Purpose of the Endowment

Knowledge generation and knowledge transfer through research, scholarship, and training are fundamental to the mission of the University. Simon Fraser University has developed a research environment that is sustained by the creativity and excellence of individual researchers. The SFU Community Trust Endowment Fund will contribute to the University’s support of research, teaching and scholarship by:

- enhancing SFU’s research intensity and distinctiveness
- supporting the implementation of SFU’s Strategic Research Plan
- attracting and supporting outstanding students, particularly those who will enhance the University’s research capacity, and whose education will be enhanced by a research-intensive experience.

Terms of Reference

The SFU Community Trust Endowment Fund will channel income into major initiatives outlined in the Strategic Research Plan, and will support the following types of endeavours:

1. Research assistantships for graduate or undergraduate students
2. Salary for visiting faculty and research associates
3. Equipment, facilities and data for support of new faculty and students
4. Conference sponsorship
5. Student incubator activities

Adjudication and Administration

The responsibility for approving use of the earned income from the SFU Community Trust Endowment Fund, up to $3.5 million annually, will be vested in the President, Vice-President, Academic and Vice-President, Research who will consider recommendations from an Advisory Committee comprised of the Associate Vice-President, Research, the Faculty Deans, and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Process

A Call for Proposals will be issued annually until 2019. Applications must originate within research teams comprised of 5 or more SFU faculty members from at least 2 disciplinary areas identified in the Strategic Research Plan. Applications must show support from the relevant Chairs/Directors and Deans.
Evaluation Criteria

1. Support implementation of SFU’s Strategic Research Plan as may be revised from time to time
2. Potential to attract external funding where appropriate
3. Potential to be self-sustaining and self-funding
4. Maximum $500K each year per project over a maximum of 5 years, except as provided below

Renewal

1. Project funding will be for a maximum of 5 years but may be renewed
2. Renewal applications must be externally reviewed by subject matter experts
3. Successful renewal applications will demonstrate success at attracting and graduating students
4. If an application for renewal is unsuccessful, all appointments made under A10.06 will result in the faculty member’s salary reverting to the academic salary. Academic salaries will be supported by the fund to a maximum of 3 additional years after which they become the responsibility of the Faculty(s).

Fund Administration

The SFU Community Trust Endowment Fund will be held by Simon Fraser University in perpetuity. Earned income on the Endowment will be used each year to support the endeavours of the Endowment. The fund administrator will be the President. Disbursements from the Endowment’s income will be determined by the President, Vice-President, Academic and Vice-President, Research in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

In the event that circumstances make the specified use of the Endowment Fund no longer practicable or desirable, the Board of Governors of Simon Fraser University is hereby authorized to make any changes it may deem necessary in the terms or use of the Endowment Fund, such changes, however, to be in keeping as far as possible with the original spirit and general intent of the Endowment Fund.

Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by June 26, 2019, or sooner.