

## Senate Operations Review Committee Report to Senate – Meeting of February 26, 2009

### Recommendation to establish a Principal's Ad Hoc Committee to draft a "Safe Disclosure Policy"

#### Introduction

In November, 2008 Senator J. Welsh submitted a Motion to Senate requesting that a committee be established to draft a policy on the protection of Whistleblowers. The Senate Agenda Committee determined that such a policy did not fall solely within the purview of Senate and therefore, did not include the submission on the November Senate Agenda. The issue was referred to SORC and it was asked to determine if the Motion could be dealt with through another mechanism.

#### Review of the Issues

The issue was reviewed at SORC's January 13, February 6, 2009 meetings. To assist SORC with its deliberations, other Canadian universities were surveyed regarding whistleblower policies, their formation and jurisdictional authority.

#### Analysis and Discussion

The following points summarize the Committee's discussion:

- x SORC agreed with the Senate Agenda Committee that a safe disclosure policy was broader than the function of the Senate. Therefore, a university-wide committee should be struck with a composition that represents the whole of the University;
- x Once drafted the policy should be approved by the Senate and ratified by the Board of Trustees;
- x The committee and its Chair should be established by the Principal;
- x As required, the Principal's Ad Hoc Committee should have the authority to consult with other individuals and offices on campus to draw upon their expertise. This may include the Office of the Vice-Principal (Human Resources), the Human Rights Office, the Academic Integrity Advisor to the Vice-Principal (Academic), the School of Graduate Studies and Research and Legal Counsel;
- x The Ad Hoc Committee should complete its deliberations within a reasonable amount of

Conclusions/Recommendations

The Senate Operations Review Committee recommends that the Senate approve the recommendation to establish a Principal's AdHoc Committee to draft a "Safe Disclosure Policy" as outlined in Appendix A.

Respectfully submitted

J. Stairs, Chair, SORC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008-2009

B. Barnett, Political Studies, B.A. (Hons.0'09

J. Brien, Pharmacology and Toxicology

L. Horton, Human Resources

F. Jahanbakhsh, Theological College

J. Stairs, Theological College (Chair)

J. Welsh, President, SGPS

Appendix A

Title

Safe Disclosure Policy

Proposed Composition

Vice-Principal (Academic) or delegate

Vice-Principal (Research) or delegate

Vice-Principal (Operations and Finance) or delegate

QUFA President or delegate

QUSA President or delegate

President of the Society of Graduate Professional Students or delegate

President of the AMS or delegate

Director of Risk Management and Audit Services or delegate

1 Post Doctoral Fellow appointed by the Office of Research Services

1 Principal's appointee who will also serve as chair

Administrative support to be provided by the University Secretariat

Chair

To be appointed by the Principal.

Reporting and Accountability

The Ad Hoc committee should strive to complete its deliberations by Spring 2010. The Safe Disclosure Policy will be presented to the Senate for approval and to the Board of Trustees for ratification.