UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

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UFV STATEMENT OF INSTITIUTIONAL ETHICS

Approval Authority	President
Responsible Executive	President
Related Policies / Legislation	

DEFINITIONS

The term "member of the UFV community" is to be understood to designate administrators, staff, faculty, students, Board members and voluntary associates of the university, insofar as they are affiliated with UFV.

POLICY

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) takes pride in articulating a Statement on Institutional Ethics ("The Statement"). This document expresses the collective moral wisdom and aspirations of UFV. Its value, therefore, is entirely dependent on the moral understanding, judgment and sensitivity of members of UFV. It is intended to guide daily practice as well as institutional policy at UFV.

The Statement contains two main sections. The first section is a statement of the principal values that are adhered to by members of the UFV community. These values should guide the ethical deliberations of each of us at UFV. These values may sometimes conflict with each other, so there is a need to exercise responsible judgment in applying them to specific issues. The second section offers specific guidelines vis-à-vis various issues that arise at UFV.

REGULATIONS

VALUES

Members of UFV differ in age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, political persuasion and many personal values. However, they agree on the following values:

A respect for persons:

Respecting persons implies recognizing that we are distinctive individuals with our own goals, beliefs, feelings, values and relationships, and that these have a vital place in one's sense of dignity and autonomy. It does not imply carte blanche acceptance of any values, beliefs or goals, but does require that in our attempts to cause a person to change, we appeal to his or her capacity for independent judgment and ability to assess reasons.

Esteem for education:

As a contemporary institution of higher education, we recognize the fact that

people come to UFV for a variety of reasons. But underlying all their purposes is a common one: an appreciation of the value of learning, of acquiring and increasing knowledge, of making the world a better place in which to live, of appreciating and creating works of beauty.

Collegiality and individual responsibility:

Members of UFV are individually accountable for their activities, but they also acknowledge a deep interdependence with others in achieving their goals. Consequently, we are co-operative, consultative and ultimately supportive of one another in our activities at UFV.

Concern for the personal development of each member of the UFV community:

Members of UFV are concerned for the personal development and general well-being of other members of the community. We support the legitimate educational and professional development of each member of the UFV community. We attempt to be inclusive in our teaching methods and curricula, and we strive to enable opportunities for professional and personal growth.

Non-maleficence:

At UFV every effort is taken to avoid actions and policies that cause unnecessary harm to others. Violence, abusive language, and wilful damage to property are disapproved of in the strongest possible terms. We strive to maintain an institution that is free of the harmful effects of racism, sexism and other forms of bigotry. If undue suffering has occurred, wherever possible we attempt to redress the harm. Further, we look very unfavourably on exploitation in all its forms.

Fairness:

Members of UFV strive to be fair in their dealings with others, especially where rewards and punishments are assigned. This includes student grades and reference letters, faculty and staff evaluations, and scholarships and awards. Criteria for rewards and punishments are to be clearly articulated, and the processes for administering rewards and punishments should be as transparent as possible. Relevant reasons should be given for one's judgments. Furthermore, fairness requires that no one's work be exploited; where someone has made a clear contribution to one's work, one will acknowledge that contribution appropriately.

Honesty and Openness:

At UFV we can expect others to respect the value of truthfulness. This includes intellectual honesty as well as honesty in our relations with colleagues, subordinates and supervisors.

Freedom:

Members of UFV have academic and artistic freedom, which includes the freedom to investigate controversial views, to hold unpopular positions on controversial issues, and to present in class and in the wider community one's controversial views. Members of UFV have a positive duty to ensure that our institution encourages students, faculty, staff and administrators to use their

own best judgement in choosing what to investigate and in the pursuit of truth within their investigations. Students, in particular, have a right to be free from indoctrination and other forms of miseducation that fail to respect the autonomy of the student.

ISSUES

Access:

UFV endeavors to provide equal access to educational opportunities for all students by knowing about and being sensitive to the various barriers that can limit an individual's opportunities for educational growth, by being informed regarding the resources and supports available to students, and through advocacy of the issue of equal opportunity for education.

Confidentiality:

Members of the UFV community respect the privacy of others. They will not unreasonably disclose information with which they have been entrusted in the performance of their duties. In general, personal information is to be disclosed only for authorized purposes consistent with the purpose or reason for which the information was obtained or with the consent of the relevant individual. However, if disclosure of information will prevent serious harm to an individual or malicious damage to property, then the information may be disclosed to appropriate authorities, subject to the limitations imposed by the member's professional code of ethics.

Conflict of Interest and Dual Relationships:

Members of UFV avoid entering into dual relationships that compromise their responsibilities to the institution and other UFV members. Members further recognize the responsibilities of being in a position of relatively greater power than another individual, and do not exploit such positions for personal gain.

Conflict Resolution:

Members of the UFV community recognize the inevitability of personal and professional conflicts with other members and the impact that these conflicts may have on seemingly uninvolved students and colleagues. In recognition of these dynamics, members of the UFV community embrace the responsibility to respond to these conflicts in positive and professional ways.

Conflict with the code of ethics of a member's professional association:

In the event that a member's professional life is governed by the code of ethics of a professional association, the member will attempt to satisfy the guidelines of both the profession's code and this Statement. If this is not possible, then the individual shall adhere to the code of ethics of the professional association.

Controversial Issues:

Controversial and sensitive issues are not to be avoided, but ought to be

addressed rationally and in a manner that respects the beliefs and feelings of other people. Consequently, such discussions ought to encourage listening carefully to diverse views, the judicious consideration of evidence and argument, and the active search for good reasons for one's own and others' positions. As much as possible, the development of capacities for critical, imaginative and constructive thought ought to be promoted.

University Citizenship:

The mission of the University of the Fraser Valley can only be met through the collaborative efforts of a wide range of people, including professional administrators, Board members, community volunteers, faculty, staff and students. Through its policies and practices, UFV encourages each member to be involved in the governance of the institution. Further, each member of UFV contributes to the administrative, intellectual, athletic, artistic and social organizations and committees constitutive of UFV according to her or his abilities, aptitudes, and talents.

APPENDICES

Terms of Reference

The Institutional Ethics Committee of UFV reports jointly to the Senate and to the President of UFV. The committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To encourage the application of the UFV Statement on Institutional and Instructional Ethics throughout the UFV community.
2. To co-ordinate the efforts of departments and offices in developing ethical guidelines specific to its own responsibilities.
3. To provide venues (forums, a web site, presentations, etc.) for on-going discussion, interpretation and review of the UFV Statement on Institutional and Instructional Ethics.
4. To provide resources and venues for the discussion of ethical issues in institutions of higher education.
5. To suggest to the Senate revisions of the statement as appropriate.
6. To report regularly to the Senate and to the President.

Each appointment to the committee will be for two years, with 50% of the members to be appointed each year. Appointments to all positions will be made through an election held by the Senate secretary, with the following exceptions: the Senate representative, who is appointed by the Senate, the administrator, who is appointed by the President, one member at large, who is appointed at the discretion of the President. In the case where no student nominations are received, the SUS will appoint the student members.

Representation: The Committee will include:

1 faculty member from the Faculty of Arts
1 faculty member from the Faculty of Science
1 faculty member from the Faculty of Professional Studies
1 faculty member from the Faculty of Trades and Technology
2 students

1 administrator
1 member from Employee Services
1 non-teaching faculty member
1 member from Student Services
1 Senate representative
1 member at large