

Recruitment, Admissions, and Awards Committee
Student Affairs Boards, Innis College Council
2 March 2018, 3 pm

Minutes

Present: Yolanda Alfaro, Donald Boere (Moderator), Sarah Burley Hollows, Magdalene Cheung (Secretary), Charlie Keil, Miranda Lees, Alice Liu, Troy Peschke, Lesli Ransom, Ashlee Redmond, Marta Switzer, Ben Weststrate

Regrets: Elspeth Arbow, Jannie Chien, Zakerie Farah, Lucas Granger, Alatheia Hayes, Bella Rogal, Lukas Van Arragon, Tim Worgan, Carol Ye, Joe Yule

Donald Boere, Assistant Principal & Registrar chaired the meeting. Magdalene Cheung, Acting Associate Registrar (Administrative) recorded the Minutes.

1. Admissions Update

- It's underway for 2018-19.
- We've almost admitted all of our international students.
- 2nd round should be done admissions by the end of this month.
- Slightly over 1/3 of our students are international, about 15% are Permanent Resident, and the remaining are Canadian citizens
- Innis-specific messaging to promote conversion from admission to acceptance will be starting shortly
- Student-generated digital content will help, and Chiao Sun will be working with the Registrar's Office so we can monopolize on the U of T Starter Kit
- The principal audience for the transition materials coming out of the Registrar's Office is international students. As such, they are expected to be equally helpful for domestic students
- The Saturday Academic Orientation Day in June for incoming students primarily attracts students from a commuting distance. The key informational sessions are livestreamed through Google Hangout and then archived on the Registrar's Office YouTube page for students at a distance who cannot attend.

2. Admission Awards

- Innis College has \$30K in admission scholarships. One of the two smallest Colleges, Innis also has the smallest amount for scholarships of all the Colleges. These awards are for international and domestic students.
- Q: If the condition of some awards are Canadian citizens who are residents of Ontario, are Permanent Residents eligible? A: Yes
- Q: Does the number and value of college admission scholarships impact applicants' college choice? A: Possibly yes. Still, most of the admission awards are central U of T awards. There are approximately 700 U of T Scholars Awards (\$7,500) and approximately 100 President's Scholars of Excellence Awards (\$10,000 + extra features) for international and domestic students. There are

also a smaller number of National Scholars and Arbor Scholars for Canadian applicants and the Pearson Scholar program for international students. It is also the case that some students transfer to other Colleges in upper years because other Colleges may be able to offer more substantial awards. Innis awards a large number of in-course awards, and more generous than many other colleges. The minimum CGPA requirement for an Innis in-course scholarship is 3.70 as a student passes the 5th, 10th and 15th degree credit, completed in the Faculty of Arts & Science (A&S). At least one other College awards a scholarship to every student with a CGPA over 3.50.

- In the coming years there will be an online tool that will provides students more info for college choice – not just quantitative info, but qualitative info as well.
- Innis does not "stack" admission awards – we wait until central U of T decides on who receives an admission award. U of T will have completed this process soon. Innis uses its \$30,000 to grant awards of between \$2,000-4,500. Innis will decide on approximately 30 newly admitted students with admission marks just below the threshold for a U of T (or A&S) award. Making these offers slightly later in the process—but still well before most students reply to their offer of admission—means Innis can avoid the awkwardness of having to rescind our admission scholarship should a student receive a U of T or A&S scholarship of similar or greater value.

3. Bursaries Update

- The bursary subcommittee has been on hiatus due to staff shortage in this past fall. We have access to so much more OSAP info than before. We now have sufficient information to make informed decisions on a student's financial situation without needing to lean on a bursary subcommittee to help assess the full financial picture of a grant application.
- A lot of preparatory work would go into getting applications ready for the bursary subcommittee – removing all personal info that can identify an applicant, training student members, etc.
- Principal Keil: The bursary subcommittee, as described, is mostly an administrative process. Since we're never really in danger of running out of bursary funds, the bursary subcommittee may not be the best use of student's time.
- One of the things that college registrars are lobbying for are bursaries for international students, and bursaries for students enrolled in the summer session.
- Coming soon, Colleges are likely also to be able to either award or recommend bursary funding for through a pilot experiential learning bursary. (The Registrar is hoping to have more information to share on this pilot by the time of the next RAAC meeting.)
- Q: Why can't bursaries go to international students? A: there is (was?) a mandate that 50% of all tuition increases for Canadian students had to go to financial aid at U of T. As this amount was coming from domestic students only, financial aid was expected to go back to domestic students. Some awards – OSOTF – are only for Ontario residents.
- Peschke: In the past, student members of the bursary subcommittee would generally go with what Daniela Pirraglia, Associate Registrar—Administrative, presented to them, and final decisions were usually not much different from her recommendations.
- Weststrate: The bursary subcommittee allows students to be meaningfully engaged in college governance.
- Boere: The Registrar's Office hopes to continue to benefit from discussion at RAAC (from which the Bursary Subcommittee had been populated) about funding, grants, bursaries and financial aid initiatives.

4. Awards Inventory

- U of T is working on developing an awards inventory for all awards on campus. Donald Boere has been looking at every award at Innis. Aside from small updates to be made, info is mostly accurate. This inventory will make it easier for auditing all the awards at U of T. It will help administrators decide, award, pay, steward, and report on awards. In a second phase of the inventory, students will be able to search awards for which they may be eligible.
- There is currently no directory at U of T of all the awards available to students, yet, in the 1980s, there were two binders with every single award at U of T.
- It would be nice for a student to be able to find an award based on specific criteria – e.g year of study, program of study, leadership, etc.

5. Communications / Applications

- Innis has own website for awards: <http://awards.innis.utoronto.ca>
- We have lots of leadership awards. It would be good to attract an even larger pool of applicants.
- Taddle Creek Residence Life Award: With recent revisions to the award, it is open to international and domestic students. Also, now first-year students can apply, and with a deadline moved from December to April, first-year students have more time to demonstrate their leadership.
- We'll be updating the awards web tool in the next 10 days. We will also load the application forms on the tool. Once this is done, we can start advertising and getting the word out about leadership awards.
- Applications: It would be good to give students as much time to apply as possible. The aim is to begin promoting leadership awards on Monday 12 March with a deadline for submission in late April.
- Reference letters: How many is reasonable? Currently, the applications for in-course and graduating leadership awards require a maximum of three references letters. One is sometimes insufficient, especially as a small number of staff get multiple requests to write reference letters for the same award. The RAAC thought that asking for a maximum of three meant students typically tried to get three. The application will be revised to indicate a maximum of two reference letters.
- There was some discussion about permitting referees to submit reference letters a few days beyond the deadline for students to submit their application.
- The advantage of moving the deadline for leadership awards is that the RAAC meeting at which these awards are decided is usually pushed to early May because student participation in a RAAC during the exam period is challenging. Also, historically, more students from the RAAC have been able to make themselves available in early May than in late April.
- It was decided to hold the RAAC meeting to decide leadership award recipients in early May.
Have donuts and pizza!

6. New Awards

- Three new awards were reviewed and amendments suggested. At the SAB meeting immediately following the RAAC meeting, these three amended awards received endorsement. With the improvements made to the draft records, the awards will be vetted with the donors and then, if the donors are in agreement with the conditions, they will be brought to the next meeting of Innis College Council for ratification, after which time they will be forwarded to Enrolment

Services at U of T for authorization on behalf of the Academic Board of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

- Robert Patrick Student Initiative Award
- Russell Canada Prize
- Roger Riendeau Award in Writing & Rhetoric

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.