

Decision **Discussion** **Information**

ITEM OBJECTIVE: To approve the Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite and rescind the Code of Student Behaviour

DATE	April 25, 2024
TO	GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

MOTION:

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the Student Academic Integrity Policy and associated Procedures identified in attachments 1 through 5, and rescind the Code of Student Behaviour, both to take effect September 1, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Background

In February 2022, the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, and then Associate Minister of Status of Women, Whitney Issek, issued a joint letter to the governing bodies of all public post-secondary institutions in Alberta, including the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta (hereafter, the “Ministers’ Letter”).

The Ministers’ Letter required that all public post-secondary institutions in Alberta update their sexual violence policies and procedures with specific attention to providing procedural fairness and implementing trauma-informed practices for both complainants and respondents to a complaint. The Ministers’ Letter provided a “Checklist” of required and prohibited elements which our policies and procedures must satisfy. There was a timeline to complete these procedures that required immediate action. While it was undoubtedly time to review the *Code* as a whole, given that it had not been substantially revised since 1999, it was decided that the deadlines to address the non-academic sections meant they needed to be done in two phases.

Phase 1 removed the non-academic sections from the *Code* which were then incorporated into the Student Conduct Policy, approved on November 22, 2022. Phase 2 focussed on the academic sections of the *Code*. Chris Hackett, Acting Director of Student Conduct and Accountability, organised two working groups to draft the new academic integrity policy. The first working group identified the key issues and laid out principles that needed to be addressed in the new policy. After consultation on those principles, the second working group oversaw the drafting of the proposed policy suite.

Since September 2023 we have been consulting broadly on the draft policy suite with the University of Alberta community. The response has been very positive. We have revised the draft policy suite to consider that feedback and to make the processes as understandable and streamlined as possible.

GOVERNANCE OUTLINE

Analysis / Discussion

- The key issues the policy suite is intended to address are:
- Protect the integrity of University of Alberta grades, degrees, certifications, research and other scholarly activities involving students.
- Shift from a purely punitive orientation to one that also reflects the educational mission of the University;
- Mitigate unintended consequences to students addressed by the policy; •
- Bring academic conduct appeal processes in line with the principles adopted in the Student Misconduct Appeal Procedure
- Adopt best and promising practices in preventing and responding to academic misconduct;
- Increase timeliness and transparency in academic integrity processes;
- Address new and evolving forms of academic misconduct, such as contract cheating and inappropriate use of homework/tutor websites; and
- Provide streamlined processes for mass cheating events.

Risk Discussion / Mitigation of the Risk

A poorly drafted policy runs the risk of damaging the reputation the University of Alberta and creating unnecessary burdens for faculty, staff and students. The current policy has been drafted after reviewing current literature on addressing academic integrity in post-secondary institutions, exploration of practices at U15 peer institutions, and leading institutions in the United States, and careful analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of current practices. The consultation process has provided critical feedback on the impact of the proposed principles and processes.

Where applicable, list the legislation that is being relied upon

Province of Alberta, *Post-Secondary Learning Act*

Next Steps

- Once the policy is approved, we will pivot to developing resources to support decision makers and students in the new process so that the policy will have a firm footing when it is implemented in September. In addition, the following policy documents will be updated to reflect the deletion of the COSB:
 - Protocol for Urgent Cases of Disruptive, Threatening or Violent Conduct
 - Residence Community Standards
 - Code of Applicant Behaviour
 - Research and Scholarship Integrity Policy
 - Practicum Intervention Policy

Supporting Materials:

Attachment 1: Student Academic Integrity Policy

Attachment 2: Student Academic Misconduct Appeal Procedure

Attachment 3: Student Academic Misconduct Procedure

Attachment 4: Student Academic Integrity Policy Appendix A

Attachment 5: Student Academic Integrity Policy Appendix B

SCHEDULE A:

Engagement and Routing

Consultation and Stakeholder Participation / Approval Route (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity) <[Governance Resources Section Student Participation Protocol](#)>

Those who are actively participating:

- Ravina Sanghera, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
- Chris Hackett, Acting Director, Student Conduct and Accountability
- Drafts written by Chris Hackett, Jax Oltean, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, and Deborah Eerkes, Lead, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
- First working group:
 - Chris Hackett,
 - Jax Oltean
 - Deb Eerkes
 - Ali Shiri, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
 - Karsten Mundel, College of Social Sciences + Humanities
 - Shirley Schipper, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
 - Pierre Mertiny, Faculty of Engineering
- Second working group
 - Chris Hackett
 - Jax Oltean
 - Deborah Eerkes
 - Shirley Schipper
 - Karsten Mundel, Office of the Provost
 - Gurleen Kaur, VP Academic Student Union
 - Pedro Almeida, VP Academic, Student Union
 - Bishoi Aziz, VP Academic, Graduate Students Association
 - Rija Kamran - VP Academic, Graduate Students Association
 - Fraser Brenneis, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
 - Cagri Ayranci, GSP
 - Jim Bohun, College of Natural and Applied Sciences
 - Allen Ball, Online and Continuing Education
 - Remonia Stoddart-Morrison, Office of the Student Ombuds



