



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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

Tuesday, November 05, 2019
Senate Chambers, Arts and Convocation Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Frank Robinson, Chair
Melinda Chisholm
Heather Coleman
Abbie Murison
Paul Myers
Yejide Omotoso

non-voting:

Wendy Doughty
Fiona Halbert
Jennifer Jennax

REGRETS:

Angela Bayduza
Meg Brolley
Gary Eitzen
Marion Haggarty-France

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Myers/Coleman

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

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 8, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Chisholm/Myers

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee approve the minutes of October 8, 2019.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)-Election of a Vice-Chair

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

Discussion:

The Chair noted that Paul Myers had served as Vice-Chair of UABC the previous year and that he was willing to serve again. There were no other eligible members who wished to put their names forward. Paul Myers was acclaimed as Vice-Chair. The Chair thanked Dr Myers for his willingness to serve.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Overview of Dean of Students, Student Services (no documents)

Presentations before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Doughty, Assistant Dean Student Success, Office of the Dean of Students; Shana Dion, Assistant Dean, First Nations, Metis and Inuit Students, Office of the Dean of Students

Discussion:

Dr Doughty gave an overview of the services offered by the Office of the Dean of Students including supports to address homelessness and housing insecurity, students who parent, student mental health, and students with disabilities. She made note of the myth that students with disabilities are not as successful academically and affirmed that this was simply false.

Ms Dion gave an overview of the work of First Peoples' House to provide proactive services and supports for the approximately 1500 self-identified First Nation, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students on campus. She shared some knowledge and debunked some harmful myths that surround the FNMI student community. Ms Dion also spoke about racism on campus, and noted how it negatively affects FNMI student success.

Ms Halbert spoke about the financial supports that had been developed for FNMI students and the partnership between First Peoples' House and Student Financial Support at the Office of the Registrar.

Members discussed and asked questions about the supports classified as 'psychiatric', Accessibility Resources and related supports available to students, and the impact of budget cuts on financial supports and student services.

5. Overview of Office of Advancement (no documents)

Presentations before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Jennax, Senior Director, Advancement Services, Office of Advancement

Discussion:

Ms Jennax presented an overview of the work of the Office of Advancement. She spoke about the donors who wished to give money to the university for various purposes, including research and awards. Ms Jennax went over the processes to establish terms of reference for endowed and annually funded awards including consideration of the Income Tax Act, Canada Revenue Agency guidelines, the Wills and Succession Act, University of Alberta Policies and Procedures, and finally, approval by UABC.

Members asked about the percentage of students on campus who receive awards and bursaries.

6. Discussion of Citizenship as a Criterion in Award Terms

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Jennax, Senior Director, Advancement Services, Office of Advancement; Matt Weaver, Director, Donation Services, Office of Advancement

Discussion:

Ms Jennax and Mr Weaver spoke to the committee about a donor's request for the following non-standard terms for an endowed award:

Awarded to students who are Canadian citizens and Alberta residents whose permanent residence is outside metropolitan Edmonton with satisfactory academic standing enrolled in the third or subsequent year of an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Engineering. Selection based on academic standing, demonstrated leadership, strong communication skills, and participation in engineering student groups.

The presenters noted that the donor had requested an endowed award be established with the requirement of Canadian citizenship. The presenters pointed out that the standard criteria for domestic student awards is: "Canadian citizen or permanent resident". The donor requested Canadian citizenship only because they wanted the award to go to individuals who are committed to Canada. Since both naturalized citizens and Canadian-born citizens would be eligible for the award, this restriction would not be defined as discriminatory under the Alberta Human Rights Act.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: the status of refugees and eligibility for permanent residency; the fact that permanent residents do not vote but do pay taxes; that currently approximately 10% of upper year engineering students were permanent residents; that students who had been living as permanent residents in Canada since they were children may not have had the opportunity to apply for citizenship; how permanent residents could demonstrate leadership and participate in engineering student groups; and general contributions of immigrants and refugees to Canadian society.

ACTION ITEMS

7. 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 Support; Allen Wolfe, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar; Shari Klassen, Specialist, Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar

Discussion:

Members discussed the range of courses on campus that could contribute to 6 units of course weight in the history of Alberta or Canada, and programs that were identified for targeted diversification.

Motion: Murison/Colemen

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, as amended, to be effective immediately:

- Alex Thomas-Haug Indigenous Bursary in Education
- Stuart and Linda Boyer Bursary in Engineering
- History and Heroes Foundation Award
- Barry Petursson Award in Real Estate
- International Program Diversification Scholarship

CARRIED

8. New Endowed Financial Supports for Approval

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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 new endowed Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries, as submitted by Student Financial Support and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective immediately:

- David McDougall BCom Scholarship in Real Estate

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Items Approved by the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries 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 3:40 p.m.