

Queen's University
Senate Committee on Academic Procedures
October 20, 2010

**SENATE POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROCEDURES –
REQUIREMENTS OF FACULTIES AND SCHOOLS**

Proposal of Amendment

Background

In recent years, several cases have occurred in which a student who faced a serious allegation of a departure from academic integrity chose to graduate from the university while the investigation process was ongoing. In these cases, the student was able to leave the University with a three-year degree as the course in which a breach from academic integrity was suspected was required for a four-year degree. Following graduation, the student then refused to address the outstanding allegations and no meaningful academic sanction could be imposed.

Analysis and Discussion

Representatives of the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures (SCAP), along with members of the Academic Integrity Working Group and the University's Academic Integrity Advisor, have worked to develop an amendment to the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity Procedures – Requirements of Faculties and Schools. All agreed that permitting a student to graduate while an AI investigation was taking place was unacceptable and reflected poorly on Queen's reputation. Academic-integrity representatives at many peer institutions in Ontario were consulted during discussions and all have similar regulations that prevent students from graduating during an academic-integrity investigation. Furthermore, University Legal Counsel has also been consulted on this proposed amendment. The proposed amendment is intended to align Queen's policies with those of other Ontario universities and to ensure that, in cases where a sanction requiring the student to withdraw from the university is pending or imposed, the student in question may not graduate during the period of the sanction.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the following clause be added to the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity Procedures, and that Faculties and Schools amend their academic-integrity regulations accordingly and inform all relevant stakeholders:

4.8 Graduation

While an academic integrity investigation is ongoing, no student may graduate, even if academic credit for the course(s) under investigation is not required to complete a degree. In cases where an investigation is initiated during the student's final year of study, or involves a course required to graduate, the Faculty or School will make reasonable attempts to expedite the investigation process before the expected convocation date.

No student who has been required to withdraw due to a departure from academic integrity may apply to graduate during the period of the sanction.

Summary

The Senate Committee on Academic Procedures approved the proposed amendment at its September 29, 2010 meeting and now requests that Senate consider the following recommendation at its October 20, 2010 meeting:

Be it resolved that clause "4.8 - Graduation" be added to the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity Procedures – Requirements of Faculties and Schools.