

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**MEMORANDUM****TO:** Senate**FROM:** Senate Policy Committee on
Scholarships, Awards &
Bursaries**SUBJECT:** Changes to Graduate Student
Financial Support Program**DATE:** September 25, 1986

Action taken by the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate ratify the following changes to the graduate student financial support program:

- a) to eliminate the President's Research Stipend for Masters students
- b) to retain the President's Research Stipend for Ph.D students
- c) to eliminate the Open Graduate Scholarship
- d) to eliminate the Graduate Research Fellowships
- e) to allocate each year a specific number of 1-semester awards to each department. Consideration of graduate student enrollment in departments will be a determining factor in the allocations. Each department will be ensured at least three 1-semester awards per annum
- f) to allow departments to utilize their allocation of 1-semester awards, and to recommend 1, 2, or 3-semester awards for individual students. The Graduate Adjudication Awards Committee will make final decisions of individual awards based on departmental recommendations
- g) to retain the Special Entrance Scholarships
- h) to retain approximately 10% of the graduate awards budget for discretionary allocation by the Policy Committee in allocation of funds for Special Arrangement Students, Special Entrance Scholarships and program development
- i) to retain the Bursary, Loan and Work-Study programs
- j) to eliminate the President's Research Stipend for Masters students effective 1987-1
- k) to phase in the other changes by 1987-3"

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate

FROM: Senate Policy Committee on
Scholarships, Awards &
Bursaries

SUBJECT: Overview of Changes to Graduate
Student Financial Support Program

DATE: September 25, 1986

The Annual Report from the Chairman of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries (S.86-45) provides a summary of the program that has been developed over the past number of years, and includes in Part IV the attached overview of the changes that are proposed for the Graduate Program commencing with the 87-1 Semester.

Overview of Changes in the Graduate Program beginning 1987-1

During the past 20 years there has evolved in this University a program of scholarships, awards and bursaries which has retained its flexibility to respond to the changing needs of students. Simon Fraser University has been particularly supportive of scholarships, awards and bursaries and now allocates a greater proportion of its operating budget to student support than does any other university in Canada.

The scholarships program as it has developed over the last 20 years has been well received with the university and I believe has functioned well. There have been relatively few complaints. SCSAB has introduced a constellation of mechanisms for responding immediately to unique needs, especially in respect to the recruitment of both undergraduate and graduate students. The committee has introduced the Graduate Research Fellowship, made Open Graduate Scholarships tenable for one year and established several different entrance scholarships some of which carry two and three year commitments. Many other innovations intended to maximize the ability of the program to deal with the diverse needs of the University community have also been developed. There have been some problems which emerged due to restraint in the context of increasing demands, but these have not been serious or ongoing. The explicit policy of SCSAB was to increasingly move toward awards which made longer term commitments and to emphasise entrance scholarships in an attempt to attract students to this university. In addition the committee has implemented a more equal allocation of funds to graduate students and the split is now about 50% between undergraduate and graduate support.

IV. continued

The committee has also encouraged the development of Work-Study programs at the graduate levels and increased allocations to graduate bursary programs (non-repayable grants based on need), both of which add to total graduate student support.

However, recently there have been increasing pressures to change the graduate student support system to one which is simpler and allows for longer term planning on the part of both departments and students. During the past many years there has also been much discussion of the role of the President's Research Stipend (known as The Stipend) in respect to whether it serves its original function and whether the funds it utilises could be better used in other graduate scholarship programs. The Dean of Graduate Studies initiated a series of discussions focused on the changes in the program which would deal with these concerns.

The proposed changes were circulated to all Chairmen, Deans, V.P.s and the President for comment.

After considering the responses received the Policy Committee approved the following and agreed that the changes outlined below be ratified by Senate.

IV. continued

- A) To eliminate the President's Research Stipend for Masters students.
- B) To retain the President's Research Stipend for Ph.D. students.
- C) To eliminate the Open Graduate Scholarship.
- D) To eliminate the Graduate Research Fellowships.
- E) To allocate each year a specific number of 1-semester awards to each department. Consideration of graduate student enrollment in departments will be a determining factor in the allocations. Each department will be ensured at least three 1-semester awards per annum.
- F) To allow departments to utilize their allocation of 1-semester awards, and to recommend 1, 2, or 3-semester awards for individual students.

The Graduate Adjudication Awards Committee will make final decisions of individual awards based on departmental recommendations.
- G) To retain the Special Entrance Scholarships.
- H) To retain approximately 10% of the graduate awards budget for discretionary allocation by the Policy Committee in allocation of funds for Special Arrangement Students, Special Entrance Scholarships and program development.
- I) To retain the Bursary, Loan and Work-Study programs.
- J) To eliminate the President's Research Stipend for Masters students effective 1987-1.
- K) To phase in the other changes by 1987-3.