



SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

MINUTES

January 17, 2022 ~ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Via Remote Connection – ZOOM Video Conferencing

Attendees: B. Krauth (Chair), C. Percival (Vice-Chair), K. Nordgren (Secretary), G. Agnes, M. Bhakthan, R. Dawson, J. Derksen, H. Hendrigan, T. Nault, R. Pyke, S. Spector

Absent: H. Pahou, A. Sahni

Guest: Dorothy Christian, Associate Director, Indigenous Policy & Pedagogy

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of November 15, 2021

Minor edit regarding bullet point under Grade Report and Scholarship Analysis.

The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Chair’s Report

The Chair reported that he has only PCSAB and as Faculty Senator. He suggested revising the Chair/Vice-Chair terms of reference in order to help with recruitment and posed the question, should the Terms of Reference stay the status quo, expand to faculty members other than faculty senators, be elected by Senate or have an automatic ex officio. This increases the pool of candidates Senators directly recruited sit on other committees - able to inform

K. Nordgren advised the committee that call for nominations to Senators and Faculty begin March and April. All agreed to follow appropriate election protocols.

a. Differential Grading Standards

The Chair began this discussion providing an overview of past discussions regarding differential grading. He distributed a report on his research of peer institutions and their grading standards and processes.

He opened the discussion to focus on three potential options regarding the current differential grading standards at SFU: (i) keep the status quo, (ii) actively develop an alternative proposal or (iii) look for information.

Comments made:

Students aren't raising an issue about the differential grading standards and the Open Scholarship; we haven't heard complaints from students – it may be useful to gather more information or just keep to the status quo

Students aren't aware of the processes of the Open Scholarship, which is also an issue but keeping the status quo is the least disruptive

Add to the student transcript numbers displaying how close they are to qualify for a scholarship or how much more work they need to do to reach an award; incent them

Don't agree with displaying numbers or setting goals; defeats the purpose of really learning the course material; departments should be acting in good faith by evaluating their students; departmental instructors know their students best and are evaluating them to the best of their knowledge within their disciplines

Any kind of decision

4. New Business

a. Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

1. Changes to the Indigenous Graduate Entrance Scholarship (IGES) (SPCSAB 22-02)

Motion 1

It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by H. Hendrigan

“that SPCSAB approve the change in the nominations procedure for the Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Graduate Entrance Scholarship, effective Fall 2022.”

CARRIED

D. Christians provided an overview of the proposed changes to the IGES and answered questions from the SPCSAB committee members.

With focus on the adjudication processes, there was much discussion regarding the added text to the Terms of References. The committee members felt the change was more procedural rather than policy and all agreed to revise the motion to read as such.

2. Changes to the Graduate Deans Entrance Scholarship (GDES) (SPCSAB 22-01)

Motion 2

It was moved by (GDES) G. Agnes and seconded by S. Spector CARRIED

“that SPCSAB approve the revised value of the Graduate Dean’s Entrance Scholarship (GDES) from \$21,000 per year to a flexible amount (within the range of \$18,000 - \$24,000 per year), effective Fall 2022.”

CARRIED

There was brief discussion regarding revising the language used in the proposal to make clearer its intent.

b. Financial Aid and Awards

1. The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion International Mobility Award (EDI IMA) – Revised Terms of Reference (SPCSAB 22-03)

Motion 3

It was moved by S. Spector and C. Percival

“that SPCSAB approve the revised Terms of Reference for The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion International Mobility Award (EDI IMA) effective Fall 2022.”

CARRIED

M. Bhakthan provided a brief overview.

c. Uggla Family Scholarship – Update

T. Nault provided an overview and update of the Uggla Family Scholarship, notifying the SPCSAB members that the finalized Terms of Reference should be coming to SPCSAB shortly for review and approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta