



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

Tuesday, June 19, 2018
2-15 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting:

Amy Tse, Chair
Clive Hickson
Marc de Montigny
Paul Myers
Sathya Rao

Non-voting:

Fiona Halbert
Jennifer Jennax

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator
Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

Regrets:

Wendy Doughty
Petr Nikrityuk

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Myers/de Montigny

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Scholarship Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 8, 2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rao/de Montigny

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Scholarship Committee approve the Minutes of May 8, 2018.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair thanked all of the members, and especially those whose terms are expiring, for their work over the past years. She reminded members that she will be stepping down as Chair but will remain on the committee until the end of the next academic year.

The Vice Chair thanked the Chair for her service as Chair of the committee.

EARLY CONSULTATION

4. Selection Criteria Specifying Minority Groups (no documents)

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Supports, Office of the Registrar; Jennifer Jennax, Senior Director, Advancement Services, Office of Advancement

Ms Halbert explained that there had been recent discussions regarding the language specifying minority status and the use of minority status as criteria for awards. She noted that this had generally been indigenous status or a specific citizenship in the past but more recently there had been enquiries regarding specific minority groups and a question around descent from a recognized minority group.

Ms Halbert informed members that Legal Counsel, The Dean of Students, and the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights had been consulted to ensure that university policy and legal concerns were understood. There were allowances for specifying visible minority status as a selection criteria and precedence with the indigenous community.

Ms Halbert further noted that a review of best practices of other Canadian universities showed that policy and procedure varied widely across institutions. As for the University of Alberta, with the *For the Public Good* objective to build a diverse and inclusive community of students, this is something that our strategic plan supports.

Ms Halbert also noted that the university was concerned with using the correct language so as not to offend anyone in the community. For this reason, the Student Financial Supports Office had approved language for this use.

Discussion:

During the discussion members expressed several comments and questions, including but not limited to: religion, sexual orientation or other disadvantaged groups; the matter of citizenship, ethnic background, and descent; proof of status and self-declaration; available documentation for proof; other awards with these types of criteria; approved language for use in terms of reference for awards.

From UAPPOL procedure regarding Awards Criteria and Human Rights:

Selection or eligibility criteria will not include any criterion defined as discriminatory under the Alberta Human Rights Act or the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy except if the award or bursary or the condition at the time of establishment could reasonably be viewed as intended for the benefit of a disadvantaged group.

ACTION ITEMS

5. New Annually Funded Financial Supports for Approval

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Supports, Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve new annually funded undergraduate awards, scholarships and bursaries.

Discussion:

Members enquired about the difference between an award requiring satisfactory academic standing and an award based on academic standing, and the criteria "of African descent".

Motion: Hickson/de Montigny

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

CARRIED

6. New Endowed Financial Supports for Approval

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Supports, Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve new endowed undergraduate awards, scholarships and bursaries.

Discussion:

Members discussed the potential for terms and names in awards to be offensive, and the difference between demonstrated and expressed interest.

Motion: Rao/Myers

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

CARRIED

7. Amended Financial Supports for Approval

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fiona Halbert, Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Supports, Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve amendments to existing awards, scholarships and bursaries.

Discussion:

Members discussed the importance of reviewing and amending terms of reference in order to be able to award financial supports.

Motion: de Montigny/Hickson

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

CARRIED

8. Election of Chair (no documents)

Ms Brolley noted that none of the members of this committee had indicated their interest in serving as Chair for the upcoming term, and that Dr Tse was stepping down. The Nominating Committee had named two new members and one member, Dr Frank Robinson, had agreed to let his name be put forward as Chair.

Dr Myers then put his name forward for the position as well.

The Chair suggested that the committee proceed with an email vote. Ms Brolley noted that she and the coordinator would contact the members about this at a later date.

Presenter(s): Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Question Period (no documents)

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.