
CONFIDENTIAL

To: President's Council, Thompson Rivers University
From: Scott Blackford, Legal Counsel
Date: May 3, 2018
Subject: ADM 05-3 Alcohol, Cannabis, and Tobacco Policy (the "Policy")

Background and Purpose of this document: Pursuant to the *Policy on Policy Development and Approval*, administrative policies adopted by President's Council should be reviewed every 5 years.

General Counsel's Office, in conjunction with Ancillary Services, has reviewed TRU's Alcohol Policy to take into account changes in BC's *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*. Moreover, with the upcoming expected legalization of cannabis, the General Counsel's office proposes combining the use of alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco into one policy, and is forwarding a draft of proposed amendments to President's Council for discussion purposes at this time. The purpose of this Memo is to initiate discussions on the draft and to provide the rationale as to why these amendments are necessary.

The General Counsel's Office welcomes feedback on the draft amendments to the Policy.

The proposed amendments are so numerous that a redlined copy comparing proposed changes to the existing Alcohol Policy and Smoking Policy would be effectively illegible; accordingly, a redlined copy has not been provided.

Background of Policy: The current Alcohol Policy governs liquor licensing and use at the University. The current Smoking Policy governs smoking of tobacco and medicinal marijuana at the University.

The Alcohol Policy was last amended in June, 1993. The Smoking Policy was last amended in December 2011. There are several factors which contribute to the need to modernize the University's existing Policies:

1. BC's liquor licensing law was amended in May, 2015;
 2. The use of cannabis is expected to become legal in Canada this summer (possibly as early as mid-August);
 3. The Alcohol Policy particularly was due for review and amendment.
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Summary of Proposed Amendments:

The goal of the proposed amendments is to provide clear direction to the university community regarding the use of alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco at the university's campuses. Set out below are key proposed amendments to the Policy and the rationale:

1. Combine Alcohol, Cannabis, and Tobacco into one Policy: The General Counsel's Office recommends that alcohol, cannabis and tobacco be combined into one policy for ease of reference, and due to some similarities in how these substances are treated by the university.
2. Aligning Alcohol Policy with current practice: The proposed amendments take into account name changes in the provincial legislation, and address specifically consumption and possession of open alcohol on campus.
3. Prohibition against smoking cannabis: In the proposed amendments, recreational use of cannabis on campus is not permitted, nor is the sale of cannabis products. Use of medicinal cannabis is permitted, but smoking medicinal cannabis is limited to areas designated by the university.
4. Tobacco more integrated with other substance use: Some duplication in the Smoking Policy has been eliminated. The section regarding enforcement in the Smoking Policy has also been deleted in this proposed draft.

Action Requested:

This Memo requests discussion of the draft of the proposed Policy. Following consideration by President's Council, the General Counsel's Office will post Notice of Motion. If this single Policy is approved, the existing policies on Alcohol and Smoking will be repealed. Once all feedback has been considered, a final recommendation of proposed amendments to the Policy will be prepared and given to President's Council for consideration.

Effective Date:

The approval of the Policy would take effect after the President's Council meeting following the meeting where Notice of Motion is served.

Attachments:

Attached to this memo are the following documents:

- Attachment 1: Current Alcohol Policy
 - Attachment 2: Current Smoking Policy
 - Attachment 3: Draft Alcohol, Cannabis, and Tobacco Policy
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