



SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

MINUTES

May 27, 2019 ~ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Maggie Benston Centre ~ Room 3107

Attendees: S. Spector (Chair), G. Agnes, M. Bhakthan, R. Dawson, P. Nepomnaschy, C. Percival

Regrets: P. Tupper

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

All agreed to discuss at the next SPCSAB meeting, International Graduate Students with full scholarships and their student experience at SFU.

The Chair informed the group that the Beedie School of Business has once again renewed and will be able to continue to Chair the SPCSAB meetings until further notice.

4. New Business

a. Lieutenant Governor's Medal (For Discussion)

1. Forthcoming changes to the Terms of Reference

M. Bhakthan provided an overview of this agenda item and the changes coming forward for the Terms of Reference. There was much discussion in terms of how to re-structure the terms of reference and how to administer the medal.

M. Bhakthan suggested the following two options:

- a) adjudicate nominations based on criteria
- b) adjudicate nominations by subjects each year i.e.: 2019 demonstrating democracy, 2020 demonstrating inclusion

The discussion focused on the problems that could arise with the limiting of options, year by year.

- How do you adjudicate a student demonstrating democracy as opposed to one demonstrating inclusion?
- Why can't we mirror what we do with the Gordon Shrum medal?

P. Nepomnaschy agreed with administering the medal yearly by topic as it seems fairer as a student demonstrating inclusion is not up against one demonstrating reconciliation. However, a majority of the members did not agree with the yearly model explaining that a student may be missed this way. P. Nepomnaschy argued if not separated yearly you run the risk of awarding the medal to students demonstrating reconciliation for three years in a row. But a member indicated that this could be managed through the adjudication principles that would take place for this opportunity. The Chair suggested the members bring it forward to their faculties for any feedback and bring back to SPCSAB for further discussion.

G. Agnes suggested there be a nominator committee to adjudicate those cases where candidates are equal. He added that the decision ultimately comes down to academic excellence. C. Percival also suggested to extend the nominations beyond the faculties to include groups such as the Student Society where students perform these criteria pieces as part of their daily work.

M. Bhakthan ended the discussion by adding that the sooner we finalize the Terms of Reference, the sooner we can reach out to the faculties with the new information thus beginning the process of nominations. The effective date for this new Lieutenant Governor's Medal is Spring 2020.

All agreed to further discuss at a future SPCSAB meeting.

b. Open Scholarship and SFU Undergraduate Scholars Entrance Scholarship – Tuition Waiver (For Discussion)

M. Bhakthan spoke to this agenda item and a brief discussion ensued.

All were opposed to 'double dipping' and proposed to add information to the webpage and request HR to add it to the tuition waiver application form, that students receiving an Open Scholarship or any other award where tuition is specifically being supported (such as the new SFU Undergraduate Scholars Entrance Scholarship) not be eligible to receive a tuition waiver unless they forego their award.

5. Other Business

Due to member absences over the summer, the next SPCSAB meeting will be September 16, 2019. The Chair reminded the group that work on the Annual Report will begin at that time to forward in time to Senate's December 2, 2019 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta