

**Policy Title:** Board and Senate Relationship Policy  
**Policy Approver:** Board of Governors and Senate  
**Policy Holder:** University Secretariat  
**Executive Lead:** University Secretary and General Counsel  
**Category:** Governance Policy  
**Original Date:** June 2023  
**Last Revised:** n/a  
**Next Review:** June 2024

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### Policy Statement

Yukon University recognizes the importance of a strong and effective relationship between the Board of Governors and the Senate. This policy outlines the principles, roles, and responsibilities governing the interaction and collaboration between the Board and the Senate to ensure transparent governance, academic integrity, and institutional success.

### Approval Statement

With the approval of the Board of Governors and Senate, this policy is hereby deemed in effect the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.



June 16, 2023

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David Morrison  
Chair, Board of Governors

Date



June 16, 2023

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Lesley Brown  
Co-Chair, Senate

Date



June 16, 2023

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Victoria Castillo  
Co-Chair, Senate

Date

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## 1. Purpose

This policy aims to establish a framework for the Board of Governors and the Senate to work collaboratively while respecting their respective areas of authority and expertise.

## 2. Definitions

In this Policy, the following words or expressions have the corresponding meaning:

“Board” means the Board of Governors as set out in the University Act.

“Senate” means the Senate as set out in the University Act.

“Act” means the Yukon University Act.

“University” means Yukon University and all subsidiaries or affiliates controlled by Yukon University.

## 3. Jurisdiction of the Board and Senate

Pursuant to the Act, the Board is responsible for the management, administration and control of the property, revenues, business and affairs of the University and the Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the University.

In exercising responsibilities under the Act, each of the Board and Senate commit to the following principles in their relationship with one another:

- 1.1. Collaboration: The Board and Senate shall foster a collaborative relationship built on mutual respect, open communication, and shared commitment to the University's mission and vision.
- 1.2. Transparency: Both the Board and Senate shall strive for transparency in their decision-making processes, ensuring relevant information is shared promptly and effectively.
- 1.3. Autonomy and Interdependence: The Board and Senate shall respect each other's autonomous jurisdiction set out in the Act while recognizing the interconnectedness of their roles and responsibilities.

In the event of a jurisdictional dispute between the Senate and the Board, the matter shall be referred to the University Secretary and General Counsel who will provide a binding written opinion.

#### 4. Joint Policy and Decision Making

While the jurisdiction of the Senate and Board is clearly defined in the Act, there may be some policy topics or decisions which the Board and Senate wish to collaboratively determine. In these instances, the matter shall be first reviewed by the Executive Committee of Senate and the Governance Committee of the Board who shall determine whether a joint policy or decision (or amendment to an existing policy or decision) is appropriate and how approval from both decision bodies should proceed.

At the discretion of the Board, a joint Board and Senate meeting may be convened to discuss a joint policy or decision, a matter in which the Board is required to consult the Senate or a matter on which the Senate has made a recommendation or provided advice to the Board. In such instances, the decision of the joint Board and Senate meeting shall be determinative of the issue.

#### 5. Consultation

Under the Act, the Board is required to consult the Senate on:

- a) establishing procedures for recommending and selecting candidates for president, deans, chief librarian or another person who performs comparable functions, registrar and other senior academic administrators that the board may designate;
- b) providing for, establishing, maintaining or discontinuing faculties, schools, academic departments and educational programs;
- c) providing for, establishing, maintaining or discontinuing chairs, institutes, fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries and prizes; and,
- d) the number of students admitted to the University or any of its faculties.

The Board is required to consult with the Senate on the above matters before considering its final decision.

At a minimum, the Senate must be provided with sufficient information and sufficient time to consider the matter which will vary depending upon the circumstances.

## 6. Recommendations and Advice to the Board by Senate

As set out in the Act, the Senate has the power to make recommendations or provide advice to the Board on:

- a) establishment, modification or discontinuance of any faculty, school, academic department, educational program, chair, institute, fellowship, scholarship, exhibition, bursary or prize;
- b) the terms of affiliation with other universities, colleges or institutions of learning, or with respect to the modification or termination of an affiliation;
- c) academic planning and strategic planning;
- d) maintaining, managing and erecting buildings and structures on the University's real property; and,
- e) promoting the interests of the university or for carrying out the objects and provisions of this Act.

In providing advice or recommendations to the Board on the above matters, the Senate shall:

- Provide notice of a matter which the Senate intends to provide advice or recommendations as soon as practicable to ensure that the Board is advised immediately about the matter;
- Present the recommendation or advice to the Board in a manner of their choosing which is presumed to be in writing;
- Present recommendations and advice in a comprehensible and accessible manner with consideration for members of the Board who may be external to the University.

As set out in the Act, the Board has the power to proceed on any matter despite the power of the Senate to make recommendations or provide advice. However, where the Senate has made a recommendation or provided advice, the Board shall consider that advice in its deliberations and make efforts to reflect that advice in its decision.

## 7. Delegation

The Board may delegate to the University President (“President”) the authority to act on behalf of the Board, in sharing information, consulting with, seeking advice, or in decision making matters before the Senate that are within the Board’s roles and responsibilities. Authority to act may be delegated to the President, but responsibility rests with the Board. The University will develop and maintain information-reporting structures for the Board on the work and decisions of the Senate, including actions taken by the President on behalf of the Board on matters involving the Senate.

## 8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed one year after its passage and as determined thereafter.