SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

September 17, 2018 ~ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Maggie Benston Centre ~ Room 3107

MINUTES

Attendees: S. Spector (Chair), G. Agnes (for J. Derksen), M. Bhakthan, R. Khan Hemani, P. Nepomnaschy, C. Percival, P. Tupper

Regrets: H. Batish (student), R. Dawson, J. Derksen, A. Khan (student), M. Parent

Introductions were made for the benefit of the new members.

1. Approval of the Agenda

There was one item added to the agenda under Other Business: Election of a Chair. The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Approval of the Minutes of January 15, 2018

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Chair’s Report

The Chair welcomed the new members and thanked the current members, adding that it has been challenging recruiting volunteers to sit on SPCSAB.

4. New Business

a. Graduate Studies

1. Provost Prize of Distinction (PPD) (SPCSAB 18-03)

Approved by electronic ballot February 19, 2018 due to the cancelled February SPCSAB meeting. There were 7 YES responses therefore the motion was passed.

Motion 1
It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by C. Percival

“that SPCSAB approve the changes to the Terms of Reference for the Provost Prize of Distinction effective Spring 2018.”

CARRIED
The committee was asked for any further feedback or comments regarding the proposed changes. A question was posed by G. Agnes regarding the requirement of 3.50 CGPA for graduate scholarships and since there was no other representation for Graduate Studies at the meeting, G. Agnes will follow up with R. Dawson directly.

2. Pilot Award: Thesis Completion Fellowship (SPCSAB 18-04)

Approved by electronic ballot March 20, 2018 due to the cancelled March SPCSAB meeting. There were 8 YES responses and 1 NO response therefore the motion was passed.

Motion 2
It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by C. Percival

"that SPCSAB approve the Terms of Reference for the new award (Pilot): Thesis Completion Fellowship (TCF) effective Fall 2018."

CARRIED

3. Indigenous Graduate Student Travel Award (SPCSAB 18-05)

(i) Changes to the Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Graduate Student Travel Award

Motion 3
It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by P. Nepomnaschy

"that SPCSAB approve the changes to the Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Graduate Student Travel Award as amended Fall 2018."

CARRIED

This agenda item was presented for review by the committee. There was much discussion and a few revisions to the Terms of Reference:

• Revise item 1 in the Terms of Reference to read: ‘The purpose of the Indigenous Graduate Travel Award is to provide financial support for Indigenous graduate students for a travel component important to their research.’
• Revise item 6, first bullet, ‘a completed budget that accounts for the requested amount.’
• Also under item 6 – a letter from the student explaining why the travel is important and a letter from the Supervisor/Mentor to support and approve why the travel is important.

Discussion ensued with regard to how a student could apply for more than one award and obtain multiple funding and how the budgets work for travel awards. There was a question as to whether this information was already being captured through an online application process and if not, it should be. G. Agnes will follow up with R. Dawson to ensure that students have a budget and can explain how the travel is important for their research, when applying for this opportunity.
b. Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships

1. SFU Community Entrance Awards (SPCSAB 18-06)

Motion 4
It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by P. Nepomnaschy

“That SPCSAB approve the elimination of the SFU Community Entrance Awards effective Summer 2019, and for fiscal 2019/20 onwards, funding for this award be officially transferred to the SFU USES program account.”

CARRIED

M. Bhakthan provided a brief overview of this agenda item and some general discussion ensued. M. Bhakthan indicated he would provide some data on the new SFU USES program at a future meeting, when it becomes available.

2. Recommended Changes to the Entrance Scholarships for College and University Transfers

(i) Elimination of the William Hamilton Transfer Entrance Scholarship (SPCSAB 18-07)

Motion 5
It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by P. Nepomnaschy

“That SPCSAB approve the elimination of the William Hamilton Transfer Entrance Scholarship effective Summer 2019, and for fiscal 2019/20 onwards, funding for this scholarship be officially transferred and evenly distributed between the Ken Caple Transfer Entrance Scholarship and the International Summit Transfer Scholarship program accounts.”

CARRIED

M. Bhakthan provided some background of this agenda item and its intent, explaining that the majority of our college/university transfer scholarships are automatic and this one-off student application scholarship has a limited number of students applying. Some of the colleges became polytechnic or teaching universities and are doing more to retain these students rather than see them transfer to other post-secondary institutions. M. Bhakthan answered questions posed by the committee members including the GPA qualifications for these scholarships and the possibility of increasing the GPA to attract higher quality of students as well as a request for data regarding college transfers compared to direct high school students. M. Bhakthan and R. Khan Hemani explained that the GPA requirements to receive these transfer scholarships are already quite high, and that further significant analysis would be required to compare college students to high school students in terms of their academic standing. They are different student populations coming in to SFU through different academic routes. Therefore, data comparisons would be difficult to complete due to the different variables and the ability to put them on equivalent scales of assessment. R. Khan Hemani explained that anecdotally, students entering as college/university transfers, do well the first year, first term but secondary students have better academic outcomes in general, over the long term. It was explained that the decision to eliminate this scholarship would also create some administrative efficiencies to how college/university transfer scholarships are processed.
(ii) Changes to the Terms of Reference for the Ken Caple Transfer Entrance Scholarship and the International Summit Transfer Scholarship (SPCSA 18-08)

**Motion 6**
It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by P. Nepomnaschy

“That SPCSAB approve the changes to the Terms of Reference for the Ken Caple Transfer Entrance Scholarship and the International Summit Transfer Scholarship, effective Summer 2019.”

CARRIED

6. **Other Business**

1. **Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Motion 7**
It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by G. Agnes

“That SPCSAB approve P. Nepomnaschy for Chair of the Senate Policy Committee for Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries.”

CARRIED

**Motion 8**
It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by G. Agnes

“That SPCSAB approve S. Spector for Vice-Chair of the Senate Policy Committee for Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries.”

CARRIED

Many thanks to S. Spector for serving as Vice-Chair in the interim of electing a Chair for SPCSAB. The Terms of reference state that the Chair of SPCSAB should be a faculty member sitting on Senate. P. Nepomnaschy was nominated and approved by the Committee. Due to P. Nepomnaschy’s frequent travel for research, all agreed to re-elect S. Spector to continue serving as Vice-Chair for the committee. S. Spector and the Registrar will work together with P. Nepomnaschy to review procedures, processes and prepare the annual report for Senate. The draft annual report should be completed by the October meeting, to be ready for November SCAR. This year’s report is mostly housekeeping and there should be no issues. S. Spector will attend Senate in January to present the annual report.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of data to address questions and inform the committee in making decisions. There was a suggestion to hire a co-op student to compile data for this committee. R. Khan Hemani indicated that the committee can identify a specific project to work on and to have IRP and BPA obtain data to inform decision making. It was suggested to include the questions raised at meetings at the bottom of the minutes to be brought forward to a future SPCSAB meeting. This will determine the need for specific data requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm
Minutes prepared by T. Bedmundson/R. Balletta