DOCUMENT OF STANCES
OF
THE UNDERGRADUATE ENGINEERING SOCIETY
OF
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

March 31st, 2023

I. Introduction

The policies contained in this document constitute positions adopted by the Undergraduate Engineering Society (UES) on issues that affect its members as postsecondary engineering students at Western University. These positions establish the basis for advocacy by the UES through its duly authorized or delegated representatives.

II. Modification Procedure

As per By-Law XII – Document of Stances of the UES By-laws:

"The Document of Stances of the UES contains the official positions taken by UES. Stances contained in the Document may be added or modified by a ¾ vote. A formal written Stance shall be sent out to all members (electronically) a minimum of one week before a UES Council Meeting. The Speaker shall review the Stance. At the next UES Council Meeting, there shall be a debate and the Stance may be added to the Document of Stances by a ¾ vote. Stances may be removed by a ½ vote passed to that end."

If applicable, stances should include the following fields:

- Executive Responsible: the UES executive responsible for advocating for the stance.
- Added: the date the stance was added.
- Last Report: the date the Executive Responsible last updated council.
- Next Report: the date the Executive Responsible will report to council.

If the stance does not require advocacy the field can be listed as not applicable (N/A).

III. Stances

Sustainability	
Executive Responsible	N/A
Date added	January 20, 2023
Date for next update	N/A
For the purpose of this stance, the following is the definition of "*Sustainable Development*":	

Sustainable development is development that meets the social, economic, and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

In line with Engineers Canada "National Position Statement on Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events", along with their *"National Guideline on Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship*", the UES believes that environmental sustainability is an essential consideration in engineering practices.

The UES believes that our engineering students have a large effect on the sustainable developments of the future, making it a necessity to be stewards of the environment. In regards to sustainability, the UES believes that all investments: infrastructure, education, and monetary; should encompass and be in support of sustainable development.

Infrastructure: All new projects should consider our fast changing climate and use an in-depth life-cycle analysis to prevent unexpected failure, ensure responsible disposal, and minimize the environmental impact while in operation

Education: All engineering courses should incorporate sustainability in a way that seems fit for the course. Life-cycle assessments along with engineering processes and their environmental impacts should be further emphasized.

Monetary: Monetary investments with the goal of future returns should be put into companies/funds that represent sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

The goal of the UES in regards to sustainability is to engage its members on issues of Sustainable Development and encourage environmentally conscious practices as well as evaluate and improve sustainability practices within its own operations.

Through tangible initiatives the UES will strive toward ensuring environmental considerations are taken into account when planning all UES events. The current practices of the UES will be documented and evaluated so that they can be further improved to be more sustainable.

Specialty Selection Statistics

Executive Responsible	Vice-President Academic
Date added	January 20, 2023
Date for next update	September 30, 2024

Undergraduate Services should publish the following information:

- the maximum enrollment in each specialty
- the previous year's minimum average to accept
- the previous year's number of students who ranked the specialty first

February 28, 2024

Amy Pulman (UES VP Academic) discussed this with Dr. Remus Tutunea-Fatan (Acting Associate Dean Undergraduate), who shared the maximum enrollment caps and previous year's first rankings privately with her and with faculty (items 1 and 3 above). However, she was asked not to share this information publicly. Amy also spoke to both Remus and Stephanie Tigert (Acting Director, Experiential Learning & Student Support) about the previous year's minimum average to accept (item 2 above). Stephanie said that due to variance year to year, it is very difficult to provide anything past the minimum requirements as listed on the engineering website. Stephanie did provide the following advice:

"In terms of planning, I usually advise students to refer to the posted minimums, and keep in mind that those are minimums - not guaranteed entry criteria. To strengthen their chances of being accepted into their desired programs, they should aim to surpass those minimums by at least 10%."

Remus, Stephanie, and some other faculty members did approve the sharing of the approximate number of students admitted to each program (without information on number of applicants), as well as flags on MME, SE, and MSE as programs that often fill up. This information was distributed publicly through the UES and Soph Team to first years in December 2023.

Career Statistics	
Executive Responsible	Vice-President Academic
Date added	January 20, 2023

Date for next update	September 30, 2024
Career Services should publish the following information: ● the average hourly pay by engineering specialty ● the average hourly pay by common job titles ● the percent of students who found jobs through Engineering Career Services ● the number of students who were hired by companies ● the location (or remote) of all those who report	
February 28, 2024 Jack Peplinski (UES President) discussed Career Services providing this data with Stephanie Tigert (Acting Director, Experiential Learning & Student Support). Career Services provided this data privately to Jack. Jack discussed providing this data publicly with Stephanie who will discuss it with Career Services.	

Component Weightings	
Executive Responsible	Vice-President Academic
Date added	January 20, 2023
Date for next update	September 30, 2024
The Faculty of Engineering should require any engineering courses have no component weighted more than 50%; courses may have multiple weighting options where components may have more than 50%. This is similar to the policy other Canadian universities have e.g., the University of Calgary[1].	
February 28, 2024 Amy Pulman (VP Academic) raised this topic to Dr. Remus Tutunea-Fatan (Acting Associate Dean Undergraduate) directly, then again during the Teaching Effectiveness Committee Meeting. While there is no existing policy, she was told that faculty are generally encouraged to avoid assessments over 50% weighting.	

[1] https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g.html#:~:text=c.%20The%20final%20exam%20may%20not%20count%20for%20more%20than%2050%20per%20cent%20of%20the%20final%20grade%2C%20except%20in%3A

Remus then raised this in an Undergraduate Strategy Business Meeting (including faculty leaders from each undergraduate program), where there was generally little pushback, except from the Mechatronics Systems Engineering program. There were some concerns around needing extra midterms/frequent assignments to make up for this grade portion (for courses with no labs).

Amy and Remus worked to create a list of courses with over 50% deliverables, which is in progress as of this update. Remus is interested in continuing to push for this, however, it will be a longer term item.