



Access to Services for Students with Disabilities Policy

Date Adopted: February 28, 2014

Date of Expiration: February 28, 2017

Preamble

Whereas, the KPU policy on Services for Students with Disabilities states “the University must remove barriers and provide opportunities to students with a disability enabling them to access University services, programs and facilities and to be welcomed as participating members of the University community”; and

Whereas, access to these services is based on documentation from doctors and specialists who are able to *diagnose* a disability; and

Whereas, getting a diagnosis of a disability can be a barrier to accessing resources for students with disabilities; and

Whereas, if the treatment and accommodation of students with disabilities were considered under a model in which shared barriers to participation were the focus, not an individual’s medical diagnosis students would be able to provide documentation of their limitations without having a diagnosed disorder or disease.¹; and

Whereas, the University could further remove such barriers by implementing a universal access program based on universal design principles which, according to the Center for Universal Design, “is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design”²;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Kwantlen Student Association supports the development of a model of services for students with disabilities in which shared barriers to participation are the focus;

The Kwantlen Student Association supports the implementation of a universal access program at KPU based on the principles of universal design;

The Kwantlen Student Association supports the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities through the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost. The Office of the VP Academic and Provost will appoint and maintain the committee that will address issues relevant to the implementation of a universal access program. This committee shall include persons with disabilities and the KSA Students with Disabilities Representative. This committee will provide a report of its activities to Senate on an annual basis.

¹ <http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/international/un/canada/road-to-the-un-convention-march2011>

² Burgstahler, Sheryl: Universal Design: Process, Principles, and Applications
(<http://www.washington.edu/doi/Brochures/Programs/ud.html>)