THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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To: Vancouver Senate

From: Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee

Re: a. Discontinuation of Policy J-52: *Admission for Secondary School Applicants following the BC/Yukon Curriculum*

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a. Discontinuation of Policy J-52: *Admission for Secondary School Applicants following the BC/Yukon Curriculum*

The Senate Admissions Committee recommends to Senate for approval the following motion:

That Policy J-52 be discontinued effective immediately.

Rationale

At the Senate meeting of March 14, 2012, the Senate Admissions Committee was directed to 'review Policy J-52 by August 2012 and report back to Senate at its next meeting thereafter with a recommendation for the continuation, modification, or discontinuation of the policy.'

Policy J-52 was discussed at the Senate Admissions Committee meetings held on July 11 and 25 and August 8 and 29, 2012. The Committee's view is that Policy J-52 was implemented as a temporary measure, to allow the use of Grade-11 grades as substitutes for Grade-12 grades where these were not available, during the BCTF job-action in early 2012. That situation has now passed, but there remains the broader issue of using Grade-11 grades in calculating admissions averages. Therefore, it is the Committee's view that Policy J-52 be discontinued, but that the Committee work on replacing it with a different policy that can accommodate the use of Grade-11 grades on an ongoing basis for assessing secondary school applicants following the BC/Yukon curriculum.

Notwithstanding the discontinuation of Policy J-52, the Committee recommends retaining the current language in the calendar (http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,22,63,0) regarding the use of Grade-11 grades. This is because (1) the Committee expects to present the new policy to Senate for approval at the November 2012 meeting, (2) the next Calendar release is not until late-February 2013, and (3) the current language in the Calendar, which reads "*The admission average will be calculated on English 12, or English 12 First Peoples, and the three additional approved Grade 12 courses. Should final or in-progress Grade 12 grades not be available at the time of evaluation, final Grade 11 grades may be used as appropriate*", will be useful to keep school counselors and other members of the public informed about UBC's intentions with respect to the use of Grade-11 grades.

Information

It is anticipated that the new policy on admissions procedures will include conditions regarding the use of final Grade-11 grades to calculate admission averages when Grade-12 grades are not yet available for applicants following the BC/Yukon curriculum, and will also establish final Grade-12 grade standards for maintaining early offers of admission. The Committee is consulting with various interested parties, including faculties. As stated above, the Committee expects to present the new policy to Senate for approval at the November 2012 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sparks
Chair, Senate Admissions Committee