SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

MINUTES

May 15, 2017 ~ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Maggie Benston Centre ~ Room 3107

Attendees: S. Spector (Chair), M. Bhakthan, M. Chua, D. Coburn, J. Derksen, J. Hinchliffe (secretary), R. Khan Hemani, D. MacAllister, C. Percival, K. Stewart

Regrets: S. Easton, P. Tupper

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 20, 2017

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. New Business

a. Changes to the SFU Entrance Scholarship Program (SPCSAB 17-02)

M. Bhakthan gave a brief overview. He stated that it has been a year since Alex Usher’s report of the major entrance scholarship program and since then through conversations with various groups and the creation of a subcommittee, there is a comfort level with moving forward with the changes.

The Chair briefly explained the motions presented to the committee and opened it up for discussion before the motions were presented.

Some concerns expressed by committee members included:

- Principles and timing – recognize the issue of when offers are made and who our pool is
- Criteria for maintenance – if we look at non-academic criteria, we don’t consider this once they are in the university; we want them to reach out to the scholastic community and garner the benefits to interact with their peer group;
- Message taken away that we accept applications from third world countries
- Cgpa of 3.0 – too low

Discussion ensued with the focus on ensuring the terms of reference are accurate and capture all the aspects of the student’s academic career at SFU.
It was suggested that Professional Development should occur immediately for a student which is when they need it most although other members felt drawing up a plan so early pushes students towards a plan they don’t really want to pursue. The main concern should be what happens at the end after instalments have been disbursed. Does support for the student end? Or if a student drops below the requirements to continue the scholarship. Need to find out reasons. The ultimate goal is to help the student succeed.

There was much discussion and concern regarding the required cgpa of 3.0. Some members felt that 3.0 was too low and students at this level should be able to reach or maintain a 3.5 cgpa. It was suggested to award only those students who are able to reach and maintain a 3.5 or to revise the terms to award for 5 terms and subsequent installments requirement of 3.5 cgpa. R. Khan Hemani explained the 3.0 is the “in between” standard as there are students that cannot reach higher.

All agreed that monitoring the grades should be part of the review to determine whether the set 3.0 is too low and/or should be raised to 3.25. With more data, it can be determined whether or not the 3.0 should be revised. There was concern if we do raise the cgpa, there is possibility losing students to UBC. All agreed to revise the language to include the new set of requirements which should set the expectations on both sides.

**Motion 1**

It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by K. Stewart

“that SPCSAB approve

- the suspension of the SFU automatic scholarship programs for high school students and the existing Major Entrance Scholarships
- reallocation of the SFU automatic scholarship and Major Entrance Scholarships funding to the new Entrance Scholarship program effective Spring 2019.”

CARRIED

**Motion 2**

It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by K. Stewart

“that SPCSAB approve the terms of reference for the SFU Entrance Scholarship Program for both domestic and international undergraduate students effective Fall 2018.”

CARRIED

It was noted that a new name is needed for this new entrance scholarship and all agreed the name should include the word ‘entrance’, describe the wide range of students at SFU and have the potential to become known as a prestigious award through its name and the award itself. Further discussion is needed at a future SPCSAB meeting.

**Motion 3**

It was moved by K. Stewart and seconded by C. Percival

“that SPCSAB approve that current students who have been awarded the following Major Entrance Scholarships prior to the Fall of 2018:

a) Simon Fraser Entrance Scholarship
b) Simon Fraser Alumni Leadership Entrance Scholarship
c) Gordon M. Shrum Entrance Scholarship (includes Shad Valley Shrum and National Shrum)
d) SFU Africa Entrance Scholarship  
e) SFU Aga Khan Academies Entrance Scholarship  
f) W. Ronald Heath Entrance Scholarship for United World College students

may elect prior to the start of the Fall 2018 term to comply with the terms of reference of the new SFU Entrance Scholarship program. Once made, this choice is irrevocable.”

CARRIED

Discussion is needed to decide what the transcript will look like if the new program is selected.

**Motion 4**
It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by K. Stewart

“that SPCSAB approve that the new Major Entrance Scholarship be reviewed no later than the end of the third year (Fall 2020) by the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries.”

CARRIED

4. **Other Business**

Items to be brought back to the next SPCSAB meeting:

- M. Bhakthan and R. Khan Hemani to bring information for discussion regarding non-monetary support for recipients; programming possibilities
- Possible name for new scholarship
- June 19th – possible meeting date

R. Khan Hemani thanked the sub-committee Paul Tupper (absent) who was very helpful at the onset of this project; she extended a big thank you to Colin Percival and Steven Spector for their commitment and the many hours they put into this review and many thanks to Manoj Bhakthan for spearheading the project.

The Chair thanked the committee for being flexible and keeping an open mind to the significant changes made to the MES.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta