



SSDAC ANNUAL REPORT 2019–2020

FINANCE COMMITTEE

SCIENCE STUDENTS' COUNCIL | WESTERN UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

In an effort to increase financial transparency, communicate to Science Students, and address student concerns about the delegation of student funds, the Finance Committee creates an annual SSDAC report. This report summarizes the distribution of the Science Donation fee for each school year. The report below outlines the allocation of these funds for the 2019–2020 school year. This was created by the Finance Committee, under the supervision of the Student Services Commissioner, and the VP Finance.

For the academic year of 2019–2020, the Science Student Council (SSC) distributed a total of **\$190,449.95** across various Science or Medical Science departments. This money was used to fund new equipment that is meant to enhance the learning experience of students within each department. The precise breakdown of funds for each department is described below. All departments were contacted to submit a proposal detailing what equipment they would like to receive funding for. Each department was either fully or partially funded the amount that they requested. Any department missing from this report did not submit a request.

Funds were allocated based on necessity and impact on student learning experiences. The committee consists of the Science Students' Council's President, Vice-President Finance, Student Services Commissioner, and two elected members. Disputes involving the distribution of funds were resolved by a majority vote of at least three members on the committee.

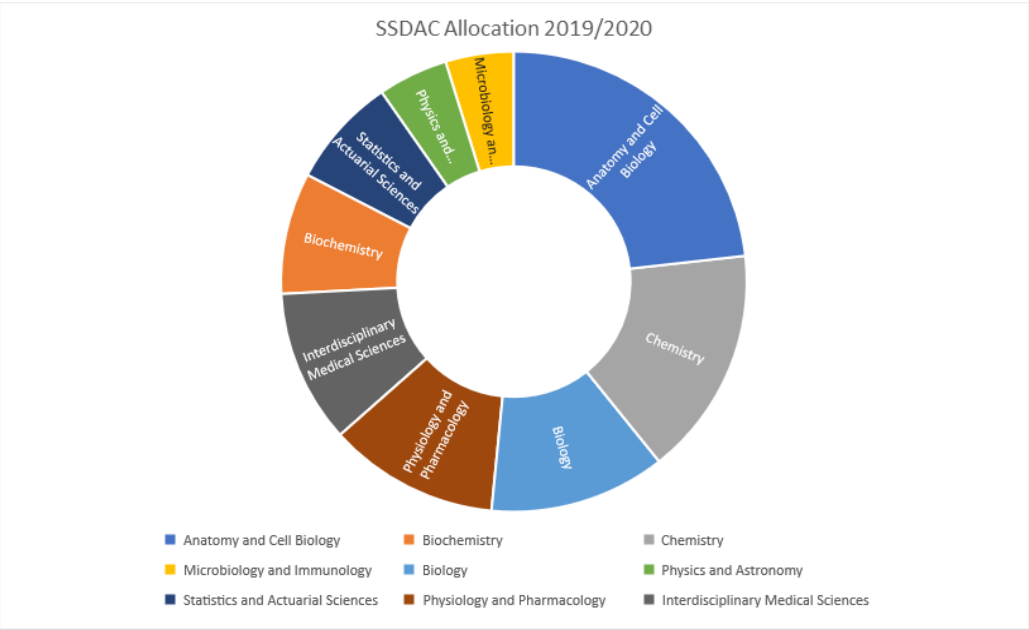


Figure.1(a): Distribution of Science Donation Fee by department within the Faculty of Science

Anatomy and Cell Biology

Total Requested: \$62,400

Total Approved: \$44,200

Items Requested:

- 1-year License for Echo360 Active Learning Platform Software (\$26,000.00)
- Digital Microscopes (\$36,400.00)

Items Approved:

- 1-year License for Echo360 Active Learning Platform Software (\$26,000.00)
- Digital Microscopes (\$18,200.00)

Reasoning: The request from the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology was partially approved for a total of **\$44,200**. These funds are designated for the purchase of a 1-year License for Echo360 Active Learning Platform Software as well as Digital Microscopes. This funding will benefit students learning remotely, as well as provide course materials for classes.

The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology requested **\$26,000** for a 1-year license for Echo360 Active Learning Platform Software. The SSDAC decided to approve this request. Echo360 ALP Software enables interactive class participation during lectures and tutorials, as well as recording for later reference. The use of this software will impact approximately 950 students throughout various courses.

The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology also requested **\$36,400** for digital microscopes. The SSDAC decided to partially approve this request for **\$18,200**. Digital microscopes are essential to course function and shouldn't be solely

funded by the SDF. Instead, funding for the digital microscopes should be matched by the faculty budget if deemed necessary.

Biochemistry

Total Requested: \$16,220.99

Total Approved: \$16,220.99

Items Requested:

- Centrifuge Service Contracts
- ComPAIR Peer Comparison Software
- Visible Wavelength Spectrophotometer
- UV/Vis Spectrophotometer

Items Approved:

- Centrifuge Service Contracts
- ComPAIR Peer Comparison Software
- Visible Wavelength Spectrophotometer
- UV/Vis Spectrophotometer

Reasoning: The application from the Department of BioChemistry was approved in full for a total of **\$16, 220.99** as the items will provide an improved laboratory and course experience for biochemistry students over the upcoming years.

The specific breakdown of the allocation will be **\$2,859** towards a Visible Wavelength Spectrophotometer and **\$6,538** towards a UV/Vis Spectrophotometer. In addition, the SSDAC has approved **\$6,224** for Centrifuge Service Contracts and **\$600** for ComPAIR Peer Comparison Software.

