



Policy on StudentAidBC

Date of Adoption: December 12, 2007

Date of Renewal: February 8, 2012

Date of Expiration: February 8, 2015

Preamble: Whereas if students either “withdraw from a full-time course load on two separate occasions while receiving student assistance or interest-free loan status,” or “fail to achieve satisfactory marks in 68 weeks or more of full-time study while receiving student assistance or interest-free loan status;”

Whereas with regard to provincial student assistance programs, students are “considered withdrawn from classes if they miss 10 consecutive days of classes, or 20 per cent of a study program,” without caveat or consideration of a student’s specific circumstances that affect attendance;

Whereas previous student assistance policies allowed for a three-strikes academic standing or withdrawal approach;

Whereas current policy under StudentAid BC provides preference for failure rather than withdrawal, if student s cannot – for whatever reason – complete a full-time study term;

Whereas students often have employment and family commitments, and important life commitments must sometimes trump study commitments when students face extenuating financial or personal hardship;

Whereas withdrawal from studies is academically advantageous for students vis-à-vis failure or very poor performance, with regard to a student’s academic standing, which can determine scholarship, bursary, grant-based funding, and admission or transfer into another university, college or technical institute;

Whereas the Ministry of Advanced Education identified in its 2007/08-2009/10 Service Plan, in one of its core business areas that, “Student financial assistance is provided to make post-secondary education and the associated personal and social benefits accessible to all students;”

Whereas StudentAid BC describes its major programs as “based on need, providing financial assistance where students and their immediate families do not have the resources to meet the costs of post-secondary education and basic living expenses;” therefore, be it

Resolution: Resolved, That the Kwantlen Student Association condemns student assistance policies that prefers failure over withdrawal, if successful term completion is untenable due to extenuating circumstances; and,



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Resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association supports student aid policies and programs that reduce all major barriers to post-secondary education, including, but not limited to informational, academic, and financial barriers

Sources:

Province of British Columbia. StudentAid BC website. 11.15.2007.
< <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/welcome.htm>>

Berger, Joseph. Canadian Millenium Scholarship Foundation. The Price of Knowledge: Access and Student Finance in Canada – Third Edition. 2007. <http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca/images/Publications/POK07_e.pdf>

Province of British Columbia. Ministry of Advanced Education 2007/08-2009/10 annual Service Plan.
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