



## SCHOLARSHIP AS A UNIVERSITY FUNCTION

**Authorization:** Senate  
**Effective:** February 1, 1989  
**Revised:** April 4, 2011

### 1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a definition of scholarship, particularly in relation to the University's Mission Statement and strategic directions; and to uphold principles of intellectual freedom and academic integrity as core values of the University's scholarly initiatives.

### 2.0 SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

The policy provides the Research Board, as a standing committee of Senate, with a frame for the creation of new policies relating to scholarship in relation to educational policy. Given that there is an expectation that members of faculty will engage in scholarly activities, this policy is in accord with the collective agreement between the University of Guelph and the Faculty Association.

### 3.0 DEFINITION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Within the context of policies of Senate, "scholarship" means the search for new knowledge, the conscious effort to add directly to the store of knowledge, or to alter ways in which we see, appraise, or apply what is already known. Scholarly activities at the University of Guelph occur within the context of the University's Mission Statement and its strategic directions. The University is committed to serving society and to enhancing the quality of life through scholarship, and is committed to a global perspective, including in its scholarly initiatives.

Under this definition, scholarship includes all individual and group activities which advance knowledge through modes of research and through creative activity. It includes the work of the humanist and of the artist in their search to understand and interpret human experience; the work of the social scientist to understand people in society; and the work of the natural scientist in the effort to understand aspects of the universe.

In the modern university, scholarship takes many forms. Scholarship may be disciplinary, cross-disciplinary, or interdisciplinary. It may be theoretical or applied. It may be pursued by an individual, or collaboratively in partnerships forged within the University, with scholars from other institutions or with partners in communities external to universities. Scholarship, in advancing knowledge, enhances the educational function of the University. It contributes to the learning of all students, in both degree credit and non-degree credit programs, which are offered through the University of Guelph.

The common good of society depends, in part, on the pursuit of knowledge and on the free dissemination of that knowledge. The University must promote and maintain academic freedom which is a foundation of the inter-related activities of scholarship and teaching. Further, scholarly activities occurring under the auspices of the University of Guelph must adhere to principles and values of academic integrity, including honesty, fairness, trust, accountability and openness. Thus, new knowledge which is produced through scholarly activities occurring under the auspices of the University of Guelph is understood to advance the social good, whether within local, national or international contexts.

#### **4.0 GENERAL POLICY ON SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

Senate's policies on scholarship will be informed by the following, (consistent with the provisions of the collective agreement between the University of Guelph and the Faculty Association):

- a) that a suitable environment will be provided by the University to facilitate scholarship in its variant forms, with no mode of scholarship valued above other modes;
- b) that an appropriate balance between teaching and scholarship will be maintained within the academic programs of the University;
- c) that inventions and discoveries arising from University scholarship will be made public under conditions that will allow their effective development and utilization for the social good;
- d) that the University's policies on scholarship shall apply to all scholarly projects undertaken at the University of Guelph;
- e) that scholarship conducted by private organizations involving the use of University facilities under an agreement with the University shall adhere to the terms of collective agreements which address scholarly activities, and to the policies which govern scholarly activities at the University of Guelph.