

## BCIT COMMUNITY REVIEW NOTE

**PREPARED BY:** Student Success

**ISSUE:** Proposed Revisions to Policy 5102 Student Code of Conduct (Non-academic) and 5102-PR1 Procedure for Violations of the Student Code of Conduct

### BACKGROUND:

BCIT's Policy 5102 Student Code of Conduct and Procedure 5102-PR1 Procedure for Violations of the Student Code of Conduct outline the responsibilities of BCIT learners, as they relate to non-academic behaviour, and provide a process for BCIT to respond to alleged violations. The Policy includes a non-comprehensive list of non-academic misconduct and outlines the duties and responsibilities of various BCIT community members. The Procedure document outlines the process for reporting suspected or alleged violations of the Policy, and how the Institute can and will respond.

In January 2024 updates to Policy 5102 and Procedure 5102-PR1 were put out for Community Review. Those updates better aligned our Policy and Procedure with BCIT values and the principles of administrative fairness, as well as introduced new mechanisms for interim measures, informal resolutions, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. The Procedure included new details on how investigations are conducted and how culpability and non-culpability play a role in determining outcomes. Overall, the Policy and Procedure reflected best practices of student quasi-judicial proceedings in post-secondary institutions. Before that time, the Policy and Procedure were last reviewed in 2019.

Following Community Consultation, updates to the Policy and Procedure were paused. The Community Feedback received in 2024 has now been integrated into the Policy and Procedure. Given the time that has passed since that feedback was given, the Policy Champion and Working Group decided to take the updated Policy and Procedure back out for an additional Community Review, to ensure that the new Policy and Procedure reflect the current context.

BCIT is committed to providing an environment where respect, diversity, civility, and agency are valued. BCIT expects students to exercise critical thought and learn from mistakes, while conducting themselves in accordance with BCIT values and adhering to the Student Code of Conduct.

### UPDATES:

The 2026 updates to the Student Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure strengthen clarity, fairness, and a trauma-informed, educational approach by expanding and clarifying the accommodation process, reinforcing investigator impartiality, and shifting from intent-based to impact-based assessment. The revisions emphasize the policy's protective and non-punitive purpose, remove the 24-hour reporting requirement, and clarify that interim measures are temporary, non-punitive, and applied transparently. They also strengthen guidance for multi-policy situations, clarify leadership decision-making on applicable procedures, add a preference for using a single procedure where possible, and expand employee responsibility for communicating professionalism standards. Additional updates refine

definitions, clarify investigator roles, confirm applicability to applicants, add dismissal or closure language where no breach is found, and improve overall consistency through corrected terminology, updated department references, and aligned formatting and structure.

#### **DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:**

A working group started its review in 2021 and completed it in fall 2023. Members of the working group included representatives from: Student Success; the Student Association; Respect, Diversity & Inclusion; Indigenous Strategies & Partnerships; and the School of Construction & the Environment. The documents have also received legal review. After review by the working group, the proposed policy and procedure revisions were approved by BCIT's Policy Review Team on November 23, 2023 to go out for a 30-day community consultation. As noted above, feedback from the Community Consultation has now been integrated into the Policy and Procedure, and the revised Policy and Procedures have been approved for an additional round of 30-day community consultation.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

After the 30-day community consultation, the working group will consider any responses from the community and bring the policy and procedure (with any changes deemed necessary) to a committee of the Board of Governors for final review. The Board committee may recommend the revisions be brought forward for approval by the Board as a whole, or sent back to the working group for further review and development.