SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

January 21, 2019 ~ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Maggie Benston Centre ~ Room 3107

MINUTES

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

Regrets: R. Dawson, P. Tupper

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2018

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Chair’s Report

The annual report will be presented at the February 4th Senate meeting. The Chair also added that his term as acting Chair will expire at the end of May and asked the group if there were any other members interested in the position. All agreed to have S. Spector continue as acting Chair until any other members express interest in the role. Discussion ensued regarding the absence of student representation on this committee as well as other senate committees and the solutions to remedy the problem.

4. New Business

a. Financial Aid and Awards

1. Phi Theta Kappa Entrance International Summit Scholarship (SPCSAB 19-01)

Motion 1
It was moved by C. Percival and seconded by P. Nepomnaschy

“that SPCSAB approve the elimination of the Phi Theta Kappa International Summit Scholarship as funding associated with this scholarship will become part of the International Summit Transfer Scholarship account, effective Spring 2019.”

CARRIED
2. Aboriginal Student Bursary (SPCSAB 19-02)

Motion 2
It was moved by G. Agnes and seconded by P. Nepomnaschy

“That SPCSAB approve the changes to the Terms of Reference for the SFU Aboriginal Student Bursary to read as follows:

**SFU Aboriginal Student Bursary**

*Bursaries are available each term to Canadian Aboriginal students attending Simon Fraser University who meet the following criteria:*

- Are enrolled full-time in the term of eligibility
- Are in good academic standing; and
- Have demonstrated financial need

*The bursaries will be administered by the office of Financial Aid and Awards and granted by the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee."

This change would be effective Spring 2019.

CARRIED

M. Bhakthan provided a brief overview of this agenda item and answered questions from the committee members. Discussion ensued with focus on the following:

- Is this applicable to undergraduate as well as graduate students? Yes, undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply
- What constitutes a full-time student? For undergraduate, 9 or more units per term, and graduate students, must be in a research thesis program or full-time grad credit program in the term of eligibility

M. Bhakthan explained that students submit a general bursary application and the Financial Aid and Awards office matches bursaries to eligible students. Students don’t apply directly to a specific bursary but provide information within the application that could make them eligible.

- Is there consistent support besides bursaries for Aboriginal students? Yes, this is just one of many university and donor funded awards, scholarships and bursaries available across all faculties, for this student group. Aboriginal students are eligible to apply for all SFU scholarships, awards, and bursaries, not just ones dedicated to them. At this point in time, for financial aid and awards purposes, students just need to self-identify as Aboriginal, to be eligible. Some commentary in regards to the Jay Treaty was briefly discussed amongst members. M. Bhakthan indicated that the Financial Aid and Awards office works closely with collaborators to ensure awareness of these opportunities for Aboriginal students.

G. Agnes indicated that Graduate Studies made a change to the names of its Aboriginal awards to Indigenous awards, based on some community feedback. He recommended that Financial Aid and Awards consider doing the same. R. Khan Hemani indicated the fact that officially the university still has the Office for Aboriginal Peoples and until such time there was an institutional decision that titles will remain as they are. However, through further discussion, SPCSAB granted Financial Aid and
Awards the opportunity to change the name of its awards, scholarships, and bursaries, from Aboriginal to Indigenous, in future, should an institutional decision be made to do so, without the need for it to come back to the committee for approval of changes to the terms of reference. All agreed this should be revisited at a future general Senate meeting for discussion.

Discussion continued touching on other types of students including mature students and refugees and the types of supports that were available to them at SFU.

5. Other Business

Possible cancellation of the February 25th SPCSAB meeting as there are no foreseeable pressing business as well as the absence of the Chair.

M. Bhakthan added that any urgent matters could be voted electronically.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

Minutes prepared by R. Balletta