



December 17, 2009

**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Vancouver Senate**  
2016 - 1874 East Mall  
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z1

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Academic Policy Committee

Re: Thursday Noon-Hour Break (information)

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As the Senate was informed at its meeting of 13 May 2009, the Academic Policy Committee has undertaken a review of the policy prohibiting the scheduling of classes from 12:30 to 2:00 pm each Thursday. The Committee has consulted with and received data from faculties and administrative offices, considered detailed documents prepared by student representatives, and discussed the matter at its meetings in November and December of 2009. The importance of a time for non-scheduled curricular or non-curricular activities and meetings to regularly occur during the school day has been made clear to the Committee, but so have the difficulties in fully implementing the existing policy.

In its deliberations, the Committee has attempted to balance the aspirations of UBC - as exemplified by *Place and Promise* commitments to creating an “outstanding work environment” and providing “enriched educational experiences and rewarding campus life” - with the realities of limited classroom space and student and instructor demands for reasonably compact schedules. The Committee is aware of the difficulties faced by faculties in finding suitable and sufficient spaces and times for instruction, and thus the erosion of this policy in current practice, but still views this break as an important mechanism to facilitate the scheduling activities beyond those in classes.

The Committee has determined that there is not a consensus to rescind or amend the policy, but is acutely aware that its full implementation is challenged by the reality of our scheduling and space situations. As such, the Committee can make no recommendation to Senate at this time for any changes to the existing policy, but takes this opportunity request that faculties and departments endeavour to implement the policy as much as is possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G Harrison, Chair