

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Enrolment Services  
Senate & Curriculum Services  
Brock Hall  
2016-1874 East Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

November 2, 2007

Memo to: Vancouver Senate

From: Academic Policy Committee

Re: **Examination Hardships (approval) and the UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies (approval)**

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- a) Approval of the proposed policy on Examination Hardships (approval)  
(circulated)

The Academic Policy Committee has reviewed and approved the proposed revision to the policy on Examination Hardship. The previous policy has been modified and now articulates timelines for students to notify instructors of examination hardships for both Summer and Winter sessions.

***Motion:*** That Senate approve the revised policy on Examination Hardships.

- b) Approval of UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies (approval)  
(circulated)

The Academic Policy Committee has reviewed and approved the Faculty of Arts recommendations regarding the UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies within the Department of Asian Studies.

***Motion:*** That Senate approve the establishment of the UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies, whereas UBC, through its Department of Asian Studies, enters into an affiliation agreement with People's University of China (Jhongguo Renmin Daxue or "Renda") in Beijing to sponsor a joint Summer Program in Buddhist Studies.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paul Harrison, Chair  
Senate Academic Policy Committee

**CHANGE TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS****Category: N/A**

<b>Faculty: All</b> <b>Unit/Dept.: All</b> <b>Faculty Approval Date: N/A</b> <b>Effective Session: 08S</b>	<b>Date: 25 September 2007</b> <b>Contact Person: Ac.Pol. Cmte</b> <b>Phone 2-9952</b> <b>Email: chris.eaton@ubc.ca</b>
<b>Proposed Calendar Entries:</b>  Examination Hardships  An examination hardship is defined as three or more <b>final</b> examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period. A student facing an examination hardship shall be given a <b>new</b> examination date for the second examination causing hardship by the respective instructor or department/ <b>faculty</b> . The student must notify the instructor of the second examination no later than one month prior to the examination date <b>for courses in the Winter Session, or no later than two weeks prior to the examination date for courses in the Summer Session.</b>	<b>URL:</b> <a href="http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,41,91,0">http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,41,91,0</a>  <b>Present Calendar Entry:</b> Examination Hardships  An examination hardship is defined as three or more examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period. A student facing an examination hardship shall be given an examination date for the second examination causing hardship by the respective instructor or department. The student must notify the instructor of the second examination no later than one month prior to the examination date.  <b>Type of Action:</b> Update to apply policy to the Summer Session as well as the Winter. Clarify that the policy applies to final examinations. Clarify that not all faculties are departmentalized.  <b>Rationale:</b> The current policy's timelines are only reasonable given the Winter Session's preponderance of formal examinations scheduled months in advance, and courses typically being scheduled for 3 month blocks.  NB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The wording of this policy is already permissive enough to incorporate both formally and "informally" scheduled final examinations.</li><li>• The policy was always intended – and is generally only interpreted - to apply to final examinations.</li></ul>

## MEMORANDUM

To: David Farrar, VP Academic and Provost

cc: Anna Kindler, Vice-Provost and Associate VP Academic Affairs  
Craig Klafter, AVP International  
Christopher Eaton, Academic Governance Officer, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: Nancy Gallini, Dean, Faculty of Arts

Date: October 4, 2007 (*revised version to replace memo dated September 26, 2007*)

**Re: UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies**

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I wish to draw to your attention that the Faculty of Arts met on September 25, 2007 and endorsed the establishment of a UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies. By copy to Christopher Eaton, we are forwarding this proposal directly to Senate for approval at its meeting on November 14.

*Proposed Senate Motion:*

**That the Senate approve the establishment of a UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies, whereby UBC-Asian Studies enters into a collaboration with People's University of China (Jhongguo Renmin Daxue or "Renda") in Beijing to sponsor a joint Summer Program in Buddhist Studies.**

Background and Rationale:  
[please see next six pages]

## UBC-REND A SUMMER PROGRAM IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

We propose to enter into a collaboration with People's University of China (Jhongguo Renmin Daxue or "Renda") in Beijing to sponsor a joint Summer Program in Buddhist Studies. The program would be substantially funded by the Tzu-chi Buddhist Compassion Society based in Hualien Taiwan and with its Canadian headquarters here in Vancouver. UBC's role in the joint UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies is to ensure the academic integrity of the Program by recruiting faculty members to teach its courses, by approving the curriculum, by providing on-site daily guidance when the Summer Program is in session, and by recruiting and vetting students for admission to the Program.

