



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

**October 11, 2024**

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The meeting was held at 1:33 at the Somerville House, Great Hall

### **SENATORS:**

A. Agyapong	M. Green-Barteet	I. Paul
C. Alcantara	C. Hall	P. Pexman
M. Bassnett	A. Hearn	G. Philip
G. Beckett	L. Henderson A.	S. Powell
J. Beecroft	Hodgson	A. Puvirajah
B. Begg	L. M. Ibarra	W. Ritchie
J. Birkinshaw	J. Ijam	D. Robinson
N. Borradaile	J. Jin	B. Rubin
A. Botterell	I. Johnsrude	S. Schmid
S. Buhrow	A. Jokhu	L. Shaw
J. Byrd Clark	E. Kamimura D.	A. Shepard
A. Bryson	Laird	K. Siddiqui
B. Cheadle	J. Lamarche	Z. Sinel
K. Choi	L. Lingard	D. Smith
A. Christie	G. Little	F. Strzelczyk
M. Cleveland	L. Logan	R. Ventresca
N. Coates	A. Liu	X. Wang
K. Coley	A. Lukawski	S. Whitehead
E. Da Costa	T. Mantler	J. Yoo
S. D'Arcy	O. Matthews	N. Zaban
L. Davis	A. Meyer	
M. Davison	M. Mills	
M. El-Sakka	M. Modeski	
D. Ferri	I. Namukasa	
J. Gemson	D. Neufeld	
R. Graham	K. Olson	

**Observers:** C. Bressette, L. Cho, J. Doerksen, R. Isard, N. Keyghobadi, S. Lewis, M. Medapati, O. Oloya, S. Roland, V. Sarkany, J. Weststar, M. Yenson

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

G. Little offered a Land Acknowledgement.

### **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

#### **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of September 13, 2024**

It was moved by B. Cheadle, seconded by M. Mills,

That the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2024, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

In addition to the written report provided with the agenda, A. Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, highlighted several events for prospective students, including the recent Ontario Universities Fair and the upcoming Fall Preview Day, and expressed gratitude to the volunteers. Additionally, the President discussed plans for the Fall Convocation and efforts to increase faculty participation.

A. Shepard continued his report by advising on the ways to enhance visibility and impact for Western's Research, outlining the various types of outputs in this field.

In his closing remarks, A. Shepard announced that John Yoo has been re-appointed as Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

### **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) began her report with a brief leadership update and announced that Jason Oliver was named as Chief Technology Officer starting December 1, 2024.

F. Strzelczyk continued her report by expressing gratitude to Christy Bressette for her leadership in organizing events aligned with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Additionally, the Provost informed Senate that Desmond Moser has been appointed as Assistant Dean (Decolonization) in the Faculty of Science.

The Provost provided an update on the international student cap set by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and reforms to the international student policy, particularly those related to graduate students.

F. Strzelczyk concluded her report by providing information on budget considerations for 2025-2026 and stated that the budget documents and guidelines have been sent to the Faculties and support units.

F. Strzelczyk addressed a question regarding the discontinuation of Western's French

Immersion program in Trois-Pistoles and commented on the extensive consultation conducted as part of the decision-making process. The Provost also noted that another university may take on the program.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)**

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided a verbal update on research activities and began her report announcing that Alison Allan was appointed for a five-year term as Associate Vice-President (Research), effective October 1, 2024. She also advised on the ongoing leadership search for the Rotman Institute of Philosophy and the Western Academy for Advanced Research.

P. Pexman continued her report by updating Senate on the research funding application pressures and expressed gratitude to researchers on campus along with the Western Research team for the first successes in this fiscal year.

P. Pexman encouraged Senators to attend a series of workshops, organized by Western's Chief AI Officer Mark Daley and Western Research, focused on use of contemporary generative AI tools in the process of grant writing.

P. Pexman concluded her report by acknowledging the remarkable achievements of Western's researchers.

### **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)**

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee, M. Cleveland presented the report of OAC.

### **ITEM 6.1 – Revisions to SUTA Regulations**

It was moved by A. Botterell, seconded by I. Paul,

That on the recommendation of the Operations/Agenda Committee, Senate approve that effective October 11, 2024, the Western Awards for Excellence in Teaching – SUTA Regulations be revised as shown in Item 6.1

CARRIED

### **ITEM 6.2 – 2023-24 Annual Report of the Senate Review Board Academic**

L. Dagnino, Chair of the Senate Review Board Academic, presented the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Senate Review Board Academic. She described the typical appeal process, the number of appeals received during the reporting period compared with data from previous years and statistics on the final decisions. Additionally, L. Dagnino commented on the trends observed.

In response to a question, L. Dagnino provided comments on the appeal categories that have shown the most significant growth.

### **REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, S. Schmid provided the report of the Nominating Committee.

#### **ITEM 7.1 – Membership – Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty)**

Senate was advised that Robert Monti was nominated by the Nominating Committee and withdrew his nomination subsequently.

Donna Kotsopoulos and Walter Rushlow were nominated by the Nominating Committee and Sophie Roland was nominated from the floor of Senate. Donna Kotsopoulos, Sophie Roland and Walter Rushlow were acclaimed to serve on the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty).

### **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY**

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, K. Yeung presented the report of the Policy Committee.

#### **ITEM 8.1 – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Policy on “Thesis” and Related Procedure for Thesis Formats and Content**

It was moved by L. Graham, seconded by L. Lingard,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective October 11, 2024, the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies policy on “Thesis” be revised as shown in Item 8.1.

CARRIED

### **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS (ACA)**

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Curriculum and Awards, S. Roland presented the ACA report.

#### **ITEM 9.1 – Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Faculty of Social Science, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies: Introduction of a Major in Black Studies**

In response to a question of clarification, I. Paul, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, addressed the Program’s response to the external reviewers’ recommendation #2 and stated that engagement with the Thames Valley District School Board was driven by existing personal connections. Looking forward, the Program intends to expand these engagement efforts, including but not limited to the London District Catholic School Board.

It was moved by M. Cleveland, seconded by G. Beckett,

That on the recommendation of ACA, and conditional on approval by the Quality Council, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, a Major in Black Studies be introduced by the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies in the Faculties of Arts and Humanities and Social Science as shown in Item 9.1.

CARRIED

**ITEM 9.2 – Faculty of Health Sciences, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing: Revisions to the Policies on “Nursing Applicants” and “Progression Requirements – Nursing”**

It was moved by R. Graham, seconded by M. Cleveland,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the policies on “Nursing Applicants” and “Progression Requirements – Nursing” be revised as shown in Item 9.2.

CARRIED

**REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB)**

On behalf of the University Research Board, P. Pexman presented the URB report and briefly commented on the topics discussed during the first URB meeting, including an update on the implementation of the MAPP 7.17 - Establishment, Governance and Review of Core Research Facilities and the appeals process for Western's Research Ethics Board.

**ITEM 11.1 – Announcement of a Vice-Chair of the University Research Board**

Geoffrey Little was elected as Vice-Chair of the University Research Board for a term ending June 30, 2025.

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

S. Roland presented the Report of the Academic Colleague referring to materials in the agenda for information.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)**

**Information Items Reported by OAC on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 13.1(a) – Appointment of Officers of Convocation.

**REPORT FROM THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Information Items Reported by the Nominating Committee:**

- ITEM 13.2(a) – Temporary Replacement for the Committee Member: Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U).

**REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY**

**ITEM 13.3(a) – Faculty of Engineering: Revisions to the Policies on “Progression Requirements – Engineering” and “Undergraduate Course Credit”**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approved that effective September 1, 2024, the policy on “Progression Requirements – Engineering” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a), and

That effective September 1, 2024, the policy on “Undergraduate Course Credit” be revised as shown in Item 13.3(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS (ACA)**

**ITEM 13.4(a) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities: Renaming of the Major in Arts and Humanities**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the “Major in Arts and Humanities” be renamed as the “Major in SASAH” as shown in Item 13.4(a), and

That students currently enrolled in the module be permitted to graduate with the old name of the module on their diploma until August 31, 2028, upon request to the Office of the Registrar, and

That the admission requirements be revised as shown in Item 13.4(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(b) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of English and Writing Studies: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Certificate in Writing and the Certificate in Professional Communication**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2025, the admission and program requirements of the Certificate in Writing and the Certificate in Professional Communication, offered by the Department of English and Writing Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, be revised as shown in Item 13.4(b).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(c) – Faculty of Engineering, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering: Revisions to the Program Requirements of Software Engineering Options**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the following Software Engineering Options, offered by the Faculty of Engineering, be revised as shown in Item 13.4(c).

Software Engineering Program

B. Software Engineering/HBA (with the Ivey Business School)

C. Software Engineering/Law (with the Faculty of Law)

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(d) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Microbiology and Immunology: Revisions to the Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in Microbiology and Immunology**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the program requirements of the Honours Specialization in Microbiology and Immunology, offered by the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, be revised as shown in Item 13.4(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(e) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Microbiology and Immunology: Revisions to the Weighted Average Chart in the “Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program” Policy**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the Weighted Average Chart in the “Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program” policy be revised as shown in Item 13.4(e).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(f) – Faculty of Science: Renaming of and Revisions to the Science Internship Program**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the “Science Internship Program” be renamed as the “Science Co-op Program” and that the requirements be revised as shown in Item 13.4(f).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(g) – Faculty of Science: Withdrawal of the Minor in Advanced Chemistry**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, admission to the Minor in Advanced Chemistry be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the module be permitted to graduate upon fulfilment of the module requirements by August 31, 2025, and

That the module be withdrawn effective September 1, 2025.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**ITEM 13.4(h) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Sociology: Amendment to the Dates for the Withdrawal of the Major in Criminology**

It was moved by S. Powell, seconded by I. Johnsrude,

That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that admission to the Major in Criminology be discontinued effective September 1, 2026 (rather than the previously approved date of September 1, 2025), and

That students currently enrolled in the module be permitted to graduate upon fulfilment of the module requirements by August 31, 2030, and

That the module will be withdrawn effective September 1, 2030.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

**Information Items Reported by ACA on Unanimous Consent:**

- 13.4(i) – SUPR-U Report: Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Computer Science and Political Science.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:**

- ITEM 13.5(c) – Academic Administrative Appointments.

**DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

The full text of the questions submitted in advance of the meeting was posted in the Agenda at Item 15.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below:

Graduate student funding:

In response to a question regarding support for graduate students, K. Siddiqui, Vice-Provost (School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies), presented a high-level summary of the funding data (Appendix A) broken down by average amount per faculty and funding source.

P. Pexman commented on external funding matters, highlighting trends over the last fiscal year. Additionally, K. Siddiqui advised on the support provided by SGPS to graduate students.

F. Strzelczyk responded to a question of clarification regarding the internal support for graduate students from different Faculties, and pointed out that the ratio between expenditures and funding amounts across different Faculties should be taken into consideration. Additionally, P. Pexman emphasized the importance of increasing the number of funding applications submitted. It was noted that increasing external research funding impacts the amount of Tri-Council funding available to Western.

In response to a question, K. Siddiqui noted that most graduate funding relies on internal sources and emphasized the importance of increasing applications for external research funding.

The President responded to a number of questions concerning the funding allocation across Faculties and funding comparisons with other Ontario institutions.

It was moved by M. Cleveland, seconded by A. Lukawski,

That the discussion and question period of the Senate meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Brescia: Family Studies Program:

F. Strzelczyk responded to questions regarding the decision to place the Family Studies Program within the new Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences under the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Provost highlighted the overlap between the Family Studies and Food and Nutritional programs, not only in terms of courses, but also with respect to resources and noted that it could be reconsidered in future.

