students will be registered at the GNWC, with secure access to student records by authorized personnel with the need to know at each of the partner institutions.

2. Are there mechanisms in place to ensure that student records are maintained in both institutions?

As above

3. Are there mechanisms in place to ensure that a student enrolled in a joint program has access to housing, loans, scholarships, athletics and recreational facilities, daycare, library privileges, e-mail accounts in AT LEAST one of the institutions?

Mechanisms are being developed with the assistance of Librarians, Registrar's and Student Services personnel from all four partner institutions to address all of these areas. All will be in place well in advance of the arrival of the first students.

4. Are there procedures in place to ensure that actions related to student discipline are in place for such students at least at one of the institutions?

Policies and procedures are being developed by the GNWC, with the assistance of Registrar's personnel from all four partner institutions, to address this area and will be reflected in the final form of the GNWC Graduate Regulations – the current draft is attached. It should be emphasized that these regulations are still in development and are not yet being officially submitted to the partner institutions for review.

5. Are the standards set for student admissions at both institutions comparable in respect to the specific program being offered?

Yes – and these are reflected in the draft Graduate Regulations and will also be part of the detailed curriculum document for each proposed program.

6. Are the students enrolled in a joint degree program expected to spend at least two years in residence on the UBC campus?

No – this criterion is not applicable to GNWC programs, since most work will be done at the GNWC and in associated industry, government and/or NGO settings.

7. Will decisions made about student progress, etc. made at one institution be respected/accepted by the partner institutions?

Yes – agreement for acceptance of such decisions, made at the GNWC, by all four partner institutions will be a component of the affiliation agreements with the partner institutions. Recommendations for the award of degree to each degree candidate, accompanied by all necessary documentation, will be transmitted by the GNWC to each partner institution for their consideration.

8. In the event that a student decides to drop out of the joint degree program, and transfers to another program at one of the partner institutions, is there assurance that the student's new program will accept appropriate courses taken prior to transfer, at all of the cooperating institutions?"

Yes- this will also be a component of the affiliation agreements with the partner institutions. Transfer to another program at one of the partner institutions cannot be guaranteed, however, and would be considered on a case-by-case basis, dependant on the student's qualifications and applicability of the GNWC courses to the student's new program.

B) GNWC Academic Governance and Administration of Degree Programs proposal relative to the GNWC Strategic Academic Plan, approved at the GNWC in 2004.

The present proposal provides additional structure and framework that implement the broad principles of Academic Governance at GNWC set out in the Strategic Academic Plan. The present proposal is not intended to supersede or alter the Strategic Academic plan.

C. Additional Information - responses to specific queries from UBC Senators and others regarding this proposal:

Answers to the queries are in *italics*:

1. Who grants the degree?

- will credentials be (and be seen in the community as): GNWC degrees to which UBC and others have lent their legitimacy, expertise and names, or hybrid UBC, SFU, ECIAD, and BCIT degrees?"

This is covered under Credentialing in the "Academic Governance and Administration of Degree Programs" document.. This section states: "The Great Northern Way Campus will not be an autonomous degree granting institution and Provincial base (FTE) funding is not anticipated. Rather, GNWC degrees will be conferred by virtue of the credentialing authority of the four GNWC partner institutions." Joint credentialing of highly collaborative programs is the most effective way of asserting the fact that the strengths of the partner institutions are jointly in support of the program. This approach will be operationalized via affiliation agreements between the GNWC and the partner institutions. These agreements are under development, in consultation with personnel at each institution and will be subject to approval by the appropriate bodies at each institution. Degrees granted under this proposal would carry all four partner institutions' crests on the degree parchment.

It is anticipated there will be a primary "Host Department (or possibly Departments)" at each institution for any such degree program. This academic unit would recommend the program curriculum (ultimately) to Senate or Education Council.

- will the degree candidates be approved by UBC (and others), or will this power be delegated to the GNWC? Delegation would be a great departure from current practice

Recommendations for the award of degrees would be made by the appropriate Program Committee at GNWC to each of the Host Departments at each of the partner institutions, which would then recommend the graduates to the rest of the administrative systems and ultimately to

the body with authority for final approval. This would also be established in the affiliation agreements between the GNWC and the partner institutions, as mentioned above.

- will program graduates be UBC alumni?

We expect that all four institutions would permit graduates to convocate and would want to "claim" the graduates as "alumni."

2. Will there be high academic standards for admission, students and courses

The general issue of academic/grading standards in courses is addressed in the proposed "GNWC Graduate Regulations." A copy of the current draft is attached to this Appendix. Criteria for admission, continuation and completion will be at least as high as the most stringent at the four GNWC partner institutions. Although not yet been approved in detail by the GNWC Academic Committee, the use of the 4.0-based grading system (following) was not controversial. Elaboration of grading criteria along the lines of UBC's (following) could also be useful guidance.

Grade Point	***Grade***	***Level of Achievement***
4.33	*A+*	*exceptional*
4.00	*A*	*exceptional*
3.67	*A-*	*exceptional*
3.33	*B+*	*competent*
3.00	*B*	*competent*
2.67	*B-*	*competent*
2.33	*C+*	*adequate*
2.00	*C*	*adequate*
0.00	*F**	*inadequate*

UBC Grading Criteria

The following guidelines offer a broad-brush characterization of the type of work that might be associated with various ranges of grades. The intent here is to encourage general consistency across the faculty rather than to provide precise specifications.

(A- to A+) *Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.*

(B- to B+) *Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.*

(C to C+) *Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.*

(F) *Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.*

3. How will faculty appointments and career progress be handled?

- will faculty hiring standards also fall under the "fully consistent" principle, or only for the institution to which they are formally appointed?
- would there be two classes of instructors at GNWC because of differing rules and expectations?

This will also be covered in the aforementioned affiliation agreements. All regular, continuing faculty members would be appointed at one or the other of the GNWC partner institutions – "assignment" to institution being determined by best-fit between the faculty member's expertise and interests with those of the Host Department. Appointments would be made through the normal institutional appointment processes, augmented at the departmental level by participation from the relevant GNWC Program Committee, and applying all normal institutional criteria for faculty appointment. There may indeed be differences among the salaries and employment policies for faculty members, but this would be understood explicitly at the start and reflected in each person's appointment letter.

- will UBC be compensated for seconded faculty time?
- how will balance be struck between GNWC programs and general "UBC" responsibilities?

For any joint degree program covered by this proposed Governance structure, each institution's "Host Department(s)" would be compensated by the GNWC for faculty salaries and benefits via that institution's normal budgetary processes. Time commitments for teaching, research and service would be the subject of the specific appointment letter, with the expectation that primary teaching responsibilities would be in course instruction and student project supervision at the GNWC.