DRAFT
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SUBJECT  TUITION PROPOSAL:
DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM OPTIONS

MEETING DATE  September 30, 2014
December 3, 2014

Forwarded to the Board of Governors on the
Recommendation of the President

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION

Arvind Gupta, President and Vice-Chancellor

Presented By  David H. Farrar, Provost and Vice-President Academic

Report Date  September 2, 2014

DECISION REQUESTED  IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that the UBC Board of Governors approve
the Tuition of all new Dual-Degree Program Options at UBC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of British Columbia occasionally develops new program packages that are “Dual-Degree Program Options”. A Dual-Degree Program Option is a package of two existing programs that have already received approval from the Board of Governors previously for both their curriculum and their tuition. Unlike a new Dual Degree Program, in which one or both programs are new offerings, neither of the programs within the Dual-Degree Program Option are new. The current practice is for the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (VP) Academic to determine whether Board of Governors approval will be needed for the tuition of these Options. To do so, involves consulting the University Counsel Office and can necessitate involvement from Faculties, University Archives and/or the Board of Governors’ Office to locate the original resolutions in each case.

In order to prevent the need to conduct extensive searches for past resolutions by the Board of Governors, the Provost and Vice-President Academic Office, following consultation with the University Counsel, is proposing that whenever a proposed new Dual Degree Program would essentially combine two existing degrees with tuition already approved by the Board (thus rendering it a Dual-Degree Option), and the tuition proposed is equivalent to the aggregate tuition for the two programs, no additional approval by the Board would be required.
This proposal would help to facilitate the UBC Plan’s promise to “create[c] an exceptional learning environment” by simplifying the tuition/fee approval process for new Dual-Degree Program Options so that they can be offered to students without unnecessary delay and implemented on schedule.

This proposal would play a role in realizing UBC’s goal to “review and revise curricula and pedagogy to ensure that they are informed by leading edge research and research on how people learn”.

The University of British Columbia occasionally develops new program packages that are “Dual-Degree Program Options”. Unlike a new “Dual Degree Program”, in which one or both programs are new offerings and require the full Senate and BoG approval process, neither of the programs within the Dual-Degree Option are new; the Option is a package of two existing programs that have already received approval by the Board of Governors for both curriculum and tuition.

In cases where the tuition and fees for the Option consist of the sum of the existing tuition and fees for the two existing programs, the Office of the Provost and VP Academic is proposing that in these instances approval by the Board of Governors be granted, in one motion, to cover all such Dual-Degree Program Options in the future. It also proposes that the schedule of payments can be adjusted to fit the dual option format without needing specific approval from the Board.

If approved, this proposal would eliminate the necessity of treating each new Dual-Degree Program Option on a case-by-cases basis, as is the current practice which sometimes involves considerable time and effort on the part of University Counsel, the Provost and VP Academic Office, Faculties, SDS, the Board of Governors Secretariat, and/or University Archives, in attempting to locate the original fee approvals of the existing programs, some of which occurred decades ago.

There is no new cost associated with this proposal.

Time savings would be realized due to the more efficient system that will prevent several units, and the Board of Governors, from investing unnecessary time in working toward approval of Dual-Degree Options as individual cases.

This proposal has no relation to special funding sources and would not impact debt ratios.

Upon approval by the Board of Governors, this proposal would take effect immediately and would apply to all proposed new Dual-Degree Program Options from this date forward.

There is no risk associated with this proposal as it deals only with previously-approved tuition costs.
LEARNING – This proposal has a bearing on student learning in terms of its role in hastening the approval processes so that new program offerings are not delayed by the need to prepare and submit a Board of Governors tuition proposal and engage in the associated tuition consultation process with students.

FINANCIAL – Although this proposal has no direct financial implications for the university, the intangible effects of eliminating an unnecessary step in the approval process of new programs is that the units and offices involved may devote their time more efficiently to other deadlines.

REPUTATIONAL – The proposal’s role in creating a more expedient approval process for Dual Degree Program Options would help to avoid potential delays in offering these options to students as specified in the Calendar and promotional material. It reduces the possibility of being unable to implement the program on schedule.

CONSULTATION

Relevant Units, Internal & External Constituencies

University Counsel Office: This proposal was developed by the Provost and Vice-President Academic Office on the recommendation of the University Counsel as means of further streamlining the tuition approval process.

Student Consultation: Please find attached a Student Consultation Report on this proposal.
[to follow once completed by the VP Students Office]