

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



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Memo to: Okanagan Senate

From: Admissions and Awards Committee

Re: Extension of the TREK Excellence Scholarship Awards for ISI Students (approval)

The International Student Initiative (ISI) proposes the extension of the TREK Excellence Scholarship awards for ISI students.

***Motion 1:** That the Admissions and Awards Committee approve an increase in the value to \$4000 of a TREK Excellence Scholarship for ISI students in the top 5% of each undergraduate program, beginning in Winter Session 2008/09.*

***Motion 2:** That the Admissions and Awards Committee approve new TREK Excellence Scholarship awards of \$1000 for ISI students in the top 5%-10% of each undergraduate program, beginning in Winter Session 2008/09.*

Action:

Expand Scholarship Opportunities for ISI Students

Currently, TREK Excellence Scholarships (TES) are awarded to ALL continuing students (domestic or international (ISI)) in the top 5% of each undergraduate program. The value of a TES is \$3,000.

1. Increase the value of TREK Excellence Scholarships for ISI students

It is recommended that the value of a TES award be increased to \$4,000 for ISI students in the top 5% of each undergraduate program, beginning in Winter Session 2008/09.

2. New TREK Excellence Scholarships for ISI students

It is recommended that the TES awards be extended to include ISI students in the top 5%-10% of each undergraduate program. In particular, it is recommended that TES awards of \$1,000 be given to ISI students in the top 5-10% of each undergraduate program, beginning in Winter Session 2008/09.

Rationale:

What motivates changes?

- Desire to provide increased scholarship opportunities for continuing international undergraduate (ISI) students to help support their education at UBC (both campuses)
- Response to significant rise in value of Canadian dollar

Limitation that we face

- We are currently unable to implement need-based financial assistance for large numbers of ISI students – this would require data on who has need, how much need each person has, and how to target those who are most disadvantaged by the currency swings.
- Student financial assistance is limited to a portion of the international tuition fees received by the University

Timing for implementation of these plans

If approved, the ISI should announce as soon as possible that the Trek Excellence Scholarship will be expanded for ISI students registered in September 2008 so that we can clearly show ISI students that we are trying to help them with their financial challenges due to the rise of the Canadian dollar. Such an announcement will help offset the news that we are raising international tuition fees by a cost-of-living increase of 3.4%.