

## **Policy: Student Participation in NESA BN Programs Governance**

### **PURPOSE:**

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The purpose of this policy is to outline the expectations and process for student recruitment and participation in NESA BN Programs governance committees.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

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**Governance committees:** Standing committees of the NESA Joint Faculty Council that are accountable to the Council, act within defined Terms of Reference, and facilitate the governing of the NESA BN Programs by bringing specific recommendations to the NESA Joint Faculty Council.

### **POLICY SCOPE\*:**

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The policy applies to all students and faculty in the NESA BN Programs.

### **POLICY STATEMENT(S):**

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1. The NESA BN Programs benefit from student involvement in governance, as students bring valuable perspectives to ongoing quality improvement of the Programs.
  
2. Student participation on NESA governance committees is a valuable learning experience as students have opportunities to:
  - a. Develop an understanding of governance roles and processes
  - b. Gain exposure to a broad range of issues affecting nursing education programs
  - c. Increase skills and knowledge that are transferable to workplace and/or community governance activities

### **SPECIFICS OF THE POLICY:**

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1. Student participation in any NESA BN Programs governance committee, as appropriate to the committee's mandate, will be outlined in the committee's Terms of Reference. The terms of appointment for student members may be shorter than the length of term for faculty members.

2. Every August, the NESAs Joint Faculty Council will review student vacancies on NESAs BN Program governance committees. Following this review, a designated member of the NESAs Administrative Committee will email all NESAs students informing them of the opportunities and inviting their participation.
3. In the event that student response for participation on these committees exceeds committee demands, students will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.
4. Each NESAs BN Programs governance committee will appoint one member to act as student liaison to facilitate feedback and student input to the committee's work.
5. Whenever possible, meeting dates and times for NESAs BN Programs governance committees will be set when the student member has no classroom or practice commitments. If student participation is required for decision making, the committee will ensure some student representation is present at the committee meeting.
6. Upon completion of their term, student members will receive a formal letter and certificate jointly from the Dean for the Centre for Health and Wellness at Lethbridge College and the Dean for the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge (U of L).
  - a. Students who have completed their term during the academic year will be identified in May each year by the Committee Chair, who will then notify their respective Dean so that the letter and certificate can be issued.
  - b. Students may also be eligible to have their volunteer hours of service recognized on their Work Integrated Learning (WIL) transcript at the University of Lethbridge. Committee Chairs will submit the hours of service provided by each of their student members during the academic year to the Academic Advisor at U of L each May, in order to initiate this process.

**APPENDIX:** N/A

**RELATED POLICIES/ASSOCIATED GUIDELINES:**

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NESAs BN Programs Attendance Policy

**REFERENCES:** N/A

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***\*NOTE: NESAs Policies exist within organizational frameworks of policy for Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge, and within agreements established with practice partner organizations. If and when NESAs policies are found to differ from such policies and agreements, it is important to note that such policies/agreements will take precedence over NESAs program policies.***

<b>Revised By/date:</b>	<b>Approved by/date:</b>
Policy Review Committee: February 2015	Not Required: no change
Policy Review Committee: December 2015	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: April 2017	NESA Joint Faculty Council: May 2017
Policy Review Committee: December 2017	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: January 2019	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: December 2019	Not Required: no change
Policy Review Committee: April 2021	Not Required: added student recognition
Policy Review Committee: February 2022	Not Required: no changes