



Senate & Academic Services

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	January 10, 2013
FROM	Stephen T. Easton, Chair Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries	PAGES	1/3
RE:	Annual Report (SPCSAB 12-10 and 12-11)		

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

Overview: SPCSAB is the committee charged by Senate with setting policy for the administration of awards, student scholarships, bursaries and other forms of financial aid at SFU. It should be noted that this is primarily for internal awards. Three other Senate committees, namely SUAAC (Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee), SGAAC (Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee) and SCUH (Senate Committee on University Honors) adjudicate financial awards to students where adjudication is needed. Financial Aid and Awards, a unit within Student Services, administers undergraduate scholarships and awards programs, and needs-based funding opportunities including government student loan programs, Work-Study, and bursaries for both undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate Studies administers all internal and external scholarships, and awards for graduate students.

For the 2011-12 fiscal year, the total amount of student financial aid and awards from all sources (undergraduate and graduate) was up 1.8 percent to \$73.1 from \$71.7 million in 2010-2011. Financial aid and awards managed internally rose to \$13.2 million from \$12.8 million which was an increase of 3.1 percent. Externally supported financial aid for 2011-12 rose 1.5 percent from \$59 to \$59.9 million. Of internal managed funding, year over year undergraduate entrance scholarship funding disbursed rose by 2.2 percent from \$4.3 to \$4.6 million as the total number of awards rose to 2,031 from 1,933. International undergraduate entrance scholarships increased by 14 percent in number and 15 percent in funding awarded (although they comprise only 23 percent of the funding disbursed of all entrance awards.) The overall in-course and open scholarship budget declined by 8 percent from \$2.67 to \$2.46 million with the bulk of the decrease taking place in the Open Undergraduate Scholarships which dropped in total value by 19 percent even though the number eligible increased by 15 percent. Although the value per unit was again set at \$70, unlike the previous year, no

additional funding was added to boost the final unit values which had been \$70, \$100, and \$110 in previous Summer, Fall and Spring terms.

The funding disbursed for all bursaries provided by the University was up by 4 percent in 2011-12 while the number of bursaries awarded declined by 14 percent to 4,781. The greatest part of this was a decline of 29 percent in the number of domestic undergraduate university funded awards (from 3,015 to 2,168). Average bursary per recipient was up by 21 percent (\$932 from \$771) with a 51 percent increase in the domestic undergraduate bursary to \$981 from \$651.

The value of athletic awards rose by 63 percent year over year to \$956,000 with a 37 percent increase in the number of awards. Funding disbursed for Work Study opportunities for undergraduates rose by 6 percent while the number of students receiving funding remained unchanged.

Total funding for SFU graduate students in 2011-12 from internal and external sources was \$16.2 million up from \$15.4 million in 2010-11. Total internally funded graduate awards rose 26 percent to \$8.9 million from \$7.1 million in 2010-11. Graduate scholarships/fellowships provided by faculties and schools at SFU increased by over 16 percent to \$278,000, and various other internally funded awards rose by 46 percent to \$1.84 million. There was an increase of 22 percent to \$6.8 million attributable to increases in graduate fellowships, CD Nelson Scholarships and General Entrance scholarships. Of the current Graduate SBA funding, 61 percent was awarded as Graduate Fellowships, 13 percent for President's Ph.D. Research Stipends, 5 percent for Special Graduate Entrance Scholarships, 5 percent for the C.D. Nelson Entrance Scholarships and 3 percent for the Provost Scholarship. Travel and other minor grants made up the remainder (4.3 percent). It is noteworthy that internally funded graduate awards in 2011-12 have more than recovered from the 5 percent decline that took place between 2009-10 to 2010-11 while externally funded graduate support fell by 12 percent between 2010-11 and 2011-12. This decrease was primarily due to the termination of the B.C. government funding programs.

Other Items of Interest

- The scholarship retention success rate on second disbursement for the automatic BC Secondary School Academic Excellence Scholarship moved from 88 percent to 89 percent in 2011-12.
- The overall number of undergraduate Entrance scholarships offered versus final registrants whom the scholarships were disbursed to in Fall 2011, was steady at about 28 percent, as it was in Fall 2010.
- The scholarship retention success rate on second disbursement for the Gordon Shrum BC Secondary School Major Entrance Scholarship has been above 90 percent for the past 5 years in a row.
- The total calculated financial need decreased approximately 28 percent from the previous year. This was in large part due to revisions that were made to the bursary needs assessment process from Fall 2011 onward.
- Individual student bursaries for domestic and grandfathered international students were awarded at an annual average of 67 percent of assessed need, which was approximately

24 percent higher than the previous year. This can be attributed to changes made to the bursary needs assessment living allowance.

- University designated bursaries to support aboriginal students (both graduate and undergraduate) in high financial need again showed a 23 percent increase in bursary funding awarded over the previous year.
- There was approximately a 19 percent increase in bursary funding awarded for domestic graduate students from the SFU Open Graduate Bursary compared to the previous year.
- Simon Fraser remained the 2nd largest user of the StudentAid BC government assistance programs for the 10th year in a row.
- At Simon Fraser approximately 21 percent of all undergraduate students received funding through StudentAid BC government assistance programs.