MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY CIRCULAR

The following item require members’ endorsement. Members are requested to advise me in writing by Friday 19th September 2008 if they have any objection to the circulated item being approved.

If no comments/suggestions/objections are received by cob on that day, the item will be processed in the normal way and the recommendation will be recorded as a resolution in the next set of minutes.

Imelda Ooi
Administrative Officer

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UWA SCIENCE COMMUNICATION TRAVEL AWARD REF:

A private donor has made a donation of $10,000 to the University of Western Australia for the purpose of providing, for two years, an annual travel award in Science Communication. The purpose of the award is to assist a UWA student who is completing studies in science communication to pursue and benefit from travel experience and practical work experience in science reporting.

A copy of the draft conditions is attached (Attachment A).

The Dean recommends that the proposed establishment of the UWA Science Communication Travel Award be approved to commence in 2009, subject to final drafting of the conditions by Legislative Committee.
UWA Science Communication Travel Award *

An asterisk (*) indicates that this award is governed by conditions. This award is governed by the General Conditions for Scholarships for Coursework Students except as set out in the conditions that follow.

An anonymous donor has made a donation of $10,000 to The University of Western Australia for the purpose of providing, for two years, an annual travel award in Science Communication. The award is established and administered in accordance with the following conditions.

Title
1. The award is called the UWA Science Communication Travel Award.

Purpose
2. The purpose of the award is to assist a UWA student who is completing studies in science communication to pursue and benefit from travel experience and practical work experience in science reporting. To be eligible for the award, the student must be finishing one of the following:
   - Bachelor of Science (Science Communication),
   - Bachelor of Science with a major in Science Communication,
   - Honours in Science Communication,
   - Graduate Certificate (Science Communication)
   - Graduate Diploma (Science Communication),
   - Master of Science Communication,
   - Master of Science Communication and Education or
   - PhD in the Science Communication programme.

Value
3. (1) The annual value of the award is $5,000.

Eligibility Requirements
4. To be eligible for consideration an applicant must—
   (a) be a citizen or permanent resident of Australia;

   (b) be in the final stages of one of the science communication courses listed above;

   (c) have demonstrated:

      (i) an understanding of and enthusiasm for science communication;

      (ii) academic achievement in Science Communication; and

      (iii) an attitude which, in the opinion of the selection panel, embraces the purposes of the award.

Body Responsible for Selection
5. The selection panel for the award comprises:
   (a) the Dean of the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences or nominee;

   (b) the Coordinator of the Science Communication Programme and
(c) the President of the Australian Science Communicators (WA Branch), or nominee.

Selection Criteria
6. The award is presented to the applicant who, among those eligible, in the opinion of the selection committee best demonstrates in their application and supporting documentation—
   (a) academic achievement in the higher level units of Science Communication as evidenced by their academic record;
   (b) an understanding of and enthusiasm for science communication and science reporting;
   (c) ability to use the opportunity to develop their career in science communication; and
   (c) an attitude which embraces the purposes of the award.

Selection Process
7. (1) Selection of the recipient is made by the selection committee having regard to the applicants' academic record, completed applications and supporting documentation.

   (2) Applicants are short-listed for interview by the selection panel and are required to present their folio of practical work at the interview.

Awarding Body
8. The travel award is awarded by the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences, on the recommendation of the selection panel.

Method of Payment
9. (1) The travel award is paid as a lump sum on or before the commencement of travel.

   (2) A provisional budget of travel and living costs, along with quotes obtained, must be presented to the Coordinator of the Science Communication Programme prior to the release of funds.

Concurrent Awards
10. The travel award may be held concurrently with any other external or University award provided that the conditions of the concurrent award so permit.

Application Procedure
11. (1) Written applications for the travel award are called for annually and must be submitted to the Coordinator of the Science Communication programme no later than the advertised closing date.

   (2) Written applications must include:

      (a) a proposed programme for the use of the award indicating—

      (i) details of intended travel;
(ii) nature of proposed work experience; and

(iii) how this award could contribute to the career path of the recipient.

(b) time frame required to achieve the proposed programme if at variance with that noted under 13(1).

Administering Body
12. The travel award is administered and advertised by the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences.

Other Conditions
13. (1) Unless otherwise agreed with the selection panel, the recipient of the travel award must commence the travel programme within six months of receiving the award.

(2) No later than three months after completing the internship, the recipient must share the benefits of the internship by way of a written report submitted to the Dean of Life and Physical Sciences.

(3) The recipient is encouraged to share with the profession the benefits of the programme by way of an illustrated presentation to students and staff of the Science Communication programme and members of the profession, at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty.

(4) If, during the travel programme, the recipient finds a need to extend the nominated timeframe such extension is at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty but no further funding is provided for any such extension.


Publications
14. Any thesis, dissertation or other academic publication resulting from research undertaken by the recipient while in receipt of the Travel Award in Science Communication must acknowledge the support of the award and carry the University by-line.

Intellectual Property