

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

Enrolment Services

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www.senate.ubc.ca**12 March 2008**

Memo to: Okanagan Senate

From: Admissions and Awards Committee

RE: Provincial Examinations (approval)

As Senators may recall, in late 2007 the Vancouver Senate Admissions and the Okanagan Senate Admissions and Awards Committees had approved campus-based motions to not require Provincial Examinations offered by the BC Ministry of Education (BC Provincial Examinations) other than those required for graduation as Admission Requirements. In December 2007 the Vancouver Senate failed to approve a motion to eliminate provincial examinations.

In December and January, advance drafts of the provincial examinations item were circulated to the Okanagan Senate for information. With hopes that a single UBC admission policy would be coordinated, the Okanagan Senate directed the Admissions and Awards Committee to recommend the enclosed motion for approval at their 12 March 2008 meeting.

That the Admissions and Awards Committee be directed to report back with joint language, or other, from collaborations with the Vancouver Admissions Committee; and that the Admissions and Awards Committee at that time will be directed to recommend a motion to the Senate in March 2008.

Whether or not the Senate votes to eliminate the admission requirement related to provincial exams at its 12 March meeting, the implementation date would need to be for applicants entering in the 2009/2010 Academic Year.

Coordination within the UBC System

Since the last time Senate discussed this matter the UBC Admissions Committee Chairs have connected regularly to potentially coordinate a single admissions policy on the provincial examinations matter. In early March 2008, representatives of the Senate Admissions Committees met jointly to preliminarily discuss the system-wide implications of the

provincial examinations issue.

The Vancouver Senate has directed the Admissions Committee, through a Sub-Committee, to report comprehensively on UBC Admissions Policies. The Vancouver Senate expects a preliminary report in May 2008. In the interim this situation in Vancouver remains indeterminate. The Chair of the Vancouver Admissions Committee, however, is hopeful that the Vancouver Senate will reach its final decision no later than May 2008. While the majority of committee members agreed that a common admissions policy is desirable, it was deemed possible for each Senate to approve a separate policy. The implications of approving a separate admission policy might include: differing perceptions of standards, confusion by students and parents, resource constraints, and perceived inequities.

The Admissions and Awards Committee is not unanimous in a decision to approve a separate admissions policy on provincial examinations, despite feeling strongly about presenting a unified UBC position on the matter. Therefore the Committee has decided to recommend delaying a Senate vote on this matter until May 2008. Should the Vancouver Admissions Committee remain uncertain of their position at that time, the Admissions and Awards Committee will submit a separate motion to the Okanagan Senate in May 2008 to ensure that this Policy will take effect for the 2009/2010 Academic Year.

The Admissions and Awards Committee therefore recommends the following motion:

That Senate postpone any consideration of the matter of Provincial Examination requirements for applicants following the BC Secondary School curriculum until its meeting of 15 May 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sharon McCoubrey
Chair Admissions and Awards Committee