



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Tuesday, May 05, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Frank Robinson, Chair
Samar Barazesh
Angela Bayduza
Olivia Harris
Abbie Murison

Paul Myers

non-voting:

Wendy Doughty
Fiona Halbert
Jennifer Jennax

REGRETS:

Gary Eitzen
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga
Ariana Valacco

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Presenter(s): Frank Robinson, Chair of GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee (UABC)

Motion: Myers/Murison

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 7, 2020

Presenter(s): Frank Robinson, Chair of UABC

Motion: Myers/Murison

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve the open session minutes of April 7, 2020.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

Presenter(s): Frank Robinson, Chair of UABC

Discussion:

The Chair welcomed the new student members to the committee and asked the committee's resource members to give an update on their areas related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Supports gave an update, which included the following points:

- There was a recent federal funding announcement of \$9 billion in student supports due to COVID-19 related loss of employment opportunities through the summer. The details were not yet finalized, but the announcement included a proposed amount of \$1250 per month for those who were enrolled in winter

term, and \$1750 for those students with dependents. This funding was meant for those students not eligible for Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) funding and international students might be eligible.

- The federal government also committed to double all the grant (non-repayable) funding for the 2020/2021 year. Most of the grant programs were income-based grants, the largest being the Canada Grant for Full-Time Students. This grant would increase from \$3,000 to \$6,000 in the next year.
- There were expectations that federal and provincial student loan maximums would increase for the upcoming year.
- As of May 1, 2020 the university had funded 63 students directly affected by COVID-19 with a combined total of \$105,000.
- There were some FAQs on the COVID-19 website regarding funding available for spring/summer and fall terms, and information on this website would continue to be updated.
- Emergency support would be administered through the supplementary bursary program.
- The effects on merit based awards of the move to a credit/no-credit grading system for winter 2020 grades included:
 - awards requiring satisfactory academic standing were not affected;
 - those awards requiring superior academic standing would require that Faculties nominate and determine which students were eligible; and
 - continuing awards were expected to be renewed at the normal rate.

Ms Halbert added that she was sad to announce the loss of a staff member with the disruption of a position that provided financial literacy education and support for students in her office.

Dr Doughty, Assistant Dean Student Success, Office of the Dean of Students reported the following update:

- The available supports from the Office of the Registrar had been very important for students who were struggling.
- Workshops and all one-on-one consultations in the Office of the Dean of Students had moved online.
- First Peoples House and their Elders were also offering support online.
- The Dean of Students had purchased Chromebooks to loan to students. These worked for some students but others needed more complex technology for their studies.
- The Health Clinic and Pharmacy in the Student Union Building were still operating.
- Exam accommodations were challenging but they were learning a lot and moving forward.
- An issue with the current system was that accommodations were not available through zoom so they would continue to work to find strategies to help with this.

Ms Jennax, Senior Director, Advancement Services, Office of Advancement reported that the “Give to the U of A” button on the university homepage linked to a fundraising page set up for donors who wished to contribute to COVID-19 related student and research support. The funds highlighted were the *U of A Emergency Student Support Fund*, which was approved at UABC last month, and the *COVID-19 and Emerging Pathogens Research Fund*.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Annually Funded Financial Supports for Approval

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Support; Allen Wolfe, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar; Shari Klassen, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Myers/Harris

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the following new annually funded Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries, as submitted by Student Financial Support and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective immediately:

- Helen & Fred Bentley Award in Crop Sciences
- JLL Women in Real Estate Scholarship

CARRIED

5. New Endowed Financial Supports for Approval

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Support; Allen Wolfe, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar; Shari Klassen, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar

Discussion:

Members asked about the funding for the *Gordon English Memorial Bursary in Engineering* marked variable and for 2020-2021 only. Ms Halbert explained that the large first year gift was a result of the COVID-19 impact on student earnings and that the donor wanted to give money to more than one student that year.

Motion: Murison/Myers

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the following new endowed Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries, as submitted by Student Financial Support and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective immediately:

- Gordon English Memorial Bursary in Engineering
- Dr Marlon Michel Class of 1999 Award in Medicine
- Eastwood Family Undergraduate Award in Orthodontics

CARRIED

6. Amended Financial Supports for Approval

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Support; Allen Wolfe, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar; Shari Klassen, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Myers/Murison

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the following amended Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries, as submitted by Student Financial Support and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective immediately:

- Peter Lougheed Leadership College Bursary

CARRIED

7. Amended Hybrid Financial Supports for Approval

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Support; Allen Wolfe, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar; Shari Klassen, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar

Discussion:

Ms Halbert explained that the proposed changes would ensure consistency across the suite of financial supports and would best fit the intent of each donor.

Motion: Myers/Harris

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the list of 67 amended Hybrid Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries, as submitted by Student Financial Support and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective immediately.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Items Approved by the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee by E-mail Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.