### ABOUT RENDA

Renda is generally regarded as having overall the highest-rated programs in the humanities and social sciences among all universities in China.

Renda already has its own separate program leading to the degree Master in Buddhist Studies (MBS). Their program is the leading one of its kind in China, and is the only nationally sponsored institute in Buddhism and religious studies in China. It requires eighteen months to complete, including twelve months of on-campus course work and six months off-campus for preparation and writing of a thesis. This program is taught in Chinese, resembles a seminary, and is intended exclusively for Chinese students.

### PROPOSAL

We propose to enter into a collaboration with Renda to offer a joint **UBC-Renda Summer Program in Buddhist Studies** leading to an optional twelve-unit certificate in Buddhist Studies. This academic program will offer each summer six-to-eight three-unit 400-level seminar-style courses delivered in English and taught by internationally renowned instructors recruited by UBC but hired by Renda. UBC Asian Studies will designate a Director with responsibility for approving the curriculum, recruiting faculty members to teach the Summer Program courses, recruiting and vetting students for admission to the Program, and providing on-site daily guidance when the Summer Program is in session.

The students in this program will come from around the non-Chinese world, and it is expected that most of these students will participate in the Summer Program on Tzu-chi scholarships. These scholarships will be awarded by Tzu-chi based on the recommendations of scholars in the world's leading post-secondary Buddhist studies centres and vetted by UBC.

All units and certificates will be awarded by Renda, which will also provide the facilities including classrooms, dormitories, library access, and so on as the host institution. Instructors in the program will be temporary employees of Renda and not UBC. UBC students, like students from other universities in the program, will earn Renda units that are then transferable (under advisement) to their home universities.

In addition to the six-to-eight seminars taught by international scholars, the summer program also offers its students the opportunity to participate in the following optional activities:

- (a) Weekly graduate student workshops, in which students in the Summer Program are invited to present their own papers before their Chinese peers in Renda's MBS Program along with invited graduate students from other major Chinese universities in Beijing.
- (b) Occasional visits to renowned local historical sites, especially Buddhist temples;

(c) A one-week field excursion to sites with significance for Chinese Buddhism and Chinese culture in general.

#### **BENEFITS OF THIS SUMMER PROGRAM TO UBC AND ITS STUDENTS**

1. It will significantly further UBC's international reputation as a world center for Buddhist studies and Chinese studies, while also strengthening our relationship with the Tzu-chi foundation, an enthusiastic supporter of Asian Studies' program in Buddhism studies.
2. Tzu-chi has pledged three full fellowships for UBC students for the first year of the summer program's operation, and we expect this level of funding to continue on an annual basis.
3. The program brings us into partnership with Renda, China's top-ranked university for the humanities and social sciences, and thus a natural and most desirable partner for UBC.
4. A Tzu-chi funded joint center on Buddhist Studies between UBC and Renda will be the first such institution in the world. The Tzu-chi foundation has pledged \$60,000 per year in support of the summer program. UBC Asian Studies has a history of working well together with the Tzu-chi foundation through the foundation's previous commitment of \$30,000 per year (for 5 consecutive years) to the UBC Tzu-chi Buddhist Forum series of conferences and lectures.
5. For each student in the summer program, UBC Asian Studies will receive a \$500 administration fee directly from Tzu Chi, to be used in support of Buddhist studies within the Department, such as to support a post-doctoral fellowship, a lecture series, and so on.
6. UBC's participation in the program has the potential to contribute to improved cross-Strait relations between China and Taiwan.

## **MODEL CURRICULUM FOR UBC-REDA SUMMER PROGRAM IN BUDDHIST STUDIES**

### *(1) Readings in Buddhist Texts (Sanskrit/Tibetan/Chinese)*

Selections from Buddhist texts representing major Buddhist traditions from the past as well as the present. The emphasis is on doctrinal issues. Methodological issues involved in interpreting Buddhist texts are also discussed, and students are introduced to the use of specialized research tools for the study of Buddhism such as dictionaries, concordances, indices and databases.

### *(2) Issues in Buddhist Hagio-biography*

An introduction to Buddhist bio/hagiographical literature. This seminar examines the basic nature of Buddhist hagiographies, and compares Chinese monastic and secular/official biographies with their Western counterparts. Methods of interpreting monastic biographies are introduced, with the emphasis on close reading.

### *(3) Issues in Buddhism and contemporary Society: Adaptations and Innovations*

This seminar addresses Buddhism's multiple roles in modern societies. It examines: 1) the international nature of Buddhism as a world religion and its possible role in bridging Western and Asian spiritual worlds; 2) Buddhism and relief efforts in local and global levels. 3) Buddhism and the potential creation and enhancement of harmony between culturally and ethnically diverse societies; and 4) Buddhism and the re-establishment of family values and other contributions to fundamental human relationships.

### *(4) Buddhist Sacred Sites: Places for Practices*

Buddhist sacred sites are places connected with the Buddha, with various bodhisattvas and deities, and leading religious figures celebrated for their role in the development of the religion. Sacred space is an essential component of any religious tradition and is especially significant for a trans-cultural religion such as Buddhism, which originated in India and spread through the whole of East Asia via Central Asia. This seminar examines: 1) the ways legends and local histories represent the perceived sacrality of a site; 2) the role that relics and images (including paintings and statues) played in creating, recreating and sustaining the Buddhist sites under investigation.

### *(5) Topics in Buddhism and Technology*

Many technologies developed along with the spread of Buddhism across a major part of the Eurasian continent. The lives of any number of major scientific-minded monks highlight the presence of religious (especially ritual) elements in almost every major scientific and technical invention in medieval Asia. This seminar addresses: 1) the compatibility of Buddhist philosophy and technological invention; and 2) Buddhist monks' engagement in the invention, innovation

and/or spread of technologies central to human civilization, including woodblock printing, mechanical clocks and gunpowder.

*(6) Issues in Sectarian Buddhism*

This seminar examines the growth of denominations in Buddhism's institutional development, and the international expansion of these denominations both within and outside Asia.

*(7) Issues in Buddhist Relic-veneration: Cross-cultural Perspectives*

Buddhism is the only other world religion comparable to Christianity in the emphasis given to relics and their veneration and devotionism generally. Buddhist relics conveyed the Buddha - not merely his teaching, but nothing less than his physical presence - to every corner of Asia and helped Buddhism to become domiciled in different locations and widely divergent cultures. These relics served to establish an intricate network of patronage, alliance, and gift giving with far-reaching political, social, economic, and cultural significance.

*(8) Issues in State-sangha Relations: Multi-disciplinary Approaches*

The Buddhist community (sangha) interacted with the state in remarkably intense and complex ways. This seminar challenges conventional interpretations of church-state relations in the Buddhist world and offers a picture of dynamism and complexity: the Buddhist church collaborated and competed with secular authority on the one hand, and Buddhist leaders interacted among themselves on the other. This seminar also discusses various factors, both monastic and political, that informed and transformed the complex Sangha-state relationships, including kinship ties, economic and commercial expansion, and the tension between rival countries within a Buddhist cultural arena.

**LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FROM  
JHONGGUO RENMIN DAXUE or “RENDA” (PEOPLE’S UNIVERSITY OF CHINA)\***

July 31, 2007

Dear Colleagues of the University of British Columbia:

After a thorough discussion, the executive board of the Faculty of Philosophy at People’s University of China has unanimously voted to collaborate with the University of British Columbia in establishing a summer program on Buddhism Studies at People’s University of China, Beijing, China. During the period of the program, People’s University of China will provide the program participants with necessary facilities, including electronically equipped classrooms and access to library resources and internet. Students may receive course credits and certificates of completion upon fulfillment of all requirements.

To facilitate the smooth implementation of the above plan, we suggest that an official meeting on the university level be held as soon as possible, with the aim that an agreement on cooperation can be signed between our two universities.

Sincerely yours,

Fenglei Zhang,  
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Philosophy  
People’s University of China  
Beijing, China (Official Seal added)

\* Translation prepared by Prof. Jinhua Chen. Original available on request



## ABOUT THE UBC DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT PROGRAM

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JINHUA CHEN  
Canada Research Chair in East Asian Buddhism

Jinhua Chen studied at Beijing University and the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences before coming to Canada in 1992. Chen earned his PhD from McMaster University in 1997, conducted his post-doctoral research at Kyoto University (1997–2000), and taught at the University of Virginia for one year before joining the Asian Studies Department at UBC in 2001 as government-funded Canada Research Chair in East Asian Buddhism. Chen's prestigious CRC appointment has since been renewed for another five-year term commencing 2006.

Chen's research involves in-depth study and analysis of: circumstances leading to the rise of Chan Buddhism in China; historical contexts of specific Esoteric Buddhist scriptures and related documents; and other aspects of the church/state relationship in medieval China.

### PUBLICATIONS:

#### (I) Sole-authored Books

1. 1999: Making and Remaking History: A Study of Tiantai Sectarian Historiography. *Studia Philologica Buddhica Monograph Series no. 14*, Tokyo: The International Institute for Buddhist Studies in Tokyo, 202 pages.

2. 2002: Monks and Monarchs, Kinship and Kingship: Tanqian in Sui Buddhism and Politics. Kyoto: Italian School of East Asian Studies, 310 pages.

3. 2007: Philosopher, Practitioner, Politician: The Many Lives of Fazang (643-712) *Series Sinica Leidensia*, Leiden: Brill Academic Publisher, 2007.

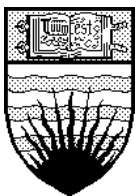
4. In press: Legend and Legitimation: The Formation of Tendai Esoteric Buddhism in Japan. *Mélanges Chinois et Bouddhiques*, vol. 30 (publication scheduled in 2008). Brussels: Institut Belge des Hautes Etudes Chinoises. (ca. 400 pages)

#### (II) Books Co-edited

(1) Buddhism and Peace: With a Focus on the Issues of Violence, Wars and Self-sacrifice. Co-edited with James Benn. Hua-lien (Taiwan): Tzu-chi University Press, 2006.

(2) Engaged Buddhism, Its History, Doctrines and Practices: Essays in Memory of Master Yin-shun (1906-2005). Co-edited with Mu-chu Hsu and Lori Meeks. Hua-lien (Taiwan): Tzu-chi University Press, 2006.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Vancouver Senate

2016 - 1874 East Mall

Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z1

Tel: (604) 822-9952

Fax: (604) 822-5945

christopher.eaton@ubc.ca

November 1, 2007

To: Senate

From: Academic Policy Committee

Re: **Consent to the use of "School" by the Faculty of Commerce & Business  
Administration for the "Robert H Lee Graduate School"**

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The Academic Policy Committee has reviewed the Faculty of Commerce & Business Administration's request to use the title "school" to describe its graduate offerings without the creation of an administrative structure associated with that title. This request is made in part to acknowledge the generous donation and support of Chancellor Emeritus Lee to the Faculty and our University.

This proposal has broad support from faculty and students in the Faculty, and the name has been approved by the Board of Governors following University policies. The designation of graduate programs with their own identity is not without precedent in Canada and internationally. The Segal Graduate School at Simon Fraser University and the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto are two existing graduate business program-only entities in Canada. Similarly, the Stanford Graduate School of Business recently created a separate business campus to recognize a gift from Nike founder Phil Knight.

As noted by the Board of Governors in their approval of the naming, "the creation of the Robert H. Lee Graduate School will enhance the visibility and reputation of the Sauder School and the University." The \$15 million commitment from Dr Lee will allow the Faculty to expand and upgrade the physical facilities that house the graduate programs, including the construction of new classrooms and "breakout" rooms, the creation of enhanced group and individual study spaces, and improvements in the application of information technology throughout the curriculum. The ability to separately identify the Faculty's graduate programs will also serve to provide greater public awareness and recognition of the graduate programs in business at UBC Vancouver.

As such, the Committee is pleased to recommend that Senate resolve as follows:

*"That Senate consent to the use of the title "school" by the Faculty of Commerce & Business Administration in the marketing and other informal descriptions of its graduate programs as the "Robert H Lee Graduate School" without the creation of the administrative structures associated with a formal academic unit with that title."*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paul Harrison, Chair  
Senate Academic Policy Committee