

Policy Manual

Issues Policy

Issues Policy 13 (IS-13): Non-Academic Student Codes of Conduct

Adopted by: Board of Directors

Adopted on: September 09, 2014

Summary:

Non-academic Student Codes of Conduct are post-secondary institutional policies that regulate non-academic student conduct and outline appropriate forms of behaviour and/or institutional responses to that behaviour.

Non-academic codes of conduct are generally used at post-secondary education institutions across Canada as a means of penalizing students who are viewed by the administration to have acted in a way that is deemed contrary to the interests of the institution. These codes are often written with minimal or no student input and are adjudicated by bodies that are not administered by a students' union, or are otherwise accountable to students. In many instances, non-academic codes of conduct are used to punish students for activities that are unrelated to their studies or their campus and may range from comments posted on social networking websites to political activities and demonstrations. As such, the application of such codes can be arbitrary, invasive, biased, and discriminatory.

Such codes seek to expand the institution's influence in the personal lives of students even while off-campus and threaten to limit or impede the free expression of students and their political activities. In addition, these codes treat students in a manner that is separate and distinct from other members of the post-secondary community: faculty members, administrators, and other staff of the institution. These codes impede the ability of students to actively participate and engage in issues that they wish to support and threaten our democratic rights.

Policy:

- I. The Union opposes:
 - a. The regulation or penalization of the off-campus conduct of students;
 - b. The penalization students for political activity, including peaceful protest and demonstration;
 - c. The imposition of sanctions which negatively impact a student's academic standing, funding, funding opportunities, or employment for non-academic behaviour;
 - d. Penalizing students for any incident for which the individual has already been penalized under the Criminal Code of Canada, or any other ordinance or statute;
 - e. The regulation of off-campus internet activities, including but not limited to, social networks and other online forums;
 - f. Limitations on students' right to free expression, assembly, or any other right under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
 - g. Linking non-academic codes of conduct offences to transcripts and other institutional records;