

POSITION STATEMENT: Academic Experience, Access & Reform

ISSUE:

Ensuring that students have access to an academic environment that is inclusive, accessible, adaptable, and equitable for all. Academic reform must address financial barriers, accessibility gaps, experiential learning inequities, and structural inconsistencies that impact student success.

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:

- The Bishop's University Students' Representative Council (BUSRC)
- Bishop's University
- Government of Quebec
- Government of Canada

DETAILS:

Academic success must evolve alongside the changing needs and challenges of the student body. Creating an equitable academic environment requires meaningful student consultation. Addressing academic concerns requires structural change that prioritizes accessibility, affordability, and equitable opportunity. The SRC strongly supports centering student voices in all areas of academic reform and program development.

IMPACT/ANALYSIS:

Academic excellence depends on accessibility and fairness. Investing in student-centered academic supports and reform not only strengthens institutional integrity but also supports long-term student success.

POSITION:

The Bishop's Students' Representative Council (BUSRC) advocates for an academic environment that is inclusive, accessible, and adaptable to the needs of all students. We believe in meaningful academic reform that centers student well-being, academic excellence, and liberal arts education. Academic reform is not just about the diversity of programs or students excelling academically, but about creating equitable opportunities to succeed.

The Students' Representative Council supports the following:

Long-Term Goals:

- Strong support and institutional commitment to supporting Student Accessibility Services
- Expanded graduate and doctoral student support and designated academic spaces

- Comprehensive education practicum reform that centers on students' needs
- Creation of open educational resources and textbook affordability initiatives
- Expansion of co-op programs to all academic divisions
- Increased student safety and inclusive standards for experiential learning placements

Short-Term Goals:

- To improve and maintain library hours to meet students' needs and to promote academic success

The Students' Representative Council opposes the following:

- Academic policies or structures that create inequitable barriers to success
- Overreliance on inflexible evaluation models that do not account for diverse learning needs
- Unpaid practicums and experiential learning requirements that create disproportionate financial hardships
- Hidden academic costs that undermine affordability and transparency
- Further reductions in library hours and removal of student-centered academic services