In response to a question of clarification, F. Strzelczyk reassured Senate that there was no major modification to the Program's content, which should be considered by ACA and Senate, and explained the process of setting the admission standards.

Security services:

F. Strzelczyk addressed a question concerning the expenditures on security measures and impacts on academic priorities. She stated that while security measures are funded as one-time expenditures, all Faculties have base budget funding. The Provost advised that the course efficiency guidelines focus on ensuring the efficient utilization of the resources allocated to the Faculty, based on their priorities.

In response to a question regarding video surveillance, L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), described the rationale behind the video monitoring, emphasizing its role in ensuring security and deterring potential threats and outlining who is authorized to access recording. Additionally, she stated that the recording can be returned to Western for deletion upon request.

L. Logan advised on the multiple communications with the campus community regarding road closures and informed Senate that all campus roads have been reopened and the use of video surveillance has ceased.

Non-curricular events:

L. Logan addressed a question regarding the "Campus Events Notification for Fall 2024", a guideline on the organization of the non-curricular events, emphasizing that, given the increasing number of such events, it is essential to streamline the planning process. Additionally, she indicated that the form is not part of an approval process.

In response to a question regarding the initial risk assessment for non-curricular events, L. Logan stated that these measures were not related to the paused procedure on demonstrations.

The President informed Senate that with respect to the negotiation process, the tentative agreement has been reached, and the ratification process is underway.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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A. Shepard  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary

# Doctoral Funding and Scholarships

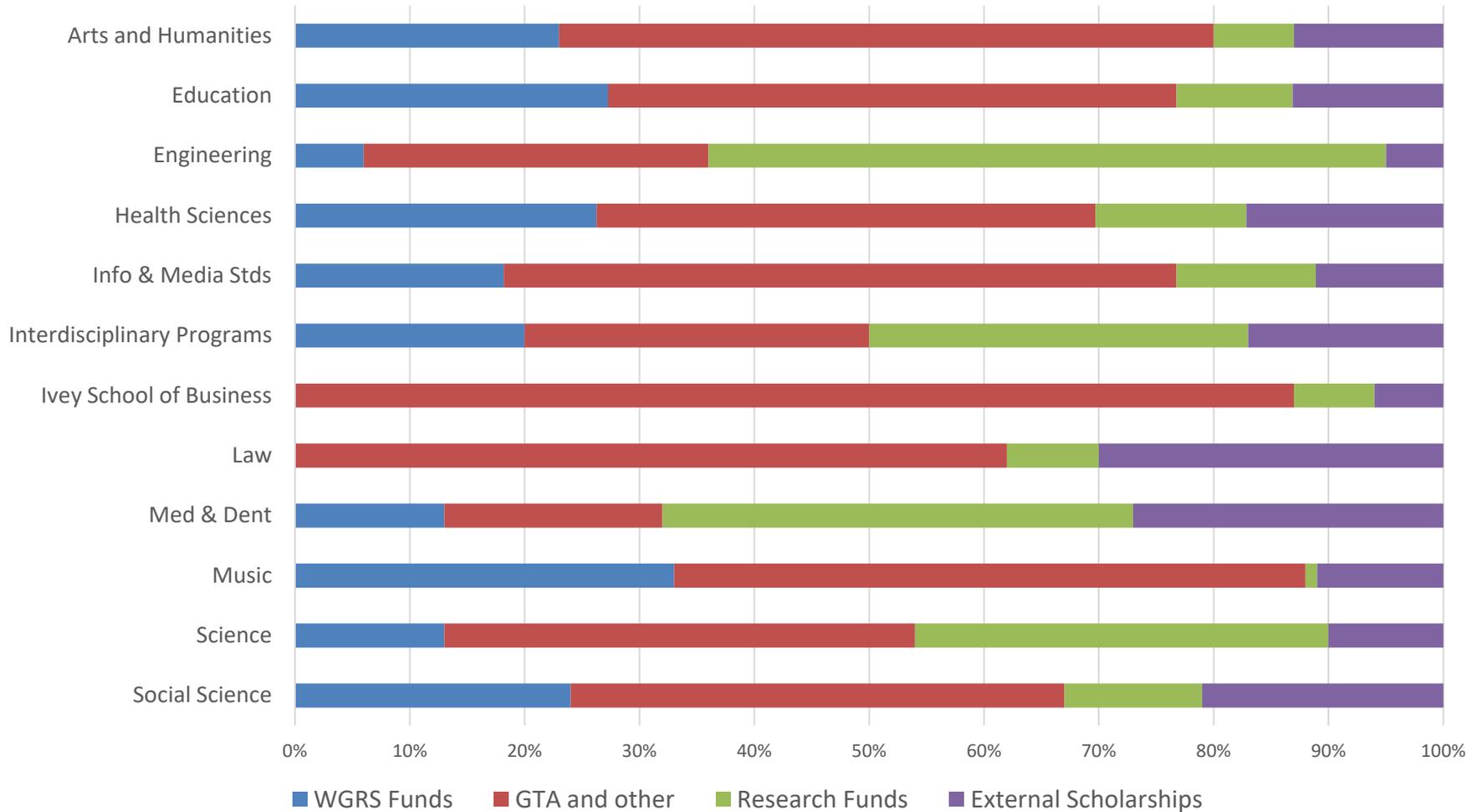
# Doctoral Degree Funding Averages (2024 Fiscal)

