



28 July 2017

Richard S

By email

Dear Richard

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your request for information of Friday 30 June, refined in your email of Friday 21 July 2017, where you requested the following information:

1. The University's policies, obligations, responsibilities, and / or measures that the University undertakes, to ensure that changes to existing programmes and qualifications will not negatively impact existing students currently enrolled in those programmes and qualifications;

In relation to the following changes:

a. Changes to the University's grading range (e.g., 85-100% previously was an A+, but following the change it was 90-100%) as set out on the following link

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades>; and

b. Changes to the points structure (from 18 points to 15 points) and the corresponding change from in the Bachelor of Commerce and Administration, to a straight Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2008 / 2009.

I advise that no formal University policies exist to ensure that changes to existing programmes and qualifications will not negatively impact existing students currently enrolled in those programmes or qualifications. However, the University provides many opportunities for feedback on the impact of possible changes to be sought and expressed. There are student members on the Academic Committee, Academic Board, as well as on Faculty Boards. For your reference, the terms of reference of the Academic Committee, which state the student membership, are attached. The terms of reference for the Academic Board are found in the Academic Board Statute, which is available on the Victoria University website.

Specifically for point (a), these changes were made to bring Victoria University into line with the grading systems of other New Zealand universities. There was a concern that as Victoria's A+ range was wider (encompassing 85-100), an A+ at Victoria would be regarded

as 'easier' to attain when compared to the other major universities in New Zealand, which have an A+ range of 90-100. As such, this change was made following consideration at Academic Board. Victoria University now uses the same grading system of the other major universities in New Zealand.

In relation to point (b), I advise that the change to a 15-point structure is in following with the points structure of Massey and Otago Universities. When considering changes to the points structure, thought is given to the need to either decrease or to maintain a neutral staff and student workload.

The change in name from the 'Bachelor of Commerce and Administration' to the 'Bachelor of Commerce' emerged from external feedback that the word 'Administration' was old-fashioned, and simply 'Commerce' was much more common internationally. Extensive consultation took place over this change, with students being among those in favour of the change.

Yours sincerely



Sue Walbran
Director, Academic Office

