

Report to the Recruitment, Admissions and Awards Committee

Regarding Amending the Taddle Creek Residence Life Award

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REGARDING AMENDING THE TADDLE CREEK RESIDENCE LIFE AWARD

INTRODUCTION

Typically there are seven recipients of the Taddle Creek Residence Life Award (TCRL), all receiving approximately \$2,500. Last year was exceptional in that there were only three recipients.¹ Over the last half decade there has been an average of nine applicants per year for the TCRL Award. Two decades ago, there were almost three times as many applicants. At its 8 December 2015 meeting, the RAAC felt it was important to review the conditions and promotion of the TCRL Award before the next award cycle.

ACTION ITEMS

At the RAAC meeting of 8 December 2015, where the TCRL Awards were decided, six action items were proposed:

- Investigate the timing of the decision of the award;
- Review the intentions of the donors;
- Review the condition of financial need for this non-OSOTF award;
- Review the condition under which 1st-year students are eligible for the award;
- Review the promotion of the award;
- Consider the fact that international students are excluded from the award.

At the 9 November 2016 meeting of RAAC, the six action items were discussed in detail. One **motion** was carried unanimously: To move the application deadline to April. By carrying out this motion, the applicants of the TCRL Award can be considered alongside the entire suite of in-course leadership awards at the College. At the same meeting, the RAAC also agreed to meet before the end of 2016 to finalize the other five action items.

INTENTIONS OF THE DONORS

Before the Innis Residence was constructed, a number of Innis College students lived in houses managed by the Taddle Creek Non-Profit Housing Inc. The closure of the corporation in 1995, just before the completion of the Innis Residence, provided the money for the capital fund donated by the Taddle Creek Non-Profit Housing Corporation to the Taddle Creek Residence Life Award.

Students living in the Co-op wished to encourage and reward financially needy students who made outstanding contributions to the new residence. Garry Spencer, who was the manager of Taddle Creek

¹ There were four applicants. One did not demonstrate financial need.

Non-Profit Housing Inc. before becoming Dean of the Innis Residence, was instrumental in establishing the TCRL Award, which was authorized by Governing Council on 24 March 1995.

Archived correspondence from two students who lived in Taddle Creek emphasize the importance of the financial need component to the establishment of the award:

Sandy Speller (27 March 1998)

I was a resident in Taddle Creek from 1989 to its closure in 1995. During this time, I served on the Board of Directors for two terms and also acted as House Manager for two years. It was important to me to actively participate in residence life to fully enjoy my university experience. . . . Living in a cooperative residence like Taddle Creek helped with my financial struggle immensely.

At the Annual General Meeting in the Spring of 1994 when the proposal for the scholarship was passed, three criteria were established to reflect the spirit and cooperative nature of Taddle Creek and its residents:

- 1. Financial need*
- 2. Participation in residence life (as distinct from college life)*
- 3. Scholastic achievement*

. . . .

The residents of Taddle Creek overwhelmingly agreed that the scholarship should reflect the values inherent in cooperative living so that the Taddle Creek spirit would live on in the new Innis Residence. It was our way of giving back some of what we had enjoyed ourselves.

Catharine Baggott (5 July 1994)

The concern first and foremost in my mind is the necessity of maintaining the spirit of Taddle Creek and of cooperative living at Innis College. As you and I both know, Taddle Creek has not housed those who desire low-budget housing, as much as those who require it. Taddle Creek residents also often carry dual loads; as people responsible for their own financial support, and as full time students.

This presents two problems that should concern the university more than evidence suggests it does. In the first example students have to reduce their course loads to work the number of hours required for their support and therefore take longer to finish their degrees. The second problem results as attention spans decrease. . . . In other words, the typical Taddle Creek students has never had the luxury of extra time or enough money to do nothing but think.

If the scholarships created by the closure of Taddle Creek can work toward solving these problems, at least for a few students, the essence of cooperative living just may survive at Innis.

I would like to suggest that financial need be the major factor in selecting the recipients of Taddle Creek awards. Furthermore, those who accept the award should agree not to work more than 10 hours weekly. This would ensure that they have time to think and to sleep. Thirdly, success in non-academic areas should be of primary consideration in an award candidate. There is no progress without action and in university settings there tends to be a lack of both. People who receive Taddle Creek awards should be active in their school, home and communities. These are the people who create vibrant communities and inspire cooperation.

Shortly after, the TCRL Award was established, the Province of Ontario introduced the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSOTF). Any contribution made by a private donor to an Ontario university to help financially needy students were matched by the Province of Ontario. The University of Toronto simultaneously introduced an incentive program whereby it matched all eligible donations from individuals to the OSOTF program using the UofT Adjustment Fund (EAF). The spirit of the OSOTF award program was and remains to recognize Ontario students with financial need.

Attempts by the Principal of Innis College and the Dean of the Innis Residence to obtain a double match for the Taddle Creek Non-Profit Housing Inc. donation were unsuccessful because the donation pre-dated the OSOTF program and the donor was not a private individual.

However, there were additional contributions made to the TCRL Award in subsequent years, and these private donations qualified for matching by the Province of Ontario because they fell in the OSOTF Extension period. This is a very small amount of the total TCRL award. It earns approximately \$100.00 each year. These funds must be awarded to a Canadian citizen who is an Ontario resident with financial need.

Then, on 30 April of 1998, the Governing Council of the UofT approved a Policy on Student Financial Support designed to guarantee that:

“no student offered admission to a program at the University of Toronto should be unable to enter or complete the program due to lack of financial means. . . . The financial support programs of the University of Toronto will be designed to guarantee that each student has access to the resources necessary to meet his or her needs as assessed by a common mechanism. This mechanism will be based on the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) needs assessment with appropriate modifications”

The University of Toronto Advance Planning for Student (UTAPS) Program had been designed the year before. It served to fill the financial gap for Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons studying full-time who receive the maximum amount of government financial aid available but whose funding does not cover all their university costs. It is the mechanism whereby the University fulfills its guarantee to financially needy students.

To this day, the guarantee ensures that students with financial need receive the support they require to study at the UofT. Close to 50% of Innis undergraduate students who are residents of Ontario receive OSAP. Over 20% of these students on OSAP have financial need exceeding the maximum funding from OSAP and receive assistance from the UTAPS program, which makes up for the difference between

students' maximum entitlement through OSAP and their unmet need as determined by the OSAP formula.² Undergraduate students can also be helped with an emergency bursary.³

REVIEW THE CONDITION OF FINANCIAL NEED

The spirit of the award is to recognize financial need and cooperative living in Innis Residence. It is fair to say that financial need is now addressed by the UofT in a way it was not addressed when the TCRL Award was established. Canadian citizens receive UTAPS funding for assessed need beyond provincial student aid maximums. Before receiving a Study Visa to enter Canada, international students are expected to demonstrate that they have the necessary funds to pursue academic study at a post-secondary institution. That is not to say that many students – Canadian and international – are not still financially needy. The determination of financial need using the OSAP mechanism does not adequately take into consideration the cost of living for anyone in Toronto. But the shortfall is not as drastic as it was for many students when the TCRL Award was being established.

REVIEW THE CONDITION UNDER WHICH 1ST YEAR STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE

Per capita, Innis recognizes more students for leadership than any other College. Many of these in-course leadership awards are quite generous, ranging from \$1,000 - \$3,000. The RAAC might choose to consider its suite of leadership awards a distinguishing feature of the College and one that sets it apart from other Colleges in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Admission and Leadership (+ Need)

For admission awards recognizing leadership, the College has the Innis College Kitchen Sink Award and the John Browne OSOTF Award. The latter includes financial need. The 2016 award values are listed immediately below.

Admission Leadership	Sum of Award Value	Count of Award Name	Average of Award Value
Need	\$1,472.29	2	\$736.15
No	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
Yes	\$972.29	1	\$972.29
Total	\$1,472.29	2	\$736.15

² In 2014-2015, 669 Innis students received OSAP for a total of close to \$6M. Of those 669 students, 141 students received UTAPS funding totaling over \$500,000.

³ Innis College has no bursary funding of its own but does receive over \$100,000 in bursary funding from the UofT each year in order to assist Innis students with emergency financial need.

Graduating and Leadership

None of the graduating awards for leadership have financial need attached to their conditions. The College recognizes approximately 15 graduating students with Innis College Recognition Awards (of distinction with no monetary value). There are 8-12 awards (some are in-course or graduating awards) with monetary values that average ~\$2,300. These awards include: the Wasser Leadership Scholarships (~\$2,000); the Classes of 2000 and 2001 GRADitude Award (~\$170); the Mary Ann Duffy Graduating Student Award (~\$8,000); and sometimes the Wasser Achievement Awards (~\$1,000) and the M. “Fuzz” Friend Memorial Award (~\$1,800). In 2016, there were eight recipients.

Graduating Leadership	Sum of Award Value	Count of Award Name	Average of Award Value
	\$18,864.10	8	\$2,358.01
Total	\$18,864.10	8	\$2,358.01

In-course (returning students) and Leadership +Need

The College has a number of in-course awards recognizing leadership. Some of these include financial need as a criteria. For awards recognizing performance in the 2015-2016 academic year (awarded in 2016), the data are as follows:

In-course Leadership	Sum of Award Value	Count of Award Name	Average of Award Value
Need	\$20,610.72	16	\$1,288.17
No	\$10,989.09	10	\$1,098.91
Yes	\$9,621.63	6	\$1,603.61
Total	\$20,610.72	16	\$1,288.17

NOTE: Typically there are seven recipients of the TCRL Award, all receiving approximately \$2,500. Last year was exceptional in that there were only three recipients. This lowers the count of leadership awards with a financial need component for 2016 from 10 to 6 and lowers the average value of all the awards for leadership + need from over \$2,200 to \$1,603.61.

More than half of the recipients of in-course leadership awards lived in residence at the time of their application.

Significantly, the Davidson OSOTF Award and the Davidson Scholarship and the Wasser Awards recognize students' contribution to Innis, the UofT or their community. There is a strong sense that many students are involved in leadership activities off-campus. The most striking example is an Innis graduate whose voluntary leadership activity was not known to the College until he became a Rhodes Scholar. Mary Ann Duffy recipients are another example of recipients very often not known to staff of the College until

they apply for the award exclusively for voluntary service by a female student undertaken outside the UofT.

RAAC may want to consider offering more, smaller TCRL awards to students of all years including first-year. With 75% of the students living in the Innis Residence being first-year students (compared to 60% until five years ago), many students move off-campus after their first year in the Innis Residence. Of the approximately 70 upper-year students in the Innis Residence, over one third of them have a paid position in the Innis Residence. A smaller award appropriately promoted and recognizing one's contribution to cooperative living in the Innis Residence may inspire students to involve themselves actively in community as early as in their first year, and continue to create vibrant communities and inspire cooperation beyond their first-year and beyond the Innis Residence.

REVIEW THE PROMOTION OF THE TCRL AWARD

The importance of rigorous promotion of the full suite of leadership awards at the College and the Residence cannot be understated. It can encourage more students to apply. Also, if the phrase "first year students may be considered only in the absence of a sufficient number of outstanding upper-year candidates" were removed from the conditions of the TCRL Award, might feel more encouraged to apply.

CONSIDER THAT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE EXCLUDED

Today over one third of students living in the Innis Residence are international students. If it was important in 1995 to recognize the spirit and cooperative nature of Taddle Creek and encourage that cooperation in the new Innis Residence, today's Innis Residence may want to bolster its cooperative spirit with a TCRL awards program that encourages and recognizes actively involved international students.

CONCLUSION

Any recommendations for award amendments can be brought by RAAC to the Student Affairs Board for endorsement and Innis College Council for ratification, after which time the Registrar's Office can forward the amendments to the Academic Board of the Governing Council for authorization.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**Amended
AWARD RECORD**

Name of Award: Taddle Creek Residence Life Award

Source of Funds: Original Endowment: \$227,000.00
OSOTF Endowment: \$1,320,00 (see Note 1)

Donor: Taddle Creek Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Established In: Innis College

Value: Second term instalment of the Innis College Residence Fee (see Note 2)
Maximum allowable given the endowment's annual income.

Awarding Body: Innis College Council, on the advice of the Recruitment, Admissions, and Awards Committee and in consultation with the Dean of Students and Residence.

Conditions: To be awarded to outstanding Innis Residence students. First year students may be considered only in the absence of a sufficient number of outstanding upper-year candidates. Candidates must be in good standing in their Faculty, they must demonstrate financial need, and they must demonstrate distinguished voluntary commitment to fostering and supporting community life in the Innis Residence. To receive the award, the recipients must live in the Innis Residence for the balance of the session in which the award is given.

Candidates who have previously received a Taddle Creek Residence Life Award will be considered on the basis of achievements since receipt of the last award.

Applications: Interested applicants must apply to the Office of the Dean of Students and Residence, Innis College. The deadline will be established by Dean of Students and Residence in consultation with the Office of the Registrar, but will be no later than 1 December of a given year. The successful applicants will be notified no later than the first week of January of the second term.

First Award: 2014 (under these terms)

Successive Awards: Annually

**Authorized on Behalf of
the Academic Board of
the Governing Council:** September 17, 2013

NOTES:

1. The original endowment is comprised of donations from the donors in the amount of \$227,000. The OSOTF endowment is comprised of donations in the amount of \$660 and matching funds in the amount of \$660 from the OSOTF extension.
2. The awarding body is given the discretionary authority to top up the award amount evenly across recipients, above the value of the second term installment, especially in situations where it limits unused funds/carry over to the next year.

CF Centre: 100399
Cost Centre: 11096
Fund: 300366
Project #: 56-0162
Unifacts Account: 3-490-009-09
OSOTF Fund: 304404
Unifacts Account: 3-481-009-09
Level: Undergraduate