

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



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Memo to: Okanagan Senate

From: Policies & Procedures Committee

Re: February 7, 2007 National Day of Action

On behalf of the Senate, the Policies & Procedures Committee has received correspondence from the UBC Students' Union Okanagan (UBCSUO) regarding the upcoming Canadian Federation of Students National Day of Action on February 7, 2007 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This event, hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students, is part of a student campaign for increased accessibility and affordability of post-secondary education in Canada. The UBCSUO advises that a significant number of UBC Okanagan students plan to participate in rallies and events on that day.

The UBCSUO has requested that students who wish to participate in the National Day of Action be permitted to do so without academic penalty. In response, the Policies & Procedures Committee would like to draw to the Senate's attention the UBC Okanagan policy on Academic Concession, which is available in electronic format at <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0> or in print on p. 42 of the 2006/2007 *Okanagan Calendar*. Academic concession for attendance at the National Day of Action could be requested and granted under this policy, with arrangements to be made between students and their instructors and/or deans or directors, as appropriate. The Committee notes that students must discuss their planned absence with instructors in advance, and that requests for concession made after the event will not normally be granted. The following excerpts from the policy are reproduced for your reference:

"Students may request academic concession in circumstances that may adversely affect their attendance or performance in a course or program."

[...]

"Students absent from final examinations held in the official examination periods must request academic concession from the office of their dean or director. Students who are absent at the other times, or are unable to complete tests or other graded work because of short term illness, religious obligation, or for other reasons, should normally discuss with their instructors how they can make up for missed work, according to written guidelines given them at the start of the course (see Grading Practices). Instructors are not required to make allowance for any missed test or incomplete work that is not satisfactorily

accounted for. Students also have the right to request academic concession from their dean's or director's office."

In light of the UBCSUO request and the UBC Okanagan policy on Academic Concession, the Committee makes the following recommendations to the Senate:

That the Senate recognize the Canadian Federation of Students National Day of Action, scheduled to be held on February 7, 2007 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., as an official event open to all students and sponsored by the UBC Students' Union Okanagan;

That, provided that students discuss their planned absence with their instructor(s) and/or deans or directors in advance, the Senate encourage instructors and/or deans and directors to consider favourably individual student requests for academic concession that would allow UBC Okanagan students to participate in this event, whereby such students would not be penalized for missing class during the above period (although they will be expected to make up any lost work); and

That the Senate encourage instructors and/or deans and directors to ensure that no assignment submission deadlines, examinations or tests occur during the above period.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Michael Isaacson
Chair, Policies & Procedures Committee