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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate

DATE January 18, 2023

FROM Holly Hendrigan, Chair
Senate Policy Committee on
Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

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RE: Discontinuation of Automatic College Transfer Scholarships – For Information Only (SPCSAB 23-02)

At the January 16, 2023 Senate Policy Committee for Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries meeting, the members approved the discontinuation of two university-funded automatic college transfer scholarships (the Ken Caple Transfer Entrance Scholarship and the International Summit Transfer Entrance Scholarship), administered by Financial Aid and Awards (FAA), based on very low uptake, effective Fall 2023.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Holly Hendrigan, Chair, SPCSAB	DATE	January 13, 2023
FROM	Tom Nault, Registrar and Executive Director – Student Enrollment & Manoj Bhakthan, Director, Financial Aid and Awards		
RE:	Discontinuation of Ken Caple Transfer Entrance Scholarship and International Summit Transfer Entrance Scholarship		

Motion:

That SPCSAB approve the discontinuation of two university-funded automatic college transfer scholarships (the Ken Caple Transfer Entrance Scholarship and the International Summit Transfer Entrance Scholarship) administered by Financial Aid and Awards (FAA), based on very low uptake, effective Fall 2023; and that this update is shared with Senate, for information only

Overview:

Financial Aid and Awards seeks approval from SPCSAB to discontinue the above-mentioned entrance scholarships for college transfer students. These are automatically awarded each term to individuals coming from a BC college or teaching university, who achieve a minimum 3.70 transfer CGPA on final grades. The current value is a one-time disbursement of \$3500 provided in their first term of enrollment (12 units). The total budget available is a little over \$735,000.

With pending institutional budget constraints, increases in needs-based applications, potential cancellation of government COVID-19 student grants after June 2023, and limited funding available through the scholarship, bursary and award (SBA) budget, a strategic decision is being made to reallocate this funding within the SBA budget with a focus towards retention efforts and support of the general bursary program.

Feedback on this decision was solicited from the Acting Associate Registrar, Student Recruitment and Admissions, Associate Director, Student Recruitment, and the Senior Director, International Services for Students, and they've indicated that the impact of discontinuing these specific scholarships will be minimal, as over time there has been limited recruitment focus on college transfer students.

Part of this is because college transfer students have typically made up their mind in terms of program of study and many intend to study at university by the time they apply and therefore, this scholarship is less of a recruitment tactic (it is automatically included in the admission offer letter the student receives, based on interim grades) and more so an acknowledgement of the recipient's academic achievement on final grades, for those who enroll at SFU.

The \$3500 value had had a limited impact on the student's decision on whether to attend SFU or not.

For example, in 2022 (Spring to Fall), 91 International Summit Transfer Entrance Scholarships were automatically offered and only 39 students met the final requirements to receive it (about a 43% uptake) and for the Ken Caple, the percentage was only slightly higher (about a 46% uptake).

Externally funded opportunities with similar goals to support of college transfer students, currently exist and can be promoted, including the Ike Barber Transfer Scholarship, an applied-for opportunity valued at \$5000. This opportunity is available to Canadian students who have a minimum transfer CGPA of 2.50. Transfer students (international and domestic) demonstrating academic excellence will continue to have the opportunity to apply for SFU in-course scholarships and awards once enrolled, and those with demonstrated financial need will still be able to apply our general bursary program.

Since the admission application for college transfers for the Summer 2023 intake was opened on December 1st, the earliest we can discontinue this scholarship will be for Fall 2023 (application will open March 1st).