Capilano Students' Union

ISSUES-BASED POLICY
MANUAL

INDEX

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

POLICY NUMBER
POL-001

EFFECTIVE DATE
February 19, 2016

APPROVAL DATE
February 19, 2016

POLICY TYPE
External

REVIEW DATE
February 19, 2019

AUTHORITY
Section II, Article 11(1) of the *Procedures*, which states that "[the] Board may express an opinion, sentiment or principle about external matters by means of an Issues-based Policy"; and Bylaw XVI(1)(a), which states that "Policy of the Society may be established from time-to-time by a two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of the Board."

PREAMBLE
Capilano University is one of three public universities in British Columbia without residences. This lack of on-campus housing negatively impacts students, the university, and even the infrastructure of the North Shore. The lack of on-campus housing acts as a deterrent to enrolment, and students who commute add to the traffic and gridlock of local highways and roads. Students, meanwhile, have to force themselves in to off-campus housing, which comes with its own problems such as affordability, roommates with mismatched lifestyles, and challenges finding neighbourhoods suitable for a student's personal safety and health. These issues create unnecessary hardship in addition to the usual stress inherent in being a student in post-secondary education.

What is needed to address student concerns regarding housing is a housing strategy, which includes a full exploration of on-campus residences, or at least geographically within the same neighbourhood as the university, catered to affordable housing for students. Student residences can ensure that students needn't rely on roommates for their housing security; can allow for all necessary amenities under one roof; and can create a safe environment in which students can be in close proximity to other students sharing similar lifestyles, goals and needs.

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APPLICABILITY
This policy is applicable to board members and employees who are in a position to campaign, lobby, or meet with government or university officials with respect to on-campus student housing.

EXCLUSIONS
None

DEFINITIONS
None

POLICY TEXT
Whereas there are many students who require on-campus housing but are unable to access it due to the lack of housing projects at Capilano University's campus; and

Whereas increases in housing costs at other post-secondary institutions has occurred at rates in excess of 15% in a single year; and

Whereas on-campus student housing is currently unregulated by provincial legislation; and

Whereas residences are often ill equipped to accommodate students with specific needs;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Capilano Students' Union support the building of high-quality, affordable on-campus housing, such as residence buildings.

Be it further resolved that the Capilano Students Union supports initiatives that encourage:
- access to high quality, affordable on-campus housing for all students who require it;
- residence buildings that are fully accessible to students with disabilities;
- legislation regulating on-campus housing similar to the Residential Tenancy Act;
- the maintenance of student residences as publicly owned and operated through the university;
- housing that takes into account the needs of student parents; and
- the setting of a reasonable cap on increases to rent.

And, finally, be it further resolved that the Capilano Students Union opposes initiatives involving:

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- increases to residence fees that go beyond the standard allowable rent increase in British Columbia, as defined by the Residential Tenancy Act; and
- profit-generation from campus student housing of any kind, including international students' residences.

COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS
- Issues-based policy housing brief prepared by the CSU (November 25, 2014)
- Alliance of BC Students policy on off-campus housing (May 9, 2015)
- University of Victoria Students Society issues policy on off-campus housing (March 23, 2015)

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OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

POLICY NUMBER
POL-002

EFFECTIVE DATE
February 19, 2016

APPROVAL DATE
February 19, 2016

POLICY TYPE
External

REVIEW DATE
February 19, 2019

RESPONSIBLE BODY
External Relations Committee

AUTHORITY
Section II, Article 11(1) of the *Procedures*, which states that "[the] Board may express an opinion, sentiment or principle about external matters by means of an Issues-based Policy"; and Bylaw XVI(1)(a), which states that "Policy of the Society may be established from time-to-time by a two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of the Board."

PREAMBLE
Capilano University is one of only three publicly-funded universities in British Columbia without residences. This lack of on-campus housing forces students in to off-campus housing, which comes with its own problems such as affordability, roommates with mismatched schedules and lifestyles, and challenges finding neighborhoods suitable for a student's personal safety and health. These issues create create unnecessary hardship in addition to the usual stress inherent in being a student in post-secondary education.

APPLICABILITY
This policy is applicable to board members and employees who are in a position to campaign, lobby, or meet with government or university officials with respect to off-campus student housing.

EXCLUSIONS

None

DEFINITIONS

Residential Tenancy Act   The British Columbia government act and regulations, which applies to tenancy agreements, rental units, and residential properties.

POLICY TEXT

Whereas British Columbia has one of the highest costs of living in the country; and

Whereas it is important for students to be educated on their rights with regards to tenancy; and

Whereas there is a lack of affordable housing available to students off campus, especially in North Vancouver;

Be it resolved that the CSU support initiatives that encourage:
- access to high quality, affordable housing for all students who require it;
- educating students as to their rights as tenants;
- municipal bylaw reform that would allow for secondary suite rental units;
- government support for public and not-for profit affordable housing; and
- student participation in neighborhood, community, and tenant groups.

Be it further resolved that the CSU condemn:
- increases to the standard allowable rent increase that are above CPI; and landlords using students' (and international students in particular) lower knowledge of, or confidence with, tenants' rights to sidestep the Residential Tenancy Act or otherwise intimidate student tenants.

COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS
- Issues-based policy housing brief prepared by the CSU (November 25, 2014)
- Alliance of BC Students policy on off-campus housing (May 9, 2015)
- University of Victoria Students Society issues policy on off-campus housing (March 23, 2015)

FALL ACADEMIC BREAK

POLICY NUMBER
POL-003

EFFECTIVE DATE
April 22, 2016

APPROVAL DATE
April 22, 2016

POLICY TYPE
External

REVIEW DATE
February 19, 2019

RESPONSIBLE BODY
University Relations Committee

AUTHORITY
Section II, Article 11(1) of the *Procedures*, which states that "[the] Board may express an opinion, sentiment or principle about external matters by means of an Issues-based Policy"; and Bylaw XVI(1)(a), which states that "Policy of the Society may be established from time-to-time by a two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of the Board."

PREAMBLE
Capilano University has only one academic break which takes place in the Spring semester. This is problematic in several different ways. First, students taking classes in the fall term do not have the advantage of having a break where they could work on term papers and other educational matters. Second, the fall semester brings with it its own stress, such as the new academic year and for some students, the first semester away from home at a brand new school.

By not having a fall academic break, Capilano stands alone when contrasted with schools like UVic and UNBC, as well as the majority of post-secondary schools in Canada.[1] More and more students have been granted a fall academic break in the past five years, with the University of Alberta being the most recent in March 2015. The

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[1] University of Manitoba Students' Union: A Review of Fall Academic Break Policies at Canadian Universities , published May 2015.

reasoning for these schools to implement a fall academic break is mostly based on mental health. Said Katie Kutryk, registered nurse and Health & Wellness Educator at the University of Manitoba: "A fall break would mitigate some academic scheduling pressures and provide the opportunity for students to use the allotted time to find reprieve, recharge, meaningfully reconnect with family and friends, and reassess if need, the current state of their mental health for the remainder of the semester…a fall break would be an initiative that is consistent with our own campus mental health strategy and demonstrate a commitment to mental health and wellness on campus."[2] Unfortunately, mental illness on campus has been steadily increasing across the nation. According to a report published by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2013 saw a shocking 6.6% of students admit to self-harm.[3] In 2012, Ryerson University saw a 200% increase students in crisis situations that could be defined as "homeless, suicidal, [and] really sick."[4] While mental wellness is no doubt a part of a broader conversation on student health, the implementation of a fall academic break would offer some relief to this growing epidemic.

In each case of a fall academic break adopted over the last ten years, days that would normally have class in session are instead added on at the beginning of the year, such as right after a new student orientation day or its equivalent, or at the end of the semester before breaking for exams.[5] Furthermore, any programs that may be negatively affected by the implementation of a second academic break can appeal to have their students exempt. In these cases the pushback from faculty was logistical and administrative in nature.[6] With these midsemester breaks, no academic days are lost, and some stress and hardship can be alleviated once students have time off. Seeing the benefits of a mid-semester fall break and need to address the nationwide campus mental health issue, as well as the lack of impact this would have on the academic year, the Capilano Students' Union stands in support of a fall academic break.

APPLICABILITY
This policy is applicable to any executive committee members, board members, or employees
who are in a position to campaign, lobby, or meet with government or university officials with

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[2] Letter from Katie Kutryk, RN BN, to University of Manitoba senate, dated September 12 , 2015.

[3] Mental Health Commission of Canada, Informing the Future: Mental Health Indicators for Canada , published January 22 , 2015.

[4] MacLean's, "The Mental Health Crisis on Campus," published September 5 , 2015.

[5] University of Manitoba Students' Union: A Review of Fall Academic Break policies at Canadian Universities, published May 2015.

[6] The McGill Tribune, "SSMU Council passes motion of support for Fall reading week," published November 8, 2015.

respect to the academic schedule.

EXCLUSIONS
This policy does not apply to board members who concurrently serve as a member of the
university board of governors or the university senate in the exercise of their official functions as
a member of the university board of governors or the university senate.

DEFINITIONS
Academic break: a short collection of days where students have no scheduled classes, allowing them a chance to catch up on work and study for exams

POLICY TEXT
1. Be it resolved that the Capilano Students' Union supports the Capilano University senate and board of governors in establishing a fall academic break.

2. Be it further resolved that the Capilano Students Union will continually advocate for a fall academic break until its adoption. This will be done through:

a. Discussions: until the fall academic break is adopted, the CSU will continue to discuss a fall academic break yearly with the university registrar, the VP academic, and the Capilano Faculty Association.

b. Presentations: until the fall academic break is adopted, the CSU will deliver presentation and report once a year to Capilano Senate and board of governors outlining the benefits and reasoning of a fall academic break.

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EXAM SCHEDULE

POLICY NUMBER
POL-003

EFFECTIVE DATE
May 6, 2016

APPROVAL DATE
May 6, 2016

POLICY TYPE
University Relations

REVIEW DATE
May 6, 2019

RESPONSIBLE BODY
University Relations Committee

AUTHORITY
Section II, Article 11(1) of the *Procedures*, which states that "[the] Board may express an opinion, sentiment or principle about external matters by means of an Issues-based Policy"; and Bylaw XVI(1)(a), which states that "Policy of the Society may be established from time-to-time by a two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of the Board."

PREAMBLE
Capilano University attempts to inform students of their exams through a set schedule, colloquially known as "the grid." The exam schedule is usually posted near the end of term, both online and on a billboard in the Birch building. As it currently stands, students have directed a number of concerns regarding this exam schedule. Chief among them is that:
- A number of exams are done "off the grid," with no indication of time or place on these schedules.
- This schedule is only available on one page of the Capilano website or in one hallway of one Capilano building, raising in to question of aspects such as student access to the internet or access to this particular building.
- This schedule is released later in the semester and, as exams fall outside of class time, this late release can disrupt travel, work, or family commitments of the students.
- Most post-secondary institutions in British Columbia - whether they are research

- intensive, trades schools, special teaching universities, or polytechnic – set their exam and mid-term schedule near the beginning of term.
- A lack of consistency and structure for exams leaves little room to study and prepare for the exams, negatively effecting grades.

Based on these concerns, the Capilano Students' Union has taken the following stance on exam scheduling at Capilano University.

APPLICABILITY:
This policy is applicable for:
- University relations
- Student life
- Student mental health

EXCLUSIONS
None

DEFINITIONS
None

POLICY:
1. The Capilano Students' Union supports scheduling all end-of-term exams on this exam schedule.
2. The Capilano Students' Union supports Capilano University in set up this exam schedule during course registration.
3. The Capilano Students' Union supports Capilano University in setting an exam schedule at maximum of four weeks after the semester's beginning.
4. The Capilano Students' Union directs Capilano University to email the exam schedule upon it's confirmation, to all students.
5. The Capilano Students' Union supports Capilano University in setting up the exam schedule in every building at Capilano University: Birch, Fir, Cedar, Arbutus, Library, Dogwood, The Nat and Flora Bosa Centre for Film and Animation, and Maple.
6. The Capilano Students' Union supports Capilano University in setting up the exam schedule for each satellite campus in their respective buildings.

COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS
- Michael Olson, executive director of the Vancouver Island University Students' Union.
- Joakim Zatko, university relations coordinator of Emily Carr Students' Union.
- General student concerns.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

POLICY NUMBER
POL-004

EFFECTIVE DATE
Sept 4, 2018

APPROVAL DATE
Sept 4, 2018

REVIEW DATE
Sept 4, 2018

RESPONSIBLE BODY
Campaigns and Advocacy

SUMMARY
The Capilano Students' Union supports a move to a proportional representation system of elections provincially. The current system, known as FPTP, consistently results in vote totals being wildly inconsistent with the number of seats won. This exists at the individual riding level, within individual sub-regions, such as Capilano University's own North Shore, and in the province as a whole. The CSU believes that the number of seats that a party is allotted in the legislature should be roughly similar to the percentage of the vote that they receive, ensuring that representative democracy is truly representative of the electorate, and further, that voters should not feel like their vote will not have an impact because of the region they live in.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
PR: Proportional Representation, an alternative voting system to FPTP.
STV: Single Transferable Vote, an alternative voting system to FPTP
FPTP: First Past the Post, AKA winner take all is the current voting system that BC and Canada exist under.
Riding: The area or region that elects a representative.
MLA: Member of the Legislative Assembly
MP: Member of Parliament
MMP: Mixed Member Plurality, a method of voting where half of members are directly elected in their riding, and the other half are elected via the regional proportional of their party vote
DMP: Dual Member Plurality, a method of voting where half of the MLA's are elected in their ridings, and each riding elects a second MLA based on a combination of that ridings election results and provincial election results

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RUP: Rural Urban Proportional. a method of voting where rural ridings would use a **MMP** style system to elect MLA's and urban areas would use STV

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Capilano Students' Union supports a fair and equitable electoral process; and

Whereas the FPTP electoral system discourages voters by ensuring that in most ridings, their vote will not matter; and

Whereas FPTP frequently results in MLA's or MP's being elected with substantially less than a majority of the vote within their own riding; and

Whereas FPTP results in individual party's being unable to elect a representative from entire sub-regions with four or more MLA's, despite consistently earning between 25 and 35% of the vote; and

Whereas at the provincial level, FPTP results in regular majority governments to parties that are only able to attract a minority of the voters; and

Whereas a more proportional voting system would ensure that voters feel that their vote counts, thus helping to reduce voter apathy and encourage higher turnout; and

Whereas any one of the three electoral systems presented in the 2018 referendum represent more fair and proportional systems than FPTP, thus ensuring the legislature will better reflect the will of the voters;

POLICY

Be it Resolved that the CSU supports a move to a proportional representation voting system;

Be it further resolved that the CSU believes that each of the three options for reform would be an improvement over First Past the Post; and

Be it Further Resolved That the CSU encourage voters to vote in favour of a more proportional representation voting system.

FURTHER DOCUMENTATION

Internally produced research document