THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Senate Academic Policy Committee
c/o
Enrolment Services |Senate & Curriculum Services
Brock Hall 2016 – 1874 East Mall
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1
Tel : (604) 822-9134 | Fax : (604) 822-5945

21 March 2012

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Vancouver Senate Academic Policy Committee

Re: Proposal for Observance of National West Coast Closing Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Rationale:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology in Parliament on June 11, 2008 recognized that the system of Indian Residential Schools did "great harm" to Aboriginal people in Canada for more than a century. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established to gather the testimony of survivors and other records documenting this system and to create the circumstances for an understanding of this system and its consequences to be integrated into Canadian education and awareness.

The final West Coast event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that is to be held in September 2013 in Vancouver will be a pivotal moment in Canadian history and a significant opportunity to educate thousands of Canadians.

The development of research and educational opportunities for all faculty, staff, and students to learn about Aboriginal history and culture is a core objective in the University of British Columbia's *Place and Promise* and Aboriginal strategic plans. The Academic Policy Committee therefore proposes that the Academic Year for 2013/14 be amended to include a day of observation for this event.

Motion:

That Senate approve that:

1. *UBC classes be suspended for one day during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final national event on the west-coast in Vancouver in September 2013 to allow students and faculty to participate in this event,*

   and,

2. *That UBC faculty, staff, and students be encouraged to take the time to direct attention to this event and its significance and to consider how a greater awareness of the attendant issues might be integrated into their curricula and co-curricular programming.*

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Background:

The event is anticipated to occur over a four day period from September 18-21st. It is yet to be determined which day of the event will be most appropriate for the day of observance. The Academic Year for 2013/14 will be developed through campus-wide consultation and will be shared with Senate for information in 2013. The Academic Policy Committee may bring forward additional motions to Senate as more details become available.

The day of observance as proposed will reduce the number of teaching days in Term 1 of the 2013 Winter Session to sixty (60), which is the minimum allowable under Senate Policy *V-125: Term and Formal Examination Scheduling.* Also, the number of full teaching weeks will be reduced from (10) to nine (9).

Under Senate Policy *V-125: Term and Formal Examination Scheduling*, graduate and professional programs need not necessarily follow the term schedule as laid out in the Academic Year. As details become clear as to the actual day planned for the day of observance, additional exemptions may be considered (e.g., classes after 5 p.m. or those held only on the weekday concerned).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paul Harrison, Chair
Senate Academic Policy Committee