



Date: September 10, 2021
To: Senate
From: Senate Committee on Academic Standards
Re: **2020/21 Annual Report**

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 10 times in 2020/21, and twice approved items by email motion to extend the waiver of medical documentation due to COVID-19. Meetings occurred July 15, 2020, September 11, 2020, October 21, 2020, November 13, 2020, December 10, 2020, January 13, 2021, March 12, 2021, April 1, 2021, April 16, 2021, and May 27, 2021. During the course of the year, the committee approved the convocation lists of faculties, approved a number of posthumous degrees, made recommendations to Senate, initiated projects in areas of the committee's concern, and received proposals for input from other Senate committees.

Within these areas, the committee considered a number of issues including:

Recommendations to Senate:

- Revision to the committee's terms of reference
- Proposed Examination Cancellation Policy and Guidelines
- Revision to the Guidelines on Posthumous Degrees
- Proposed residency requirement for the post-degree Diploma in Applied Linguistics
- Revision to the Summer Add/Drop deadlines
- Proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for Professional Programs in the Faculty of Education
- Proposal to rescind a degree
- Proposed temporary undergraduate and graduate COVID-19 transcript notation
- Proposed double counting and laddering credentials regulation for the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences
- Revision to the graduate grading standards regulation
- Revision to undergraduate exchange credit regulation
- Revision to the Policy on Academic Integrity

Continued Projects in 2020/21

- Revision to the Undergraduate Academic Concessions Regulation
- Revision to the Academic Integrity Policy



Consultation

- Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation Academic Integrity Framework
- Faculty of Education, Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization Program, on a revision to transfer credits

Consideration of a proposal from the undergraduate student society on COVID-19 Grading Options

Approval of the convocation lists of the faculties:

The committee approves, on behalf of Senate, the granting of degrees. Due to COVID-19, the committee meet July 15, 2020 to approve the spring 2020 convocation lists. At its October 2020 and May 2021 meetings, the committee approved the fall 2020 and spring 2021 convocation lists, respectively.

At the September 2020 and May 2021 meetings, the committee considered requests for posthumous degrees.

Recommendations to Senate:

To approve revisions to the committee's terms of reference

At its September meeting the committee approved revisions to its terms of reference to consider proposal to admission, re-registration and transfer policy and regulations.

To approve the Examination Cancellation Policy and Guidelines in the academic calendars

At its September meeting, the committee incorporated previous Senate feedback and approved the Examination Cancellation Policy and Guidelines for inclusion in the Academic Regulations – Examinations section of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar and the Faculty Academic Regulations section of the Graduate Academic Calendar.

To approve revisions to the Guidelines on Posthumous Degrees

At its July, September and October meetings, the committee considered and approved revisions to the Guidelines on Posthumous Degrees to include Diplomas and Certificates.

To approve a residency requirement for the post-degree Diploma in Applied Linguistics in the Faculty of Humanities.

At its October meeting, the committee provided feedback and approved the proposed residency requirement for the post-degree Diploma in Applied Linguistics in the Faculty of Humanities.

To approve revisions to the Summer Add/Drop deadlines

At its November meeting, the committee approved the revision to the Summer Add/Drop deadlines to align the deadline with the Winter Session process.

To approve revisions to the Code of Conduct for Professional Programs in the Faculty of Education

At its December meeting, the committee approved revisions to the Faculty of Education's Code of Conduct for Professional programs.

To approve the rescinding of a degree

At its December meeting, the committee discussed and approved the rescinding of a degree due a matter of academic integrity.

To approve the extension of the temporary waiver of medical documentation for all requests for academic concessions during the second term of the Winter Session, January 2021 – April 2021

On December 14th, the committee approved, via email, an extension to the waiver of medical

documentation for all academic concession requests for the 2021 Winter Session.

To approve a temporary undergraduate and graduate COVID-19 transcript notation

At its January meeting, the committee approved a UVSS request to include a temporary notation for all student transcripts to include the statement "This term took place during the COVID-19 pandemic" for the 2020 Summer Session, 2020/21 Winter Session and 2021 Summer Session.

To approve an undergraduate regulation on double counting and laddering credentials for the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences

At its March meeting, the committee approved the inclusion of the Faculty of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences regulation on double counting and laddering credentials in the Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

To approve revisions to the Graduate Academic Calendar

At its March meeting, the committee approved the inclusion to the Graduate Academic Calendar a statement to prevent predetermined grading practices.

