

**Motion for Senate
October 30, 2012**

Moved by Senator Jones

I move that Senate task SCAD with reviewing academic approval procedures to ensure that all courses, activities, and programs for which Queen's academic credits are awarded, including those that are on campus, wholly or partly off-campus, wholly or partly online, offered as blended versions of existing courses, offered through Queen's-Blyth or the BISC, developed and/or taught under the auspices of more than one Faculty, and/or developed in one Faculty for enrolment by students in another Faculty or Faculties, undergo approval by the Curriculum Committee of each Faculty that plays any role in creating, staffing, offering, granting credit for, and/or administering them; and that they be approved by the appropriate unit(s) within each of the departmentalized Faculties.

Rationale:

Courses and activities for which Queen's academic credits are awarded ordinarily require approval by Curriculum Committees to ensure academic appropriateness and quality, safeguard Queen's reputation, and meet various governmental and regulatory accreditation standards that apply in licensed or regulated faculties. In some emerging practices, however, Queen's academic credits may presently be granted for courses or activities that have not passed Curriculum Committee review, e.g.:

- (a) Courses developed for distance or online delivery may coincide in course number and credit value with prior or existing lecture-style courses, and under present regulations these do not require separate approval by the relevant Faculty's Curriculum Committee, though they may differ considerably from the lecture-style course not only in medium but in content, in the levels of qualification and experience of those teaching or administering them, in assessment methods, and in outcomes.
- (b) Courses radically modified for delivery off-campus, e.g., at locations served by Queen's-Blyth, where twelve weeks of instruction are compressed into three, appear to require approval only by a sponsoring department head.
- (c) Courses, activities, or programs are sometimes developed under the auspices of more than one faculty, e.g., Law and Arts and Science, without having to gain approval of the curriculum committee in both Faculties.

All such cases raise the possibility of courses being offered for Queen's academic credit that would not satisfy reasonable academic expectations and/or may not meet educational or professional academic standards. Senate is responsible for seeing that reasonable measures are taken to ensure that all Queen's courses are of high academic quality and satisfy external accreditation standards.