The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Academic Standards define its scope and relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Each fall term the committee presents an annual report on its business and proceedings to Senate over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Academic Standards met seven times in 2014/15: September 9, 2014, October 22, 2014, December 10, 2014, January 15, 2015, February 5, 2015, April 9, 2015 and May 21, 2015. During the course of the year, the committee approved the convocation lists of faculties, made recommendations to Senate, initiated projects in areas of the committee’s concern, and received proposals for input from other Senate committees and campus constituencies. Within these areas, the committee considered a number of issues over the course of the year, including:

- Approval of the convocation lists of the faculties
- Recommendations to Senate:
  - revisions to the undergraduate academic calendar regarding regulations governing administration of university examinations
  - revisions to the undergraduate academic calendar regarding declaration for Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Science
- Continued Projects in 2014/15
  - guidelines regarding the use of editorial services
  - undergraduate grading patterns research
- Provided input on initiatives
  - proposals from other Senate committees

Approval of the convocation lists of the faculties:

The committee approves, on behalf of Senate, the granting of degrees. At its October 2014 and May 2015 meetings, the committee approved the fall and spring convocation lists respectively. The deans of the faculties or a designate were in attendance.
Recommendations to Senate:

To approve revisions to the undergraduate academic calendar regarding regulations governing administration of examinations

The committee reviewed and approved proposed changes to the undergraduate academic calendar regarding the regulations governing administration of university examinations at its January 2015 and May 2015 meetings. The recommendations provided to Senate in February 2015 regarding revisions to the section entitled “Identification, entering and exiting the examination” were approved. Recommendations provided to Senate in October 2015 were referred back to the committee for further consideration.

To approve revisions to the undergraduate academic calendar regarding declaration for Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences

The committee received updates regarding declaration at its October 2014 and February 2015 meetings. The committee also reviewed and approved proposed changes to the undergraduate academic calendar regarding declaration for the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences at its May 2015 meeting. These revisions were approved by Senate in October 2015.

Continued Projects in 2014/15

Guidelines regarding the Policy on Academic Integrity and use of editorial services

Throughout the year, the committee worked via a sub-committee to consider guidelines regarding the Policy on Academic Integrity and the use of editorial services. The committee as a whole received regular updates throughout the year and considered recommendations from the sub-committee at its April 2015 meeting. These recommendations, presented to Senate for feedback in May 2015, included proposed revisions to the Policy on Academic Integrity, proposed guidelines to provide a university-wide minimum standard, and awareness raising activities on the importance of academic integrity.

Undergraduate grading patterns

During the 2013/14 academic year, the committee initiated a project researching undergraduate grading patterns at the university. In 2014/15, the committee engaged Dr. Robert Anthony to provide a report on the issue that included a literature review, UVic data and information about other institutions. This report was
provided to the committee in May 2015. During the coming year, the committee will consider how best to address the issue based on the information provided in the report and in the Grading Patterns Report provided by Institutional Planning and Analysis.

**Grading Patterns Report**

The committee received the annual Grading Patterns Report at its October 2014 meeting. The report was provided to Senate in February 2015.

**Provided input on initiatives:**

**Provided Feedback on Proposals from Other Senate Committees**

At the December 2014 meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer to revise admission requirements for the combined program in Music and Computer Science.

At the January 2015 meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer to revise admission requirements for the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

**Comparative Grading Review: Multiple Sections and Common Grading Assessment**

At the May 2015 meeting, the Associate Registrar provided committee members with a presentation on comparative grading. This presentation was in response to an inquiry received by the Chair regarding the provision of comparative grading information for courses with multiple sections. Following consideration of the request, the committee decided not to undertake any further analysis of the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

2015/2016 Senate Committee on Academic Standards
Sara Beam (Chair), Faculty of Graduate Studies
Eva Baboula, Faculty of Fine Arts
Laurie Barnas, Associate Registrar
Sarah Blackstone, Advisor to the Provost, Special Projects (President's nominee)
Gillian Calder, Faculty of Law
Rosaline Canessa, Faculty of Social Sciences
Lauren Charlton, Registrar
Jordan Crocker, Student Senator
Nikolai Dechev, Faculty of Engineering
David Harrington, Faculty of Science
Cindy Holder, Associate Dean Academic Advising (HUMS, SCIE, SOSC)
Valerie Kuehne, Vice-President Academic and Provost
Peter Liddell, Convocation Senator
Michele Martin, Division of Medical Sciences
Norah McRae, Executive Director, Cooperative Education and Career Services
Michael Nowlin, Faculty of Humanities
Tim Pelton, Faculty of Education
Bernadette Peterson, Student Senator
Abdul Roudsari, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Richard Rush, Division of Continuing Studies
Ada Saab, Director, Graduate Admissions and Records
Brock Smith, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Kaylee Szakacs, University of Victoria Students’ Society Representative
Elissa Whittington, Graduate Students’ Society Representative
Carrie Andersen (Secretary), Office of the University Secretary

2014/2015 Senate Committee on Academic Standards
Heather Raven (Chair), Law
Eva Baboula, Fine Arts
Stan Bardal, Medical Sciences
Laurie Barnas, Associate Registrar
Nav Bassi, Convocation Senator
Sara Beam, Graduate Studies
Sarah Blackstone, Advisor to the Provost, Special Projects
Rosaline Canessa, Social Sciences
Lauren Charlton, Registrar
Jordan Crocker, Student Senator
Nikolai Dechev, Engineering
Kayleigh Erickson, UVSS representative
David Harrington, Science
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Michael Nowlin, Humanities
Tim Pelton, Education
Abdul Roudsari, Human and Social Development
Richard Rush, Continuing Studies
Ada Saab, Director, Graduate Admissions and Records
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