



SENATE AWARDS & HONOURS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Minutes of the Awards & Honours Committee
Held on Microsoft Teams at 2:30 PM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Lorry-Ann Austin (Chair), Douglas Booth, Gordon Down, Nadine Feather (non-voting), Derek Haines, Michael Henry, Yue Zhang

Absent: Brian Daly (non-voting), Juliana West, Bala Vaishnavi Palakollu, Krishna Parikh

Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted. (DB, GD)

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 14 May 2024 were adopted as printed. (GD, DB)

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a. Motion of a new Interpretation Statement regarding medal ties

After discussion and amendment, it was motioned (GD, DB) and approved that:

5) Breaking ties between TRU Baccalaureate medal candidates

Where reg. 2.2.e. is insufficient to break a tie, the Dean's office will be asked to recommend the single candidate with the highest academic standing by empirically evaluating the rigour of each tied candidate's work using appropriate academic submissions not reflected in the GPA.

Academic submissions not reflected in the GPA may include:

- a) *Grade percentages behind the letter grades (a 99% versus a 95%, both an A+)*
- b) *Work within Complete/Incomplete courses such as practica, and any applicable professional standards (e.g. BCTC)*
- c) *Marks on assignments, projects, and other course work.*
- d) *Any other work completed in the second half of the degree and not captured in the GPA.*

6) **Breaking ties between Governor General's Silver medal candidates**

Where two or more TRU Baccalaureate medalists have the same GPA, reg. 2.2 shall be used to determine the Silver Medalist. Where two or more candidates have a perfect 4.33 GPA, the baccalaureate medalist GPA which is the highest above the median for their pool of eligible degree graduates shall be deemed to have the highest academic average and be awarded the Silver Medal. Where the pool of eligible medal candidates within a degree program is deemed statistically insufficient, a combined pool of three years candidates shall be used.

After calculating the median medal GPA of all medal eligible graduates within each baccalaureate degree program, select the medalist who has the medal GPA with the highest standard deviation above the median for their TRU medal adjudication.

5. NEW BUSINESSES

a. **Review and approve the Terms of Reference**

The committee recommended the approval of the currently used *Terms of Reference* posted online, with the following changes:

- Under Responsibilities, remove the final bullet beginning "Advise the Director..."
- Under Membership fifth bullet, remove "and appointed by the Senate Steering Committee".
- Under Membership sixth bullet, change "appointed by" to recommended by".

b. **Policy ED 9-1 interpretation clarification regarding Masters Medals**

Gordon noted and explained that the GSC is already seeking nominations from each program head for Masters Medal candidates, presumably with each Dean's explicit or delegated approval. Therefore, since the faculty/school recommended the candidate to the GSC in the first place, Student Awards will not seek the Dean's approval again of the same candidate. However, this is not clear in ED 9-1 Reg 1.1. where it states, "With the Dean's approval...". Gordon recommended that the next time ED 9-1 is revised, the committee seek wording that improves transparency on this point.

c. **Adjudication of the 2025 TRU Baccalaureate Medals**

After review, the committee motioned and approved the 2025 TRU Baccalaureate Medals as presented. (MH, DB)

d. Adjudication of the 2025 Governor General's Medals

The committee motioned and approved the 2025 Governor General's Bronze Medal as presented, and the Governor General's Gold Medal as nominated by the Graduate Studies Committee. (DH, DB)

The committee motioned and approved Michael Nolander for the 2025 Governor General's Silver Medal and accepted the Dean's recommendation to award the 2025 TRU Bachelor of Engineering Medal to the top academic student below the Silver Medal recipient.

e. Adjudication of the 2025 TRU Masters Medals

The committee motioned and approved the 2025 TRU Masters Medals as presented from the Graduate Studies Committee. (DB, MH)

e. Adjudication of the 2025 Lieutenant-Governor's Medal

After discussion and review, the committee motioned (MH, DB) and awarded the 2025 TRU Lieutenant-Governor's Medal to Emily Fagg (Bachelor of Science, Chemistry).

6. NEXT MEETING

TBD.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM