

STUDENT RIGHTS

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Responsibility: Vice President Student Services

Amends Policy dated: June 1, 2015,
January 1, 2009, Handbook, 2004

Policy Number: HRA 260

Scope: All employees in relationship with students

Burman University recognizes and upholds the following student rights while emphasizing that rights and freedoms come with commensurate responsibility:

Right of Admission

Student organizations, education programs and activities are open to all students. Furthermore, all students are entitled to be free from discrimination as guaranteed in the Alberta Human Rights Act.

Classroom Rights and Appeals

Students are evaluated academically based on scholastic performance, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to the academic standards of the course. If students feel that their academic rights have been violated, they should speak with the instructor. If the matter is not settled satisfactorily, they may then appeal to the department/school chair and the division dean. If satisfactory resolution does not follow, students may appeal to the Vice President for Academic Administration and finally to the Academic Grievance Committee by following the procedures outlined in the Academic Grievance Procedure located in the Academic Regulations section of the *Academic Calendar*.

Right of Association

Students are free to organize and join associations to promote their common interests, consistent with the purposes and policies of Burman University. All organizations may submit to the Vice President for Student Services nominees for faculty advisors/sponsors of their own choosing.

Right of Discussion, Communication, Petition

As members of the university academic community, students are free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of policies and procedures and on matters of general interest to the students, both consistent with orderly proceedings and with the functions and objectives of the institution. Student organizations are free to examine and

discuss questions germane to the objectives of Burman University and to express opinions in public sessions. Interchange of views is encouraged between students and faculty, person to person, in discussion groups or meetings, or by written documents. The conduct of such discussions is to be in accord with the Christian spirit espoused by the institution.

Right of Publication

Student communications media, such as the student newspaper (Aurora Chronicles) and yearbook (Aurora Borealis), are aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of responsible discussion and intellectual exploration on the campus. They communicate the activities and interests of the students, as well as help form student opinion. In order to maintain consistency with the mission and values of the institution, the Vice President for Student Services is to approve all non-academic material (including political, religious and business leaflets, petitions, surveys, e-mails and other materials using campus resources for communication) prior to distribution on campus. Students may appeal the decision of the Vice President for Student Services to the Campus Life Committee. Academic material (such as surveys) for distribution must be approved by the faculty member, if for a class, or by the Vice President for Academic Administration. Disciplinary action may result from use/distribution/publication of non-approved materials.

Right to Fair Play

The academic, administrative and disciplinary processes of Burman University are meant to guarantee fundamental fair play. Students under discipline have the right to be clearly informed of the nature and the consequences of any alleged infractions and to review the facts of the problem with the faculty, staff, residence hall dean or administrator immediately involved.

Right to Appeal

Students have the right to appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the Discipline Appeal Committee the decision of any action, including suspension or dismissal, taken by the Discipline Committee. Students may also appeal other decisions by following the criteria for appeals outlined in the Student Non-Academic Appeal Process Policy found on the university website under Student Services and the *Academic Calendar* for academic issues.

Right to an Advocate

In any disciplinary situation (academic or non-academic), students have the right to a faculty or staff advocate of their own choosing.

Right to Privacy

Student files, records and all student data maintained by the university will be held in privacy. Students have the right to review their records to avoid inaccurate and misleading information

Right to Report

Persons or groups who believe they have been, or are being treated in an unjust, unethical or discriminatory manner may appeal in writing to the Vice President for Student Services for corrective action and redress.