



Social Science Students' Council Textbook Endowment

Preamble

Regardless of background, all students benefit from a learning environment in which every student has an equal chance of success. We all know university is challenging, without worrying about finances. Every year, a substantial amount of carryover from the Social Science Students' Council Leadership Award fund remains and continues to grow. I, with the support of the Vice President Finance, have devised a plan to utilize excess award funds in a financially responsible manner that would enhance the undergraduate experience of a considerable amount of students.

Objectives

- Create a \$100,000 textbook endowment for students with demonstrable need to be distributed in \$5,000 installments over the course of each academic year.
- Support and reduce barriers to students' academic success.
- Encourage increased academic engagement between students, their department, the Faculty of Social Science, Social Science Students' Council, and various faculty academic resources such as Academic Counselling.
- Support and promote Western services such as the Bookstore and Computer Store.

Timeline

2016/2017: Preparations

- Establish partnership with Western Bookstore and Computer Store. Determine whether books will be sold at cost or at a lower rate. Begin developing framework for a textbook donation system as an addition.
- Create application and screening process.
- Set ideal timeline for process (when recipients are to be chosen, etc.)

2017/2018: Trial year

- Only \$2500 made available.
- Brief advertising period.
- Collect feedback.

2018/2019: Full award in effect

- Full \$5000 made available.

- Extensive advertising.
- More information made available online.
2019-2021: Award still in effect
- Continue collecting feedback.
- Adjusting and improving as needed (advertising, screening process, etc.).

Members Involved

- President
- Vice President Finance
- Dean
- Associate Dean Academic

Consultations

During my informational campaign, I collected feedback from over 50 students, faculty stakeholders, student leaders, and campaign volunteers regarding this initiative. All students vocalized support and appreciated the review process being administered by the Dean's Office.

Context and Enactment

Preceded by an extensive advertising campaign, students would submit an application stating their personal income, work and volunteer or extracurricular commitments, and other extenuating circumstances that make financing books difficult. The Dean's Office would review these applications and award 25 installments at \$200 each. These installments would be redeemable through a credit-system partnership with the Western Bookstore and Computer Store. Students would only be able to purchase course materials through said credit. Credits could not be exchanged for cash, although textbooks could later be sold. Doing so would eliminate the risk that recipients would spend a portion or the entire installment on non-academic resources.

In order to fully establish the Textbook Fund in this way, we have created a long-term plan. In this upcoming year, we would be focused on setting up the application process, creating the necessary partnerships and conducting more student feedback. The following year would be a brief trial period where only half the money is made available in order to ensure that this Textbook Fund works efficiently on a smaller scale. Afterwards, we are confident we could establish this award in full effect and make any necessary changes. Overall we aim to improve the quality of life for Social Science Students and show our belief that everyone deserves an equal chance at success.