

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Scholarships, Awards

SM 4/12/67

Mr. D.P. Robertson

From Dr. A.M. Unrau

Registrar

Chemistry Department

Subject Senate Paper-67

Date November 3, 1967

to be considered at the next Senate meeting.

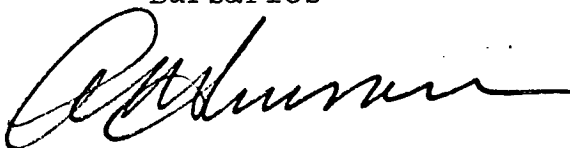
I have recently received paper S-67 from Mr. Wong in which a proposal is made to revise University awards and athletic awards. Although I have no objection to the Senate considering this paper as it is presented, I would very much wish to urge Senate not to act on this paper until such time that the Senate Committee on University Scholarships and Awards has time to submit a paper in which some of the contentions contained in paper S-67 are put into their proper perspective.

Paper S-67 contains a number of inaccurate statements and in general is not founded on fact. A reference is drawn from a report of the Committee on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries, March 1, 1967, in which the relative values of athletic awards and University awards were given but are quoted out of context.

I should further like to inform Senate that because of paper S-67, I feel it is necessary for the Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries, to submit a more accurate statement as to the state of affairs and this will be done in the very near future. Hopefully this can be done before the December meeting of Senate.

A.M. Unrau
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Scholarships, Awards, and
Bursaries

AMU/sft



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY *Scholarship*Paper S-79 *Unrau*

MEMORANDUM

SM 4/12/67

Chairman, Simon Fraser University	From Dr. A.M. Unrau
Senate	Department of Chemistry
Subject Paper S-67, Revision of University Awards and Athletic Awards	Date November 28, 1967

The provision of University and Athletic Awards at Simon Fraser University is rather unique in a Canadian University scene, in that at no other university is such a program in existence. In a sense, this program is an experiment in order to determine whether certain goals can be obtained in the fields of athletics and extracurricular activities which fall under University Awards. These goals may be briefly described as follows.

1. To determine whether financial support of athletics and other university activities will result in students maintaining their academic standing as well as attaining the necessary excellence in athletics and other university activities.
2. To assess if possible the contributions that these programs will make to the university and the community at large.

The program of University Awards and Athletic Awards was financed by assigning a budget of \$50,000 per year, which was to be divided equally between Athletic Awards and University Awards. It may be envisioned that at least part of the sum, particularly in the field of athletics, will eventually be phased out when sufficient acceptable financial support is forthcoming from private sources. Some success to this end has been evident in the case of athletic awards, however, in the case of university awards, very little, if any, private endowment is at the present time available.

The programs falling under University Awards and Athletic Awards have only been in operation for two years. It certainly is much too early to arrive at meaningful evaluations at this time. It would, of course, be necessary in order to arrive at a valid evaluation, that the academic success of students deriving support from either of the two awards be measured in equitable fashion against the success of students who were not under such awards. It is expected that meaningful statistics can be attained in the next few years. It is, therefore, highly undesirable at this time to switch boats in midstream and digress in some nebulous pursuit.

As indicated in my previous submission to Senate, Paper S-67 contains a rather significant number of erroneous statements. In order to highlight the inaccuracies, I shall take them as they appear in the paper.

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Paragraph one, page one: Athletic Awards are not only available to male athletes but are also available to female athletes. Obviously it isn't likely that female applications would be received in the field of university football. However, it is very likely that applications would be received in swimming and now, track and field. For the information of Senate and Senator Wong I wish to remind that one of the largest athletic awards which was made in the past was made to the well known swimmer, Mary Stewart. It is now definitely foreseen that a female track specialist will undoubtedly receive an athletic award and probably receive one of the larger awards presently available.

In the last paragraph of page one, the same point is again made in that athletic awards are only available to male athletes, and this time it is only 100 male athletes participating in the four varsity sports. This is indeed a very misleading statement. All of the 5,000 students presently enrolled at Simon Fraser University are potentially eligible for athletic awards. The fact that only a small fraction of the 5,000 students will receive athletic awards should be obvious in so far as that only the best athletes who can maintain the minimum academic requirements will eventually receive an award. Similarly, 5,000 students are potentially eligible to receive university awards. It goes without saying that only a very small fraction of these students would be eligible since they do not have the necessary qualifications to, in fact, obtain a university award. Much fewer than 100 students on campus would eventually be recipients of university awards for this reason. The inequality which Senator Wong wishes to bring out simply is not there, and if there were any inequality at all, we should be considering fewer students for university awards and possibly more students for athletic awards because generally speaking more students will participate, or will have participated, in some athletics at the high school or university level. In this connection the following should be pointed out. At the present time a rather rigorous screening program has been instituted by the Department of Athletics in which thousands of potential applicants are screened before any serious consideration is given with respect to the granting of athletic awards. For example, over 2,000 students will be screened in the field of football; 1,500 students will be screened for basketball; approximately 500 students will be screened for swimming; and about the same number will be screened for track and field. This does not exclude recognized experts in fields other than those mentioned.

Point two, page two: Senator Wong again makes the erroneous statement that women athletes are not eligible for either athletic awards or university awards. It is true that women athletes are not necessarily eligible for university awards, but they are indeed eligible for athletic awards; and as indicated earlier, one of the largest athletic awards was made to a woman athlete. It is anticipated and certainly hoped that a larger proportion of awards will be made to female athletes who have the necessary academic and athletic qualifications. It is, of course, also hoped that as funds become available that a larger number of athletic endeavors can be recognized under the athletic awards system in the very near future. It

is simply not sensible nor feasible at this time to, in a sense take limited financial resources and build a vast athletic network which would, however, be mediocre. A similar situation would arise in the case of university awards.

Point three, page two: It is quite true that students participating in sports clubs would undoubtedly not meet the requirements for the receipt of an athletic award. There is nothing, however, to prevent such students from participating in varsity sports and depending on their prowess in such sports, they could in fact be eligible and also receive an athletic award.

Point four: There is no basic difference in criteria used in evaluating students' contributions or potential with respect to athletic and university awards. The amounts which are quoted in point four for university awards and athletic awards are quoted out of context. The fact that recipients of university awards received an average award of \$121 has no bearing on whether or not, in the event that additional funds had been available, a larger average award would have been made. The writer fails to mention that since the institution of university awards, the amount allocated for each semester has never been entirely used, and a considerable amount has been turned into bursaries. This was due to the fact that the applicants did not have the high qualifications deemed necessary for a full university award. The mere fact that a newspaper reporter writes a column in the student newspaper, which the readers cannot understand, does not entitle such a reporter to a full amount; namely, \$219 per semester. The figures of \$204 per athletic award and \$121 per university award do bear out one very important point and that is that generally speaking the applicants for athletic awards more often than not met the full requirements for receiving such an award, and consequently, larger awards were made. At the present time, it is extremely unlikely that increasing the university awards fund would result in larger university awards made to the successful applicants. As indicated earlier, even with the moderate sums available a considerable amount of this money is in fact turned back into university bursaries.

Point five: It is quite true that holders of athletic awards are expected to participate in the particular athletic endeavor in which they received the award. Funds simply are not available to encourage the week end golfer or the week end skier. It is true that students entering university for the first time may receive a university award based on the contribution that they made during their last year in high school, regardless of whether or not the student participates in a similar endeavor while at the university. There is, however, nothing to prevent this same student from receiving a further university award on the basis of contributions made while actively attending the university. It is difficult to know whether point five is a criticism or a statement of fact.

Under Senator Wong's paragraph pertaining to methods of selection, on page three a point is made that high school students

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should be eligible to receive awards for their contribution to their high school and/or community life when they first apply for admission to Simon Fraser University. This is in fact already enforced as is the practice that a student while at the university is eligible to receive an award for his contribution in the current semester at the commencement of the next semester that he attends. Further on page three, a statement is made to the effect that Senator Wong's proposals for revision will in fact enable many more students to compete for university awards. This is simply not true since all of the students who are presently enrolled at Simon Fraser University are potentially eligible for either athletic awards or university awards, and the proposed change would have no influence on this whatsoever.

It is therefore strongly recommended that the present system by which athletic awards and university awards are made should not be changed but should in fact be allowed to develop and hopefully to a point where athletic awards as such would become self sufficient, and the same, although less likely, could be hoped for in the case of university awards. In order to make both athletic awards and university awards meaningful, the students who apply for such awards should meet the necessary qualifications set forth by the President's Committees on athletic and university awards and that if anything, the qualifications should be examined periodically and increased if necessary. It is further felt that only after an additional two years will it be possible to attain some evaluation of the programs. Only after an elapse of three to four years would meaningful statistics be available.

Respectfully submitted

A.M. Unrau
Chairman
Senate Committee on Scholarships
Awards and Bursaries

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Paper S-67

October 25, 1967

A Proposal to revise University Awards and Athletic Awards

by Stan Wong

At present the University makes two types of awards to students who make contributions to university or community life and at the same time maintain a pass average. The University Awards are given to those students who make substantial contributions to university or community life in all areas other than athletics. The student is required to have a pass average. The Athletic Awards are given to those students who excel in university or high school athletics and also maintain a pass average. These Athletic Awards are only available to male athletes participating in university football, swimming, basketball, and now track and field.

These two types of awards are financed from the University's own treasury. The Board of Governors annually budget \$50,000 for these awards; \$25,000 for Athletic Awards and \$25,000 for University Awards.

The President's Advisory Committee on University Awards, chaired by Dr. Tom Mallinson, and the President's Advisory Committee on Athletic Awards, chaired by Dr. Glen Kirchner, are responsible for establishing regulations governing the awards, although the Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries, chaired by Dr. A. Unrau, is required to review and approve all regulations.

Proposal: that the present University Awards and Athletic Awards be scrapped and replaced by one type of award, hereforth designated as University Awards*. Each award* can be designated as to what area the student has made his contribution, e.g. University Award*--Athletics, University Award*--Newspaper.

Reasons:

1. The present Athletic Awards are available to only about 100 male athletes in four varsity sports while University Awards are available to the other 5,000 students. The inequality here is that 100 students are

competing for \$25,000 while 5,000 compete for \$25,000.

2. Students participating in women athletics are not eligible for either Athletic Awards or University Awards.

3. Students participating in sports clubs are also not eligible for either award.

4. The criteria used in evaluating a student's contribution appear to be quite different. For example, in Fall 1966, 53 students received Athletic Awards of an average of \$204 while 49 students received University Awards of an average of \$121. (Reference: Report of the Committee on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries dated March 1, 1967) Part of the difference in the number of awards made can be attributed to the fact that many students participating in non-athletic activities do not apply while almost all athletes are encouraged to apply by their coaches.

5. All recipients of Athletic Awards are more or less required to participate as a condition for receiving an award while those receiving University Awards are encouraged but not required to continue to participate.

Financing:

The new Awards* can be financed from the existing \$50,000 budgeted for the present University Awards and Athletic Awards.

Method of Selection:

1. The Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards, etc. with the assistance of the two President's advisory committees draw up a plan for implementation.
2. These new regulations should include the following suggestion:

A High school student is eligible to receive an Award* for his contribution to high school and/or community life when he first apply for admission to University.

A student at university is eligible to receive an Award* for his contribution in the current semester at the commencement of the next semester he attends.

The University should continue to accept, and award privately-financed athletic scholarships.

Although this proposal for revision will not affect the eligibility of those presently receiving or have received awards, it will enable many more students to compete for University Awards*.

It is my feeling that the University should recognize, encourage, and support all types of student extra-curricular activity which will be beneficial to the university community or the community at large and to the education of the student.

Stan Wong/October 25, 1967

Reference: Report of the Committee on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries dated March 1, 1967

Copies of the Proposal: 1. Dr. Tom Mallinson, Chairman, President's Advisory Committee on University Awards
2. Dr. Glen Kirchner, Chairman, President's Advisory Committee on Athletic Awards
3. Dr. A Unrau, Chairman, Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries