SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ADMISSION, RE-REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPT 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017

The Senate Committee on Admission, Re-Registration and Transfer consisted of the following members:

Dr. Leslee Francis Pelton, (Curriculum & Instruction)
Dr. Garry Gray, (Sociology)
Dr. Diana Varela, (Biology & Earth & Ocean Sciences)
Dr. Stephen Tax, (Business)
Dr. Ashoka Bhat, (Electrical & Computer Engineering)
Dr. Scott Woodcock, (Philosophy)
Dr. Sandra Hundza, (Education)
Mr. Joel Lynn (Director, Student Affairs)
Ms. Susan Butler (CSC Academic Advisor, ex-o)
Dr. Cindy Holder (Associate Dean Academic Advising Faculties of Science, Social Sciences and Humanities) - Sept 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
Mr. David O’Brien (Counselling Services, ex-o)
Ms. Nicole Greengoe (Registrar ex-o)
Ms. Laurie Barnas (Associate Registrar, ex-o)
Zoe-Blue Coates (Student Senator)
Ann-Bernice Thomas (Student Senator)
Jordan Quitzau (Student Representative)
The Senate Committee on Admission, Re-Registration and Transfer held 15 meetings during the period Sept 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 inclusive. One meeting was cancelled due to no cases. A total of 23 appeals submitted by students were considered within this timeframe. There were 9 appeals from Undergraduate Admissions, of which 7 were rejected and 2 were accepted. There were 14 appeals from Undergraduate Records, of which 6 were accepted and 8 were rejected. To summarize, the appeal results for this time were as follows: 8 were accepted; 15 were rejected.

* Please note that the timeframe of the 2016/2017 Annual Report has been adjusted to align with other Senate Committee’s Annual Reports that run from July to June. As such, July and August of 2017 will be included in the 2017/2018 Annual Report. These two months are the busiest months of the year and see large student appeal caseloads; a total of 25 appeals were considered at this time (3 from Undergraduate Records, of which two were accepted and one was rejected; the other 22 appeals were from Undergraduate Admissions, of which all were rejected. These appeal results will be included in the 2017/2018 Annual Report however the committee felt it was appropriate to convey the activities recently undertaken.

The Senate Committee on Admission, Re-Registration and Transfer (SCART) also considered additional various items/issues. The most noteworthy are as follows:

1. The committee voted to support the creation of Year 1 admission requirements for the Faculty of Human & Social Development (JDPN partnership with Camosun College), effective May 1, 2017.

2. The committee received an informational update to clarify how UVic students that were ‘Required to Withdraw’ from their studies would be considered if they applied for admission to the JDPN program.

3. The committee considered the proposal from the Division of Continuing Studies, titled “Proposal for Selected Continuing Studies’ Non-Credit Certificates and Diplomas to Receive Degree Credit at the University of Victoria” a second time, with the information gathered by the Office of the Registrar of Canadian institution practices.

   Upon review of the additional material, the committee expressed concerns related to how the proposal would establish precedence to grant transfer credit for other
Continuing Studies programs at UVic (including those offered at Canadian and international institutions). The committee also recognized that the proposal would need to consider multiple academic calendar regulations that preclude the institution from assigning credit, at both the institutional and faculty/academic unit level. The committee noted that several of the DCS programs noted in the proposal varied in their admission requirements, availability for advanced placement options, program duration and completion requirements and was therefore not supportive of considering all DCS programs with an equal credit value or uniform approach. A change of this nature would also require further consideration of admission/re-admission requirements to credit programs and the practicalities of how credit would be restricted to a specific faculty/program.

After lengthy discussion, it was determined that the institution would need to consider these broader implications before pursuing the assignment of transfer credit in recognition of the completion of a DSC non-credit Certificate/Diploma, as currently proposed. The Division of Continuing Studies was provided with the details of the issues discussed so that committee concerns could be taken into consideration.
4. A representative from the Faculty of Engineering presented a proposal for the BSc Computer Science program; the proposal sought to establish a minimum grade requirement of “C” for transfer courses on admission to the Department of Computer Science. The committee was concerned about ambiguities in the proposed wording of the proposal. The Registrar’s office also expressed concern that students who later choose to change their program (where transfer credit is permitted) would be adversely impacted. The committee also expressed concern over the broader implications to courses articulated in the BC Transfer Guide; granting transfer credit for courses with a grade of “C” or higher is inherently problematic given that the university grants transfer credit for courses with a minimum grade of “D”.

After much discussion, SCART concluded that the proposed changes are better suited as admissions criteria than a transfer credit regulation. The committee recommended that further consultation occur with the Office of the Registrar to ensure that the intent of the proposed change be considered before the proposal is considered at a subsequent SCART meeting. Therefore, the committee moved to defer a vote on the proposal.

5. The committee voted to support the School of Nursing UVic/BCIT Graduate Pathway Proposal for “Block Credit Transfer”, to award block credit towards an UVic MN degree for courses completed at BCIT.