

**Approval Date: March 26, 2010**
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## Helping Individuals at Risk Policy

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| <b>Office of Accountability:</b>                | Provost and Vice-President (Academic) / Vice-President (Finance and Administration)  |
| <b>Office of Administrative Responsibility:</b> | Vice-Provost and Dean of Students / Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President, Human Resources   |
| <b>Approver:</b>                                | Board of Governors   |
| <b>Scope:</b>                                   | Compliance with this University policy extends to all academic staff, administrators, colleagues, and support staff as outlined and defined in the <a href="#">Recruitment Policy (Appendix A and Appendix B: Definitions and Categories)</a> ; and third party contractors, visiting speakers, volunteers, Emeriti, undergraduate students, graduate students, Postdoctoral Fellows and Visitors to Campus. |

### Overview

The University is committed to supporting a healthy academic and work environment. Recognizing **At Risk Behaviour** and responding with interest and concern are critical factors in preventing potential violence (including harm to self, others and University property). The objective of this Policy is to create a system that will allow for the gathering of reports of At Risk Behaviour from across the University in order to facilitate a “connecting of the dots” of what could otherwise be viewed as isolated and less urgent incidents. If the connection between those incidents leads to the conclusion that an individual is in need of assistance, the existing support systems in place for members of the University community would work with the **Individual at Risk** in an effort to provide that individual with the assistance required and therefore minimize the possibility of a situation escalating.

It is important to recognize that the University also has systems in place for dealing with disciplinary matters (e.g. The Code of Student Behaviour and the various collective agreements), and for dealing with cases of imminent danger (e.g. The Protocol for Urgent Cases of Disruptive, Threatening or Violent Conduct (GFC Policy 91) and the Emergency Management Office).

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate early identification of At Risk Behaviour and create a system designed to receive and consolidate reports of At Risk Behaviour. Consolidating reports of At Risk Behaviour will enable identification of situations in which seemingly isolated incidents are, in fact, connected so that the At Risk Behaviour can be properly assessed and the Individual At Risk offered assistance when deemed appropriate. Doing so should result in increased mental wellness and/or a decreased risk of violence and at the same time reduce the likelihood of matters escalating.

This policy also offers an opportunity for concerned members of the University Community to report At Risk Behaviour.

## **POLICY**

1. The University will have a system for identifying Individuals At Risk.
2. The University will work proactively to educate students, staff, faculty and post-doctoral fellows on recognizing and supporting Individuals at Risk, and on this policy and related procedure.
3. Record retention protocols in alignment with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy* (FOIPP) Act and existing University policies will be maintained.
4. When information gathered in the course of administration of this Policy is more appropriately addressed through the Protocol for Urgent Cases of Disruptive, Threatening or Violent Conduct, the information will be referred to the appropriate party as set out in the Protocol. [General Faculties Council Policy Manual Section 91](#). The files under this policy and procedure will not be used in any other University process except the Protocol.
5. The University shall protect the identity of the person making the report to the extent possible under government legislation, University policies, and collective agreements. The person or persons who originated the report and/or brought it to the attention of the University can waive that protection to the extent that it applies to them.
6. The University will not tolerate any reprisal, directly or indirectly, against anyone who, in good faith and based on reasonable belief, makes a report. Reports shall not be malicious, frivolous or vexatious.
7. All individuals about whom a report is made will maintain the rights, privileges and protections afforded to them through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy* (FOIPP) Act and other applicable government legislation, University policies, and collective agreements.
8. Anonymous reports will normally not be acted upon under this Policy without corroborating information.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use. [\[▲ Top\]](#)

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>At Risk Behaviour</b>  | A person's words or conduct that, while not indicative of a clear immediate threat, give rise to a reasonable apprehension that they may engage in conduct injurious to others or themselves in the future. |
| <b>Individual at Risk</b> | A member of the University community as defined in the Scope section who has exhibited At Risk Behaviour.   |

## **RELATED LINKS**

Should a link fail, please contact [uappol@ualberta.ca](mailto:uappol@ualberta.ca). [\[▲ Top\]](#)

There are no related links for this policy.

## **PUBLISHED PROCEDURES OF THIS POLICY**

[Helping Individuals at Risk Procedure](#)