
BOARD POLICY ON DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY ON ACADEMIC MATTERS

Approval Authority	Board of Governors
Primary Contact	President
Related Policies / Legislation	Board policy direction Board and Senate Relationships (BPD-235) <i>University Act, s. 27 and 35.2 (6)</i>

PHILOSOPHY

The University Act (the “Act”) defines areas of shared governance, collegial decision-making, and specifies where the Board of Governors (“the Board”) consults or seeks advice from the Senate. Clear policy statements and defined authority are paramount in establishing and maintaining a positive working relationship between the two bodies.

POLICY

The Board, in supporting and facilitating timely, effective, and business-like procedures and decisions in the work of the Senate, delegates to the President the authority to act on behalf of the Board. This authority to act includes the sharing of information, consulting with, seeking advice, or in decision making in the following matters to the extent they are within the Board’s roles and responsibilities as defined in the Act.

- The evaluation of programs and educational services
- The library and resource centres
- The setting of the academic schedule
- The qualifications for faculty members
- The establishment or discontinuance of faculties
- The terms for affiliation with other post-secondary institutions
- Consultation with community and program groups concerning educational programs

In the case where a question arises regarding whether the Board has jurisdiction over decision making on the matter, the Board follows the process outlined in Appendix A of this policy.

The President develops and maintains information-reporting structures to keep the Board informed on the work and decisions of the Senate, including their actions taken on behalf of the Board.

APPENDIX A: A PROCESS TO IDENTIFY JURISDICTION

Definition:

“authority”: refers to British Columbia’s University Act’s granting of power to either consult or approve decisions regarding university matters.

“consult/consultation”: a process whereby the Board or an appropriate standing committee gives feedback about an issue for another approving body or administrator.

“approve/approval”: refers to Senate’s, the Board’s, or Administration’s responsibility and authority to make final decisions regarding university matters.

1. When questions arise as to whether the Board has authority over a university matter, the issue is forwarded to the University Secretary to bring the matter to the Board Governance Committee (the “BGC”) for review.
2. The BGC makes one of the following determinations, and informs the Senate:
 - a. The Board has authority over the matter.
 - b. The Board has no authority over the matter.
 - c. The Board may have authority, and the matter is referred to the Joint Board/Senate Governance Committee for discussion and recommendation to the Board and Senate.
3. In the event Senate disagrees with the BGC’s determination pursuant to point 2a or 2b above, then the matter is referred to the Joint Board/Senate Governance Committee for discussion and recommendation to the Board and Senate.