Minimum guaranteed funding: \$17,000 + tuition (\$6,360) = **\$23,360**

	Domestic Funding Average	International Funding Average
Arts and Humanities	\$ 30,931	\$ 29,631
Education	\$ 31,905	\$ 25,701
Engineering	\$ 37,892	\$ 31,469
Health Sciences	\$ 32,811	\$ 30,990
Info & Media Stds	\$ 38,037	\$ 33,681
Interdisciplinary Programs*	\$ 36,138	\$ 31,757
Ivey School of Business	\$ 46,909	\$ 39,288
Law	\$ 32,632	\$ 30,911
Med & Dent	\$ 37,793	\$ 33,233
Music	\$ 27,750	\$ 24,926
Science	\$ 35,017	\$ 30,086
Social Science	\$ 40,355	\$ 37,495

\*Accounting, Biomedical Engineering, Environment and Sustainability, Health Information Science, Neuroscience, Theory and Criticism

# Doctoral Graduate Student Funding by Source (2024 Fiscal)



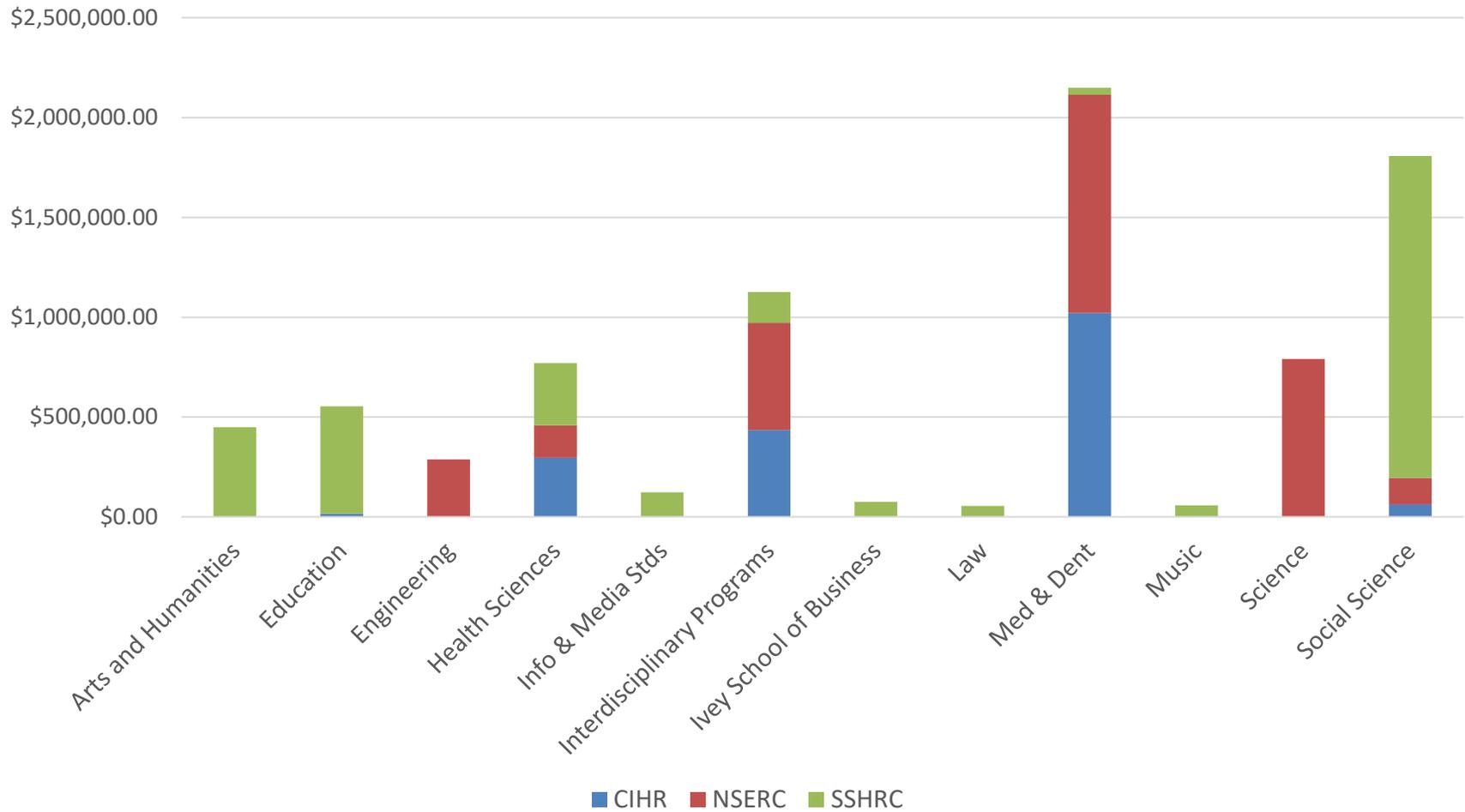
# Tri-Agency Graduate Scholarship Awards (2024 Fiscal)

