

Appendix XIII Policy Revision Form

Instructions:

The purpose of this form is to present proposed policy amendments or additions in an explicit and standard manner. Members of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver wishing to make policy amendments or additions for Council approval must use this form. Consultation with the Code and Policy Committee is strongly recommended to ensure that the language and style reflects that of the current policy manual. The Committee can be emailed at cpc@gs.ubc.ca. As per bylaw 13.1.4 and policy 1.2.1, notice of a proposed policy amendment or addition must be posted on the Society's website and emailed to all Council members at least seven days prior to the motion at Council. For assistance with putting forms on the website, you may contact Communications and Marketing Director at communications@gs.ubc.ca.

Date: July 9, 2019

Submitted by: Katharine Sedivy-Haley, Chair of Code & Policy Committee

What type of change is this?

Amending an existing policy

Addition of a new policy

Removal of a policy

Original Policy #: 8.2

New Policy # (if applicable): same

Proposed Revised Policy:

8.2 Academic and External Committee

8.2.1 The purpose of the Academic and External Committee is to develop resources to provide support for graduate students, including but not limited to those who have additional challenges and unexpected hardships, and to consider and make recommendations regarding university-wide affairs in so far as they affect graduate students. These affairs include but are not limited to changes in tuition fees, financial support, campus construction and zoning, student housing, and academic regulations.

8.2.2 The Academic and External Committee shall:

- a) Establish effective GSS data gathering processes to guide advocacy, support graduate students, and support graduate student representatives,**
- b) Develop recommendations for graduate student advocacy, and initiate collaboration with other committees as appropriate to implement these recommendations,**
- c) Administer the Graduate Student **Financial Aid (as per Policy 15),**



- d) Provide oversight of the GSS Peer Support Services,**
- e) Support the Vice-President External in lobbying** the municipal, provincial and federal government on behalf of graduate students,
- f) Support the President and Vice-President Academic in arranging student representatives to other university committees or task forces,**
- g) Ensure that the external representatives named in 8.2.3.d are informed of their right to membership in the Academic and External committee,**
- h) Perform other duties related to its purpose** as directed by Council.

8.2.3 Ex-officio members of the Academic & External Committee shall be:

- a) The President,
- b) The Vice-President, Academic Affairs,**
- c) The Vice-President, External Affairs,**
- d) The following external representatives,**
 - i) One graduate student member of the Board of Governors,**
 - ii) One graduate student member of the Senate,**
 - iii) The lead representative for the Society to the AMS (as specified in Policy 6.4.4),**
 - iv) The lead representative for the Society to the Faculty of Graduate Studies (as specified in Policy 6.3.3), and**
 - v) The lead representatives of the GSS to the faculty councils in UBC Vancouver.**

8.2.4 The external representatives named in 8.2.3.d may waive their seat, and will forfeit their individual right to an *ex officio* seat in the committee if, having been informed of their *ex officio* membership, they miss two consecutive committee meetings without providing regrets in advance.

Rationale Behind Proposed Changes:

The new policy updates the Terms of Reference to more closely reflect strategic plan responsibilities and AcEx's current activities, and to improve on the policy for AcEx's numerous ex officio members.

8.2.1 now provides a purpose statement for the committee defining its area of concern. The bolded section reflects Strategic Plan priorities 2.3.A and 2.3B, which call for the GSS to support in particular graduate students during emergencies and graduate students with dependents. In discussion between AcEx and CPC it was determined that the current wording is the best balance between a desire to draw particular attention to graduate students who have more need for support, and a desire not to single out particular groups to the exclusion of the rest of the graduate student population.

The new 8.2.2 (a) and (b) reflect the Strategic plan priorities 1.1.A and 1.1.B, which calls for AcEx to use data into develop recommendations and guide advocacy



The new 8.2.2 (c) to (f) have been modified to reflect AcEx's current duties.

8.2.2 (h) has been modified to specify that Council should only direct AcEx to perform to duties that fit within the scope, as now defined in 8.2.1.

8.2.3 clarifies ex officio membership in AcEx. Further, 8.2.4 specifies that the membership of external representatives in AcEx is conditional on their participation in the committee; in the past, AcEx has found that not all of the external representatives who are ex officio members have actively participated in the committee, which can make it difficult to achieve quorum.

8.2.3(g) has also been added to clarify that AcEx is responsible for informing these representatives of their membership, as not all external representatives may be familiar with this policy.

