

Queen's University
Senate Committee on Academic Procedures
November 2010

REVISION TO POLICY ON RESCINDING DEGREES

Background

On November 30, 2006, the Senate of Queen's University approved a Policy on Rescinding Degrees, which outlines the circumstances in which rescinding a degree would be considered. The Policy outlines two "general cases": one, an administrative error and the second, a case of academic misconduct or fraud.

Analysis and Discussion

In the summer of 2010, a student in the School of Nursing was incorrectly included on the School's degree list and awarded the Bachelor of Nursing Science degree in error. The error occurred because the student had dropped a required course early in the Winter term and registered to take the course in the Summer term. A system glitch resulted in the student appearing "in progress" in the Summer term course in April when the degree list was compiled and the student was added to the list. The error was not discovered until after the Convocation ceremony and, although the student did not attend the ceremony, the degree was awarded. The degree was subsequently rescinded.

A situation such as the one above has highlighted the need for minor revisions of the Policy on Rescinding Degrees.

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