

Policy History
Policy No. GV9
Approving Jurisdiction: Board of Governors, with Senate advice
Administrative Responsibility: Provost and Vice President Academic
Effective Date: July 22, 2025

Establishment and/or Discontinuance of Faculties and Departments Policy

A. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

As a special purpose teaching university under British Columbia’s University Act, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) (“the University”) Senate must advise the Board, and the Board must seek advice from Senate, on the development of a policy relating to the establishment and discontinuance of Faculties and Departments at KPU. The Board must also consider recommendations from the Senate for the establishment and discontinuance of Faculties and Departments.

B. SCOPE AND LIMITS

1. This policy outlines the principles and procedures governing the establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments at KPU.
2. This policy applies to all academic Faculties and Departments, and does not apply to service Departments or Departments that do not operate under the authority of a Faculty Council at KPU.
3. Proposals for the moving of a Department from one Faculty to another will require a majority vote from each Faculty Council, and adhere to the process outlined in the Procedure in support of this Policy.

C. STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. The university has a strategic plan and an academic plan against which the establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments will be evaluated.

2. The Board will consider recommendations from Senate before approving final proposals relating to the establishment of Faculties and Departments at KPU.
3. All recommendations and votes from proponents, directly impacted Departments and Faculties, and Senate, regardless of whether they are for or against the establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments, will be included in the full written proposal for the Board's final decision.
4. Proposals for the establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments must be developed through a public, transparent proposal development process where recommendations, feedback, and responses are collected during the consultation process between the proponent, impacted Faculties and Departments, and key parties of the University are included in the proposal.
5. Proposals for the establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments must be comprehensively documented in order to ensure that all consequences, including impact to students, have been investigated to a reasonable extent.
6. Proposals for the establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments may be initiated by a Dean (or designate), Director (or designate), or by a Department, School, or Faculty (or a committee of one of these bodies), known as the Proponent, and will be submitted for consideration to the governing bodies as outlined in the procedures.
7. Proposals for the amalgamation of two or more Faculties, or the division of an existing Faculty into two or more Faculties, will be considered as the establishment of a new Faculty.
8. Proposals for the amalgamation of two or more Departments, or the division of an existing Department into two or more Departments, will be considered as the establishment of a new Department(s).
9. If the proposal for the moving of multiple Departments from one Faculty to another will result in the amalgamation of the Departments in the destination Faculty, it must be indicated in the proposal document.
10. Proposals for the discontinuance of a sole remaining Department in a Faculty will also be considered as the discontinuance of the Faculty altogether.
11. The establishment and/or discontinuance of Faculties and Departments will follow the process outlined in the GV9 procedure.

D. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Section A of GV9 Establishment and/or Discontinuance of Faculties and Departments Procedure for a list of definitions in support of this Policy.

E. RELATED POLICIES & LEGISLATION

University Act [RSBC 1996] Chapter 468; Sections 27 (2) (i) and (j) and Section 35.2 (6) (e)
AC10 Development and Change of Senate-Approved Programs Policy
ER2 Naming of University Assets

F. RELATED PROCEDURES

Refer to GV9 Establishment and/or Discontinuance of Faculties and Departments Procedure.