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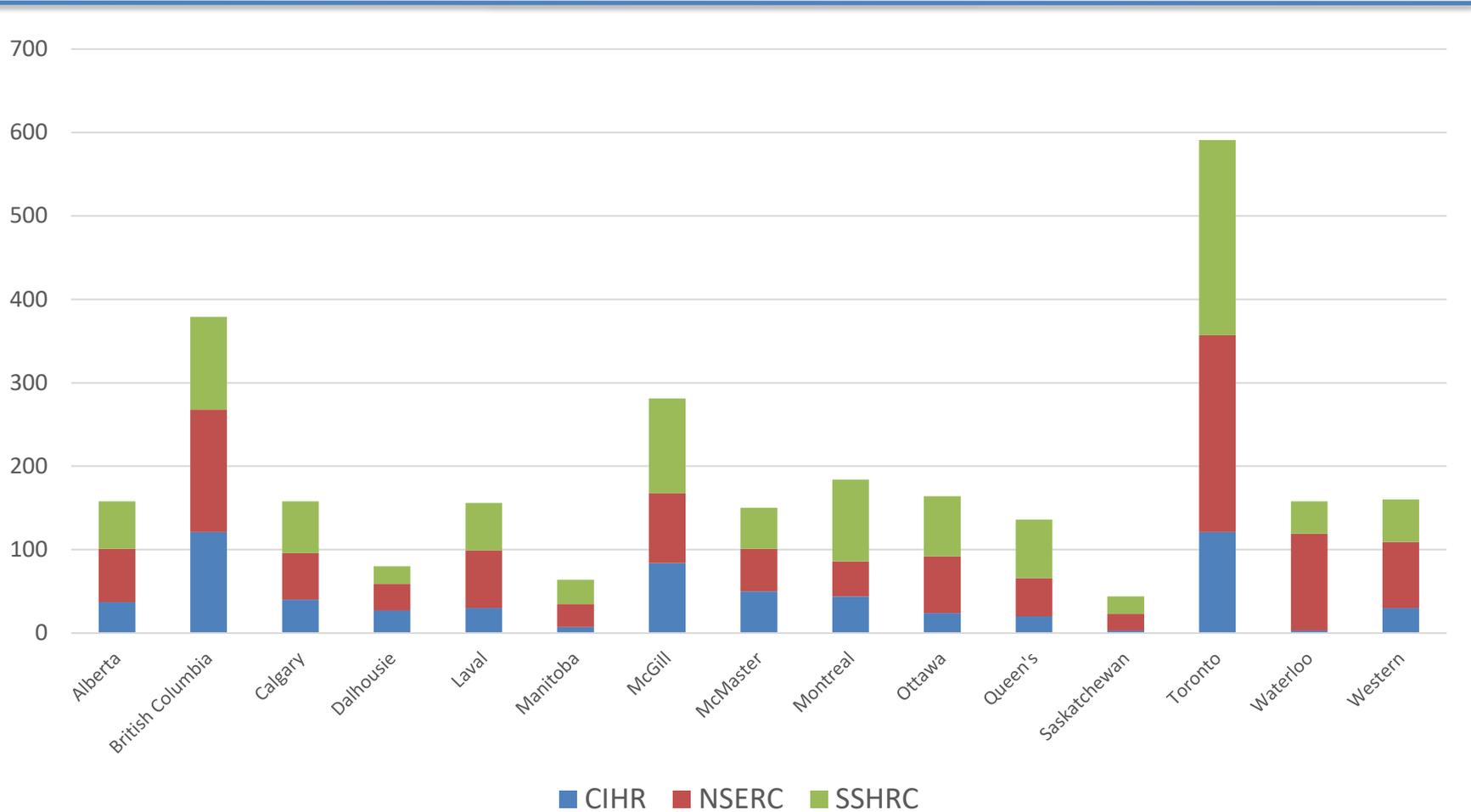
	<b>Master's Awards*</b> <b>(total \$)</b>	<b>Doctoral Awards*</b> <b>(total \$)</b>	<b>Vanier Awards</b> <b>(total \$)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>CIHR</b>	\$536,667.28	\$1,011,874.40	\$200,000.04	\$1,748,541.72
<b>NSERC</b>	\$548,333.96	\$2,335,083.76	\$100,000.02	\$2,983,417.74
<b>SSHRC</b>	\$746,667.52	\$2,319,167.51	\$333,333.40	\$3,399,168.43

\*Current scholarship values are \$27,000 for master's and \$40,000 for doctoral; values shown reflect scholarship amounts for previous fiscal year

