



**Date:** September 8, 2017

**To:** Senate

**From:** Dr. Sara Beam  
Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Standards

**Re:** **2016/2017 Annual Report**

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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 to Senate on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Academic Standards met six times in 2016/17: September 14, 2016, October 19, 2016, December 5, 2016, March 8, 2017, April 11, 2017 and May 25, 2017. During the course of the year, the committee approved the convocation lists of faculties, approved a posthumous degree, 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
- Approval of a posthumous degree
- Recommendations to Senate:
  - policy and guidelines regarding the use of editors
  - university grading patterns
  - revisions to academic standards (Department of Theatre, Faculty of Fine Arts)
  - revisions to the academic calendar (Faculty of Engineering)
- Continued Projects in 2016/17
  - proposal – Academic Writing Requirement for BCOM Dual-Degree Students
  - review of a proposal related to academic concession regulations
  - annual review of university grading patterns report
- 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 2016 and May 2017 meetings, the committee approved the fall and spring convocation lists respectively. The deans of the faculties or a designate were in attendance.

At the April 2017 meeting, the committee approved a request for a posthumous degree.

### **Recommendations to Senate:**

#### **Policy and Guidelines Regarding the Use of Editors**

Over the course of the Fall, committee members reviewed a proposal for a policy and guidelines regarding the use of editors. At the December meeting, the committee approved a final version to be presented to Senate. The proposal was presented to Senate in January 2017 and, after a fulsome discussion, was sent back to the committee for revisions and further consideration. A revised proposal was subsequently approved by Senate at its February 2017 meeting.

At the March 2017 committee meeting, committee members discussed opportunities to communicate the policy change to the university community.

#### **Recommendations regarding grading patterns**

At its September and October 2016 meetings, the committee reviewed a final report and recommendations regarding grading patterns across the university, particularly with respect to how grading patterns are reviewed by instructors, units and Chairs/Deans. The recommendations were approved by Senate at its November 2016 meeting.

#### **Revisions to Academic Standards (Department of Theatre, Faculty of Fine Arts)**

At the December 2016 meeting, the committee considered a proposal outlining changes to the GPA requirements to the BA Honours in Theatre History and the BFA Major in Theatre. The proposal was approved by Senate at its January 2017 meeting.

#### **Revisions to the Academic Calendar (Faculty of Engineering)**

At the December 2016 meeting, the committee considered a proposal outlining changes to the Deferred and Supplemental Examinations section of the academic calendar for the Faculty of Engineering. The proposal was approved by Senate at its January 2017 meeting.

### **Continued Projects in 2016/17**

#### **Proposal – Academic Writing Requirement for BCOM Dual-Degree Students**

At the October 2016 meeting, committee members reviewed a proposal regarding achievement of the academic writing requirement for a particular cohort of BCom

students. Committee members provided feedback and the proposal was referred back to the proponents for reconsideration.

### **Review of Academic Concession Regulations**

At the March 2017 meeting, the committee received a report from a working group established to consider the university's academic concession regulations. At the May 2017 meeting, the committee received an update from the working group. It is anticipated that recommendations will be presented to the committee for its consideration in 2017/18.

### **University of Victoria Grading Patterns Report**

The committee received the annual Grading Patterns Report at its October 2016 meeting. The report was provided to Senate at its November 2016 meeting.

### **Provided input on initiatives:**

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

In early January 2017, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer regarding the creation of new admission requirements for the Camosun College-UVic Joint Degree Program in Nursing.

At the March 2017 meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching on proposed changes to the academic calendar related to use of educational technology in the classroom.

At the April 2017 meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer regarding academic standards for the UVic-BCIT graduate pathway.

*Respectfully submitted,*

#### **2017/2018 Senate Committee on Academic Standards**

Sara Beam, Chair, Faculty of Graduate Studies  
Laurie Barnas, Associate Registrar  
Gillian Calder, Faculty of Law  
Rosaline Canessa, Faculty of Social Sciences  
Gillian Dornan, GSS Representative  
Kate Fry, Student Senator  
Nicole Greengoe, Registrar  
David Harrington, Faculty of Science  
Susan Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts (VPAC designate)  
Peter Liddell, Convocation Senator  
Michele Martin, Division of Medical Sciences  
Norah McRae, Executive Director, Cooperative Education and Career Services

Michael Nowlin, Faculty of Humanities  
Abdul Roudsari, Faculty of Human and Social Development  
Richard Rush, Division of Continuing Studies  
Ada Saab, Director, Graduate Admissions and Records  
Henning Struchtrup, Faculty of Engineering  
Ken Thornicroft, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business  
Nancy Wright, Associate Vice-President Academic Planning (President's nominee)  
Carrie Andersen (Secretary), Associate University Secretary

**2016/2017 Senate Committee on Academic Standards**

Sara Beam (Chair), Faculty of Graduate Studies  
Rosaline Canessa (Acting Chair), Faculty of Social Sciences  
Eva Baboula, Faculty of Fine Arts  
Laurie Barnas, Associate Registrar  
Gillian Calder, Faculty of Law  
Jordan Crocker, UVSS Representative  
Nikolai Dechev, Faculty of Engineering  
Nicole Greengoe, Registrar  
David Harrington, Faculty of Science  
Cindy Holder, Associate Dean Academic Advising (Faculties of Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)  
Susan Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts (VPAC designate)  
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  
Sarah Warder, GSS Representative  
Nancy Wright, Associate Vice-President Academic Planning (President's nominee)  
Carrie Andersen Secretary, Associate University Secretary