Those who have been consulted:

- Dean of Student's Advisory Council
- Student Union Student Council
- Student Union Council of Faculty Associations
- Student Union - GFC student caucus
- Graduate Students Association Council
- Indigenous Graduate Students Association
- Kumarie Achaibar-Morrison and Xiaobing Lin, International Student Services
- Sharon Stearns, Academic Success Centre
- John Fontaine, Academic Success Centre
- Kate Pratt, Academic Success Centre
- Mebbie Bell, Accommodation & Universal Design
- Lula Adam, Coordinator, Student Equity Diversity and Inclusivity, Dean of Students Portfolio
- Suzanne Butler, Transition Year Program, First Peoples' House
- Darin Mckinley, Office of General Counsel
- Office of the Student Ombuds
- Evelyn Hamdon, Senior Advisor, Equity & Human Rights, Office of the Provost & Vice-President Academic
- Donnell Willis, Safe Disclosure & Human Rights Advisor, Safe Disclosure & Human Rights
- Ada Chan-Cumming, Enrolment Systems & Service Innovation
- Laura Riley and Charlene Scharf, Appeals and Compliance Coordinator, University Governance
- Vanessa Grabia, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of Education
- College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Department of Education
- Lihong Yang, College of Health Sciences, Department of Education
- College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Faculty Decision Makers
- College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Associate Deans
- College Departments of Education conduct administrators
- College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Undergraduate Associate Deans
- Lisa Purdy, Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
- Rebecca Nagel and Temitope Oriola, Associate Deans (Undergraduate), Faculty of Arts
- Helen Vallianatos - Associate Dean Academic, College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Hassan Safouhi, Vice-doyen, Campus Saint Jean
- Brandon Alakas, Associate Dean and Stacy Lorenz, Vice-Dean - Augustana Campus
- Sean Robertson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Native Studies
- Christine Whelan, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Academic Integrity and Discipline Coordinator
- Farha Shariff, Special Adviser EDI to the Dean of the Faculty of Education
- Angela Bayduza, Associate Dean Undergraduate, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
- Jane Lee and Judith Odhuno-Were, Office of the Registrar



- Jason Acker and Jacqueline Littlewood, Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
- Francisco Marquez-Stricker, Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
- Laura Huxley, Assistant Dean of Students, Student Life
- Association of the Academic Staff of the University of Alberta

Those who have been informed:

- Ahmed Hammad, Faculty of Engineering
- Beverley Temple, Faculty of Nursing
- Bhuva Narayanan, Academic Success Centre
- Bernadette Martin, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)
- Susan Chatwood, School of Public Health
- Dion Brocks, Faculty of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Brock Debenham, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
- Douglas Gleddie, Faculty of Education
- Donald Raboud, Faculty of Engineering
- Ehab Elmallah, Faculty of Science
- Herb Yang, Faculty of Science
- Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs)
- Jude Spiers, Faculty of Nursing
- James Muir, Faculty of Law
- Katie Burgess, Faculty of Nursing
- Kim Chow, Faculty of Science
- Kimberly Noels, Faculty of Arts
- Matthew Kostelecky, St. Joseph's College
- Katelyn Brown, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Leluo Guan, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
- Maryanne Doherty, Faculty of Education
- Michelle Inness, Alberta School of Business
- Donia Mounsef, Campus Saint-Jean
- Mary Roduta Roberts, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Nat Kav, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
- Nathalie Kermoal, Faculty of Native Studies
- Kara Schick-Makaroff, Faculty of Science
- Shana Dion, Assistant Dean of Students, Indigenous
- Stephen Kuntz, Academic Success Centre
- Shannon Scott, Faculty of Nursing
- Lesly Wade-Woolley, Faculty of Education
- John-Paul Zonneveld, Faculty of Science

Approval Route:

- Council on Student Affairs (for discussion) – September 7, 2023
- Student Conduct Policy Committee (for discussion) September 21, 2023
- GFC Executive Committee (for discussion) October 2, 2023
- General Faculties Council (for discussion) January 29, 2024



ITEM NO. 4

- GFC Executive (for recommendation) April 8, 2024
- Student Conduct Policy Committee (for recommendation) April 25, 2024
- General Faculties Council (for approval) April 29, 2024

Supplementary Notes / Context: