



To: Faculty Council

**From: Dr. Graeme Norval
Chair, Scholarships and Awards Committee**

Date: February 1, 2011 for March 8, 2011 Meeting

Item: Edits to General Terms and Conditions for Academic Awards

Background:

The Scholarships and Awards Committee identifies students to receive the Faculty awards. There are two basic award types: those awarded based on academic results (grades only), and those awarded for a combination of academic performance plus extracurricular activities (sports, student clubs, volunteering, etc).

The academic-only awards include both department specific as well as Faculty wide awards. In order to ensure that students are rewarded for academic achievement, a rule has been instituted stating that students must be “full-load” (as defined by their program) in order to be considered.

The Faculty allows students, for a variety of reasons, to reduce their course load. Many students with probationary status take advantage of this in order to lighten their academic load to improve their academic performance. Such students do not have the A or A⁺ averages of the students that win the academic awards.

Having said this, we know that engineering students are pretty amazing. It should come as no surprise that a student would arrive, who is able to achieve outstanding academic results, and who needs to have academic relief, through no fault of their own. The committee has reviewed the situation and is proposing a modest change to regulations.

Structure:

The committee notes that the University of Toronto has a Statement of Commitment regarding Persons with Disabilities. “It is the University's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons.” Also, the policy notes “The University re-affirms that all individuals are expected to satisfy the essential requirements of their program of studies or employment, while recognizing that students and employees with disabilities may require reasonable accommodations to enable them to do so.”

Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities, Governing Council, University of Toronto, November 1, 2004.

The committee also notes the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (S.O. 2005, Chapter 11) which requires that barriers restricting access to services be removed.

The committee also considered the Ethical test. The committee felt that the University and Faculty would be embarrassed if the student in question were denied an academic award, and it became public information.

Process:

The Regulation on Terms and Conditions for awards is reproduced below, with the amendment indicated in Italics.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS

Scholarships, prizes and medals granted in recognition of academic proficiency are awarded at the end of the Winter Session, and candidates are ranked on the basis of their achievements in the Winter Session and the Fall Session previously completed.

To be eligible for any scholarship or award granted solely on academic standing, a student must *normally* have completed not less than their program full load (approximately 5.0 credits units) within the two sessions upon which the award is based. A student whose program in these two sessions contains repeated courses will only be eligible if the aggregate of new courses is equal to or greater than 5.0 credits.

Scholarships, medals and prizes based solely upon academic standing will be awarded only to students who have achieved honours in the work upon which the award is granted, unless otherwise specified in the terms of the award. If the award is based on a single course or on part of the work of the session, the candidate must obtain unconditional pass standing in the work of the session, but not necessarily honours standing, unless the terms of the award so specify. A candidate will not be permitted to hold more than one award in a session unless the statute of each of the awards concerned or the Calendar specifies otherwise.

Tuition and residence fees are a first charge against awards. After the deduction of the applicable charges, any balance remaining will be paid to the recipient in November. Payment will be made only if the candidate is in regular attendance in the Faculty and, if the Calendar so specifies, in the course in which the award is established or granted.

Medals, after they have been suitably engraved, will be given without delay to the winners or forwarded to them by registered mail.

Awards granted to members of graduating classes, other than awards for graduate study and research, will be paid in one installment as soon as possible after the granting of the awards.

The Governing Council may, on the recommendation of the Faculty, permit a candidate to whom an award has been granted to postpone attendance in the Faculty for one year. Further postponement may be permitted on application.

Note: The value of an endowed scholarship or prize is dependent on the actual income of the fund; it is possible that the value of certain scholarships and prizes at the time of payment may be greater or less than the amount stated in the Calendar.

In those cases where the amount of the award is not payable from income earned on an endowed fund, payment will be dependent on the receipt of the amount of the annual award from the donor.

Programs:

All programs are affected by this proposal.

Proposal/Motion:

THAT the modifications to the General Terms and Conditions of Awards be approved.