

4. New Business

a. Undergraduate Open Scholarship (SPCSAB 23-07)

Motion 1

It was moved by T. Nault and seconded by R. Pyke

“that SPCSAB approve the discontinuation of the Undergraduate Open Scholarship, effective Summer 2024.”

1 approved
5 opposed
DEFEATED

M. Bhakthan provided an overview and rationale of the discontinuation of the undergraduate open scholarship, effective Summer 2024. He noted that this is an automatic scholarship available to current students, who have met the criteria based on reaching a certain gpa and completed a certain number of credits, and have a portion of their outstanding fees covered by the funding. It’s not available for students who are on an entrance scholarship or any other scholarships. He added that this is the only automatic scholarship available to current students; they did not need to apply but only meet the criteria.

M. Bhakthan answered questions from the committee members and discussion ensued.

The committee members were not pleased to know of this proposal and strongly recommended to have this scholarship remain in the books with a notation that funding is pending or not available at present, in the event budgetary changes may occur in the future and this scholarship can be reinstated.

There were strong concerns expressed regarding the significant impact on students, being one of the earliest scholarships offered at the university and its important role within the university as the only interim academic funding for students based solely on grades. All agreed this will not place Simon Fraser University in a good position given that UBC and UVIC still offer these types of scholarships and should alternatively, SFU should be proud of the transparency of how these funds were distributed compared to other institutions where the process was quite convoluted and archaic.

The committee members expressed the difference this money makes to students not only by the monetary value during the current cost of living crisis, but the feeling of accomplishment and pride when they can add this scholarship to their CV or resume. For an institution that should be putting students first, this loss puts SFU in a very negative light so a review of the budget is in order as these monies go a long way compared to other funded projects.

All agreed to send information to Senate expressing the concerns of SPCSAB and suggest another review of the budget to ensure there are no other avenues that can be explored or used to at least suspend this scholarship.

The question was asked as to what other projects or where the funds will be allocated within the institution.

T. Nault replied that the funds will be reallocated within the Provost's portfolio. He added that he will be meeting with Advancement and will bring forward the concerns of SPCSAB.

b. SFU Sports Award – New Terms of Reference (SPCSAB 23-08)

Motion 2

It was moved by T. Nault and seconded by P. Dhesa

“that SPCSAB approve the New terms of reference for the SFU Sports Award for former football students, effective Fall 2023.”

CARRIED

M. Bhakthan provided an overview of the new terms of reference for the SFU Sports Award and answered questions from the committee members.

5. Other Business

No other business at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 am

Minutes prepared by R. Balletta