To approve revisions to the regulation on undergraduate exchange

At its April meeting, the committee approved revisions to the undergraduate exchange regulation in the academic calendar to include part-time exchange credit.

To approve the inclusion of candidacy examination to the Policy on Academic Integrity

At its April meeting, the committee approved a proposed revision to the Policy on Academic Integrity to include consideration of violations regarding candidacy examinations.

To approve the extension of the temporary waiver of medical documentation for all requests for academic concessions during the second term of the Summer Session, May 2021 – August 2021

On April 23rd, the committee approved, via email, an extension to the waiver of medical documentation for all academic concession requests for the 2021 Summer Session.

Continued Projects in 2020/21

Review of the Undergraduate Academic Concession Regulations

Throughout the academic year, the committee reviewed the progress of the revisions to the Undergraduate Academic Concessions Regulations.

Annual Review of Grading Patterns Report

At its December meeting, reviewed the 2019/20 report. The committee took careful note of the recent university grading options which consisted of a COVID PASS, COVID FAIL, back-dated drop without penalty, and COVID withdrawal for extenuating circumstances (COVID W.E.).

Academic Integrity Policy

At the December meeting, the committee formed a sub-committee to examine the Policy on Academic Integrity. Throughout the academic year, the committee received updates and proposed revisions to sections of the policy.

Provided Feedback on Proposals from Other Areas:

At its October meeting, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on the Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation's Academic Integrity Framework.

At its January meeting, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on a proposal from the Faculty of Education, Department of Indigenous Education, to revise the number of allowable transfer credits to the Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization

Program (BEDILR).

Proposals from the Students' Societies on COVID-19 Grading options:

At its March meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Undergraduate Students Society to extend the COVID grading options (COVID PASS, COVID FAIL, back-dated drop without penalty, and COVID withdrawal for extenuating circumstances - COVID W.E.) to the 2020 Summer Session, 2020/21 Winter Session and 2021 Summer Session.

The committee met to consider the issue at a special meeting in April as well as their regular April meeting. Discussions took into account consultation with the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching, the Graduate Student's Society, the university's grading pattern report, a survey of Canadian post-secondary institutions, and the various individualized reliefs currently offered to the university's students.

The committee declined to approve the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

2021/2022 Senate Committee on Academic Standards

Yasmine Kandil (Chair), Faculty of Fine Arts
Sophia Crabbe, Student Senator
Marran Dodds, UVSS representative
Erin Donald, GSS representative
Andrea Giles, Executive Director, Coop Education & Career Services
Nicole Greengoe, Registrar
Robert Hancock, Faculty of Social Sciences
Sandra Hundza, Faculty of Education
Sabrina Jackson, Associate Registrar
Nicole Kent, Student Senator
Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Devi Mucina, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Tania Muir, Division of Continuing Studies
Andrew Newcombe, Faculty of Law
Sorin Rizeanu, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Rachel Strandquist, Acting Director, Graduate Admissions and Records
Henning Struchtrup, Faculty of Engineering
Diana Varela, Associate Dean, Academic Advising (Faculties of SCIE, SOSC and HUM)
Alivia Wang, Convocation Senator
Ada Saab (Secretary), Associate University Secretary

2020/2021 Senate Committee on Academic Standards

Neil Burford, Chair, Faculty of Science

Janni Aragon, Faculty of Social Sciences

Laurie Barnas, Associate Registrar

Sophia Crabbe, Student Senator

Alexandra D'Arcy, Faculty of Humanities

Erin Donald, GSS Representative

Steve Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies (VPAC's designate)

Andrea Giles, Acting Executive Director, Co-op Education and Career Services

Nicole Greengoe, Registrar

Rob Hancock, Convocation Senator

Emily Hiser, UVSS Representative

Navinder Hundal, Student Senator

Sandra Hundza, Faculty of Education

Sabrina Jackson, Director, Graduate Admissions and Records

Yasmine Kandil, Faculty of Fine Arts

Michelle Lawrence, Faculty of Law

Susan Lewis, Associate Vice-President Academic Planning (President's nominee)

Michele Martin, Division of Medical Sciences

Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Tania Muir, Division of Continuing Studies

Sorin Rizeanu, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business

Esther Sangster-Gormley, Faculty of Human and Social Development

Henning Struchtrup, Faculty of Engineering

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Ada Saab, Secretary, Associate University Secretary