

SUBJECT: "SCHOOLS" WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY**1. Purpose**

Academic units, with the assent of their College Council and the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, may be advanced to Senate for designation as "Schools" within the University, providing they meet all the necessary criteria, as outlined in the Scope of this policy.

2. Scope

- The academic unit must offer a program, or a group of closely-related programs, most or all of which lead (or can lead), directly or by examination, to professional certification for program graduates.
- By comparison with other academic units, the academic unit seeking the designation "School" must offer a program emphasizing skills training.
- The academic unit must not be subdivided into smaller academic units.
- A persuasive case must be made that the designation offers a distinct benefit in the context of student recruitment, professional certification after graduation, and/or the pursuit of research funding by faculty.
- Any changes in this area must be consistent with the University's commitment to interdisciplinary in its academic programming.

3. The Characteristics of Schools:

The protocols under which institutions choose to designate certain academic units as "schools" vary widely, and indeed universities are free to use whatever terminology they wish in naming their programs. A cursory review of Canadian practices reveals a degree of commonality, however. Generally speaking "schools" (as opposed to "departments" or "programs"):

- may be led by persons of varying designations in academic rank – Chairs, Directors or Deans.
- lead or may lead to a professional or quasi-professional standing for graduates. For example, "Schools" of Nursing are common and usually lead to professional certification for graduates. "Schools of Business" are common and may lead to CPA certification.
- emphasize skills training in the context of a University educational environment.
- are small by way of comparison to faculties or colleges, and equate in size roughly to Departments.
- are not subdivided into smaller academic units. For example, the four Veterinary Colleges in Canada lead to professional qualification but, because they contain Departments as academic units, are referred to as Faculties. Nor do Engineering/Applied Science programs generally carry the designation "School."
- may or may not be externally accredited. External accreditation may be a factor in designating a program area as a "School," as in the case of Nursing, for example. By contrast, however, most Chemistry programs in Canada are externally accredited; but traditionally the Academic Unit is referred-to as a Department. A degree in Chemistry generally does not lead to professional certification.

4. Authority:

Senate would be charged with making a final decision on the advice of the relevant College Council, through the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning.