

MINUTES

April 11, 2022

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Present: Phil Warsaba, Chair, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President, Students
Denise Chenger, Academic Staff Member - Business and Communication Studies
Brian Nichols, Academic Staff Member - Arts
Melanie Rathburn, Academic Staff Member - Science and Technology
Sara Sharun, Academic Staff Member - University Library
Cynthia Gallop, Academic Staff Member - Teaching and Learning
Joseph Nguyen, Student Representative
Yasmin Ahmed, Vice-Chair, Student Representative
Michelle LoGullo, President, MRSA, Ex Officio
Spirit River Striped Wolf, Student Representative
Miranda Diakiw, Manager, Annual Giving (Designate for Executive Director, Development)
Geri Lynn Gouglas, Registrar (Registrarial Designate)
Angela Spinner, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Steve Kootenay-Jobin, Iniskim Centre Representative
Bob Lambert, Student Affairs
Meagan Bowler, Deans' Council Representative
Marty Clark, Academic Staff Member - Health, Community and Education
Chris Rogerson, Executive Director, Student Affairs

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

2.0 Approval of the Agenda for April 11, 2022

Moved by Denise/Brian

THAT the Student Affairs Committee approve the April 11, 2022 agenda as distributed.

Carried.

3.0 Approval of the Student Affairs Committee Minutes for March 21, 2022 [attachment]

Moved by Brian/Melanie

THAT the Student Affairs Committee approve the March 21, 2022 minutes as distributed.

Carried.

4.0 Business Arising from the Student Affairs Committee Minutes of February 28, 2022

4.1 nitoyi knowledge sharing award [attachment]

The chair met with dr. linda manyguns regarding the terms of reference for the nitoyi knowledge sharing award. The proposed terms of reference were clarified

and updated to: “Applicants must submit a 4-page, double-spaced essay detailing their journey to decolonization with a minimum of 10 academic references.” The selection committee will consist of 3 faculty members and a student. Other forms of submission will be accepted but the submission will need to be deemed academically equivalent to the essay requirement. The chair noted that the Awards system will limit the types of alternate submissions that can be collected through the system itself.

Discussion:

Committee members noted that the essay requirement was onerous in relation to the value of the award and that the number of academic references was excessive. Additional clarity on the qualifications of selection committee members would be appreciated. It was also recommended that successful completion of courses with significant Indigenous content be considered as eligibility criteria rather than an essay.

The award is slated to be disbursed in Fall 2023, which provides time to make additional changes. Committee members were largely in support of the award but continued to express concerns about the excessive eligibility requirements and the impacts these requirements may have on applicants, on members of the selection committee, and on the size of the applicant pool.

Moved Melanie/Yasmin

THAT the Student Affairs Committee refer the nitoyi knowledge sharing award to Development for ongoing conversations with the donor and for additional revisions to the award criteria.

Carried.

- 4.2 Mount Royal University Physics Department Award [attachment]
It was confirmed that the department will select this award and that rankings will be based on physics courses completed by the applicants..

Moved Melanie/Denise

THAT the Student Affairs Committee approve the Mount Royal University Physics Department Award.

Discussion:

It was noted that, if applicant rankings are based on GPA across completed physics courses, the department will need to establish a minimum and/or maximum number of courses across which the GPA will be calculated.

Carried.

4.3 Broadening of the Equity-Deserving Categories in the Awards Application
[attachment]

As part of a continuing discussion on adjustments to the Awards application, it was noted that all 4 diverse populations in self-identification data sets for Statistics Canada (women, individuals with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and visible minorities) are reflected in the current MRU Awards application process. A document containing recommended adjustments to current equity-deserving categories and the addition of a self-identification category for 2SLGBTQIA+ students was reviewed.

Recommendations:

The committee is in favour of the categories but requested changes to the way in which examples are framed in the racialized groupings as well as the removal of the “white” self-identification category. It was also recommended that an introductory statement be provided to offer the necessary context for the collection of self-identification information. Finally, a suggestion was made to change the phrase “prefer not to answer” to “prefer not to specify”.

An updated document reflecting the recommendations made by committee members will be brought to the May 9, 2002 meeting for consideration and approval.

5.0 New Business

There was no new business.

6.0 Adjournment

Moved by Melanie/Michelle

THAT the Student Affairs Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:28PM.

Carried.