

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Enrolment Services | Senate & Curriculum Services  
Brock Hall 2016 – 1874 East Mall  
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1  
Tel : (604) 822-5239 | Fax : (604) 822-5945

## Vancouver Senate Policy Abstract on Affiliation of Theological Colleges

*Prepared by Senate & Curriculum Services, August 2010. This abstract is intended as a helpful summary and reference. It does not purport to include all references to the affiliation of theological colleges that exist in the records of Senate. Where discrepancies exist between this document and the Minutes of Senate or the University Act, the official and current versions of those documents will govern.*

Affiliation of theological colleges with universities in British Columbia is described in s. 66 of the *University Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 468, as follows:

- (1) A university must be non-sectarian and non-political in principle.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), a theological college incorporated in British Columbia may be affiliated with a university under a resolution or order made by the senate and approved by the board.
- (3) An incorporated theological college affiliated with a university may, despite that affiliation, have power to confer and grant degrees in theology, including honorary degrees.
- (4) Despite any other provisions of this Act, an affiliated college may
  - (a) make provisions it considers proper in regard to religious instruction and religious worship for its own students, and
  - (b) require religious observance as part of its discipline.

The Vancouver Senate has established a Statute of the Senate on the Affiliation of Theological Colleges, January 18, 1978 (full text reproduced below).

The following four theological colleges are currently affiliated with the University of British Columbia:

**St. Mark's College:** affiliated by resolution of the Senate dated August 24, 1956; approved by the Board of Governors August 27, 1956.

**Vancouver School of Theology:** affiliated under the name of "Ecumenical Theological Centre" by resolution of the Senate dated November 18, 1970. The Ecumenical Centre represented a merger between previously-affiliated Union College and the Anglican Theological College. The Ecumenical Theological Centre was renamed the Vancouver School of Theology in 1971.

**Regent College:** affiliated for a three-year period by resolution of the Senate dated November 14, 1973. Continuing affiliation granted by resolution of the Senate dated February 16, 1977, subsequently approved by the Board of Governors.

**Carey Theological College** (incorporated as Carey Hall): affiliated by resolution of the Senate dated September 15, 1999, subsequently approved by the Board of Governors.

In 1996, an ad hoc committee established by the Faculty of Graduate Studies prepared a "Report of the ad hoc Committee to Study Possible Involvement of the Theological Colleges in Graduate Education." The report was submitted to the Vancouver Senate and recommendations from the report were approved by the Senate at its meeting of April 17, 1996 (see [https://senate.ubc.ca/sites/senate.ubc.ca/files/downloads/va\\_minutes\\_april1996.pdf](https://senate.ubc.ca/sites/senate.ubc.ca/files/downloads/va_minutes_april1996.pdf), pp. 11412-5 and pp. 11428-33, for the full text of the report and the Senate discussion).

STATUTE OF THE SENATE  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
AFFILIATION OF THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES  
JANUARY 18, 1978

The Senate of The University of British Columbia, under the powers conferred by the *Universities Act*, 1974, enacts as follows:

- (a) Any incorporated theological college in this province desiring affiliation with The University of British Columbia shall make application therefore to the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary of the Board of Governors of the University and shall furnish with its application a copy of its calendar.
- (b) No such college shall be admitted to affiliation unless by a two-thirds vote of the members of Senate present at a regular meeting thereof, and also by a two-thirds vote of the governors present at a meeting of the Board of Governors. Nor shall the question of such admission be put to vote at such meeting of the Senate until after opportunity has been given to the several Faculties to make such representation as they may see fit; nor yet, unless by unanimous consent of the members of Senate present at such meeting until the expiration of three months' notice.
- (c) Any affiliated theological college may at any time, by duly notifying the Senate to that effect, withdraw from affiliation with the University provided that one year's notice of withdrawal has been given.
- (d) The Senate may also at any time, by the like vote and under the like restrictions as are above prescribed for the admission of a college to affiliation, terminate the affiliation of any theological college with the University provided that a one year notice of withdrawal of the affiliation has been given by the University.
- (e) An affiliated college must agree, as a condition of affiliation, to provide the following statement in all of its publications that indicate affiliation with the University including students' transcripts of records: "The granting of affiliation means that the college meets the criteria for affiliation established by the Senate of The University of British Columbia but does not imply any scrutiny or approval of the course offerings of the affiliate by the University Senate."
- (f) The criteria for affiliation of theological colleges are as follows :
  - (i) A college shall be incorporated in the Province of British Columbia with power to confer and grant degrees in theology.
  - (ii) A college shall be, and shall remain in good standing with a recognized religious community or with other theological colleges affiliated with The University of British Columbia, or both.
  - (iii) A college shall have a physical presence on, or juxtaposed to, the campus of the University.
  - (iv) A college shall appoint to its regular teaching staff only people who have the equivalent standard of training normally required in university work, preferably an advanced degree in theology or a related discipline.
  - (v) A college must maintain an academic program, either
    - (a) leading to a degree, in which case it shall maintain at least four full-time properly qualified faculty in residence, or
    - (b) not leading to a degree, in which case it shall maintain at least two full-time properly qualified faculty in residence.

- (vi) A college shall normally require university graduation as a prerequisite for admission to its academic programs leading to a degree. Though a college would have the right to admit to its degree programs some students without previous university training, these should not ordinarily constitute more than one-fifth of the total number of students registered in such programs. University matriculation should be required as a minimum.
- (vii) A college offering courses in theology shall do so at an academic standard acceptable to the appropriate recognized theological accrediting agency associated with the religious community of that college.
- (viii) A college shall maintain, or otherwise supply, library resources adequate to the academic programs which it offers. These resources shall be made available to the university community.
- (ix) A college shall have a sufficient degree of separateness and independence from any other institution:
  - (a) to identify its assets and its expenditures
  - (b) to mark its specific functions as a theological college, and
  - (c) to give it a governing body of its own.
- (x) A college shall submit a resume of its academic operations to the Secretary of Senate annually and shall be prepared to respond to a request from the Senate from time to time for a review of its conformity to the criteria for affiliation.
- (xi) A college shall allow the Senate of the University to have a representative on the academic planning body of the college.
- (g) The Statute of Senate dated February 18, 1920 and the resolution of Senate dated May 14, 1958 are hereby repealed and replaced by sections (a) to (f) above.