# Tri-Agency Scholarships by Faculty (2024 Fiscal)



# U15 CGSD Quotas (2024 Competition)

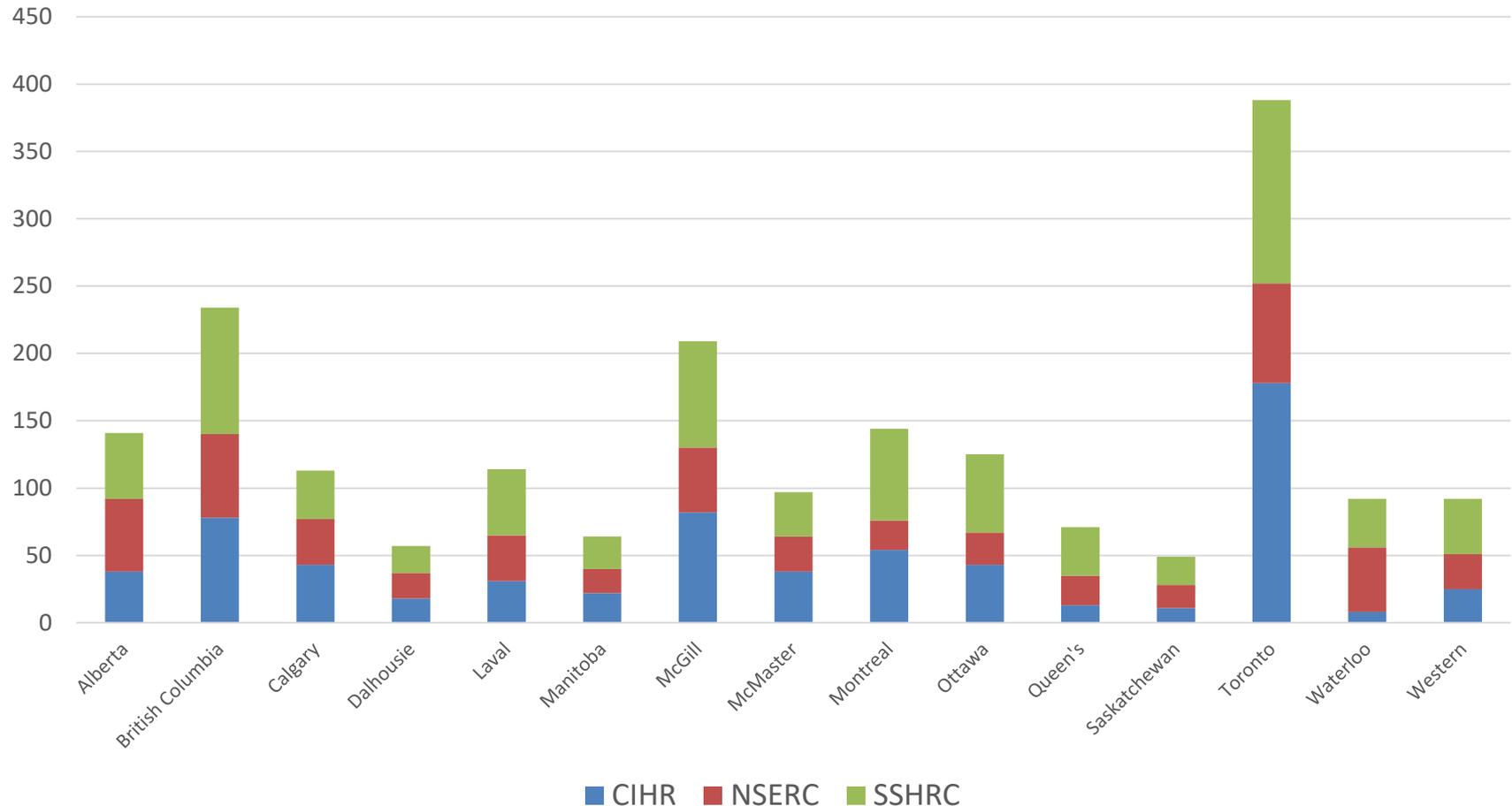


<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51528.html>

[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/quota-quota\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/quota-quota_eng.asp)

[https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/doctors\\_allocation-doctorat\\_allocation-eng.aspx](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/doctors_allocation-doctorat_allocation-eng.aspx)

# U15 CGSM Allocations (2024 Competition)



[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/cgsallocations-quotasbesc\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/cgsallocations-quotasbesc_eng.asp)

## Support offered by SGPS

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- Tri-agency scholarship information sessions for graduate programs
- Individualized feedback on Vanier scholarship applications
- Support for students for final submission of tri-agency scholarships

Thank you