

# SENATE AWARDS & HONOURS COMMITTEE Monday, August 29, 2022

## Minutes of the Awards & Honours Committee Held in OL 340 at 10:00 AM

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present: Lorry-Ann Austin (Chair), Douglas Booth, Brian Daly (non-voting), Gordon Down,

Derek Haines (by phone), Stan Miles

Absent: Michael Henry, Musfiq Rahman, Rachel Mukasa, Jaskaranpreet Kaur

Guests:

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

#### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 25 Feb 2022 and 17 May 2022 were adopted as printed.

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

# a. Appoint a committee Chair

The committee unanimously appointed Lorry-Ann Austin as Chair.

#### b. Tied GPAs

Gordon presented the attached report on TRU GPAs by degree program and comparator schools' findings.

**ACTION**: After discussion the committee asked Student Awards to propose for adoption wording of a new Interpretation statement regarding ties. The Interpretation statement may subsequently be proposed as an amendment to ED 9-1.

#### c. Comparator schools

See attached report.

# d. Policy change to Emeritus Policy

**ACTION**: The proposed change was adopted at the last meeting, but Lorry-Ann will submit it to the Chair of APPC for adoption by Senate.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESSES

#### a. Hon Doc and Emeritus Subcommittee

The committee agreed to striking an adjudication subcommittee which will meet as needed and can involve all interested members of the committee. When subcommittee meetings coincide with an Awards & Honours meeting, it may meet just prior in the same location.

**ACTION**: The Chair will put out a call of interest for an Emeritus committee meeting to occur shortly.

# b. Revisions to ED 9-1 medal adjudication to use Degree Works

Gordon advised that the now fully operational Degree Works finally provides the technical capacity to report on medal GPAs not based on the "most recent 60 credits completed" (current policy), but the 60 credits forming the second half of the graduate's baccalaureate degree, regardless of when those credits were completed. Gordon noted this will require additional amendments to ED 9-1, and it seems like an opportune time to revisit the parameters of how the medal GPA is determined (e.g. more than 60 credits or less).

**ACTION**: The committee asked Gordon to work with RO-Systems and IT to create a new report which utilizes Degree Works and can present alternate scenarios for the 2022 medal adjudication using different parameters. The committee will use these scenarios to review policy options.

### 6. NEXT MEETING

TBD.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

# TRU Baccalaureate Medals Runner Up Gap Comparison

TRU Baccalaureate Medals	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg Diff
Bachelor of Arts	0.040	0.010	0.010	0.070	0.080	0.042
Bachelor of Business Admin	0.001	0.090	0.010	0.080	0.055	0.047
Bachelor of Business - Real Estate	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Bachelor of Commerce	0.050	0.250	0.450	0.080	SP	0.208
Bachelor of Computing Science	0.100	0.240	0.010	0.090	0.071	0.102
Bachelor of Design	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Bachelor of Education	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Bachelor of Fine Arts	0.200	0.160	0.270	0.020	0.033	0.137
Bachelor of General Studies	0.010	0.120	0.410	0.670	SP	0.303
Bachelor of Health Science	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.250	0.020	0.066
<b>Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies</b>	0.090	0.020	0.120	0.080	0.320	0.126
Bachelor of Journalism	0.100	one	0.030	0.440	0.220	0.198
Bachelor of Music	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Bachelor of Natural Resource Science	0.100	0.340	0.050	0.030	0.100	0.124
Bachelor of Public Adminstration	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Bachelor of Science	0.030	0.040	0.000	0.017	0.013	0.020
Bachelor of Science in Nursing	0.080	0.020	0.080	0.060	0.117	0.071
Bachelor of Social Work	0.000	0.040	0.290	0.060	0.110	0.100
Bachelor of Technology	SP	NM	NM	0.380	NM	0.380
Bachelor of Tourism Management	0.130	0.050	0.130	0.032	0.090	0.086

**Perfect Ties:** 2 1 2 1 1

NM = No Medal Awarded

SP = Small Pool Clause Enacted

Looking at the medal data for the five years prior to 2022, we discovered there was at least one perfect tie each year, and two perfect ties in two of the five years. In all of those cases, one medal was awarded. (There was one historical case of the Chair of Senate awarding two medals to resolve an error made, but not due to a tie.)

Measurement of the variance from first to second place in each degree program yielded expected results, with the variance shrinking inversely to the size of the medal pool. Therefore as expected the smallest variation (tightest competition) occurred in the Bachelors of Arts, Science, and Business. The one glaring aberration was in Education due to anomalous grading practices there.

The NSCCU report identified our comparator schools as **VIU**, **UNBC**, **SFU**, **Capilano**, and **Lakehead**. Of those five, only SFU and Lakehead were found to have university medals. (This is apart from the government medals and other external medals. The Governor General's office forbids the splitting of medals at all levels.)

**SFU**'s Dean's medals are adjudicated by a Senate committee, and rarely to never award two medals in a tie. When the normal tie breaking protocols are insufficient, they seek further extraordinary measures such as course density, or reviewing lower level courses. Awarding two medals is not strictly precluded, it just rarely if ever occurs.

**Lakehead** uses percentages and not letter grades, so has never encountered a perfect tie. However I was advised they will take the percentage to three places after the decimal to break a tie.