It is also the recommendation of the committee that in future years, the department use the student fund to enhance and differentiate the undergraduate Science student experience from that of other universities. Essential lab equipment and service contracts like the Centrifuge Service Contracts should be funded by the faculty. Since this fund is composed of student donated money, this will be a stricter priority of the committee moving forward.

Chemistry

Total Requested: \$111,791.00

Total Approved: \$30,596.00

Items Requested:

- Cary 60 UV-vis Spectrophotometers (x4)
- ChemDraw Prime Site License
- Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer
- Temperature Controlled Hotplate Stirrers with Temperature Probes

Items Approved:

- Cary 60 UV-vis Spectrophotometers (x2)
- ChemDraw Prime Site License

Reasoning: The application from the Department of Chemistry was partially approved for a total of **\$30,596.00** as some of the items will provide an improved laboratory experience for chemistry students over the next few years.

The specific breakdown of the allocation will be **\$24,016** towards Cary 60 UV-vis Spectrophotometers and **\$6,580** towards the ChemDraw Prime Site License. In particular, there are two (2) Cary 60 UV-vis Spectrophotometers approved and a one-year license for the ChemDraw Prime Site approved.

While the ChemDraw software serves as an important tool for visualization, the license has been a product of the SDF for over one year. We are encouraging the Department of Chemistry to use this year to seek a permanent source of funding for the license, and encourage the partnership of multiple departments and faculties in the process.

The SSDAC has decided to reject the rest of the items requested in the application which consisted of two (2) more Cary 60 UV-vis Spectrophotometers (**\$24,016**), one (1) Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer (**\$42,362**), and Temperature Controlled Hotplate Stirrers with Temperature Probes (**\$14,817**). These items were deemed essential for Chemistry course function, and as a result, should not be funded through the SDF but rather through the faculty budget. Additionally, we encourage the department to match the contribution of the two (2) Cary 60 UV-vis Spectrophotometers to reach the initially proposed total of four (4).

Department of Earth Sciences

Total Requested: \$19,571.00

Total Approved: \$9,030.00

Items Requested:

- Digital Keypad (\$10,000.00)
- Igor Software (\$541.00)

- Nikon Microscope Digital Imager (\$9,030.00)

Items Approved:

- Nikon Microscope Digital Imager (\$9,030.00)

Reasoning: The application from the Earth Sciences department was partially approved. The department's request for a Digital Keypad (\$10,000) and Igor Software (\$541.00) was not approved. The Igor Software request was deemed essential and was approved through faculty funding rather than student donations. The Digital Keypad was not approved as limited funding from student donations had to be taken into consideration and prioritized towards items that would most likely result in an enhanced and differentiated learning experience for students at Western. The Nikon Microscope Digital Imager was approved to improve the quality of the equipment being used by the department and enhance the learning experience of students.

Biology

Total Requested: \$27,731.23

Total Granted: \$23,346.83

Items Requested:

- VWR p20 micro-pipettes (\$10,410.00)
- Eppendorf MiniSpin Microcentrifuges (\$7,461.57)
- VWR p100 micro-pipettes (\$5,475.26)
- NEC NP-ME372X 3200 lumen XGA (\$1,356.00)
- Mini-Protean Tetra Gel Precast System (\$3,028.40)

Approved Items:

- VWR p20 micro-pipettes (\$10,410.00)
- Eppendorf MiniSpin Microcentrifuges (\$7,461.57)
- VWR p100 micro-pipettes (\$5,475.26)

Reasoning:

The request for SDF allocations from the Department of Biology was partially approved. The department's request for NEC NP-ME372X 3200 lumen XGA (\$1,356.00) and Mini-Protean Tetra Gel Precast System (\$3,028.40) were not approved, since they did not qualify as enhancements. Rather, they were essential for course function, and thus it was decided they should be funded through the faculty budget if deemed necessary, instead of through the SDF.

Physics and Astronomy

Total Requested: \$35,117.42

Total Granted: \$9,278.06

Items Requested:

- Van de Graaff Generator and Accessories (\$1,489.38)
- Shoot the Target and Projectile Launcher (\$1,569.57)
- Gravity Well Demonstration (\$453.56)
- Quantum Levitators (\$3,574.76)
- labVIEW License (\$2,190.00)
- Simple Harmonic Motion Weight Set (\$1,525)
- Information Display Television (\$860.80)
- Magnetic Field Sensor Experiment (\$9,105.54)
- Upgraded Laptops for 2nd year labs (\$7,634.35)
- Upgraded Laptops for 3rd year labs (\$6,714.46)

Items Approved:

- Van de Graaff Generator and Accessories (\$1,489.38)
- Shoot the Target and Projectile Launcher (\$1,569.57)
- Gravity Well Demonstration (\$453.56)
- Quantum Levitators (\$3,574.76)
- labVIEW License (\$2,190)

Reasoning:

Items requested from the department of Physics and Astronomy were partially approved. The items not approved (Simple Harmonic Motion Weight Set, Information Display Television, Magnetic Field Sensor Experiment, and Upgraded Laptops for second and third year labs) were deemed either essential for the overall functioning of the course or deemed not valuable investments. In the case of essential items, student donations should not be funding them, but rather tuition. The committee had to take into consideration the limitations of our fund and prioritize the items that would most likely result in an enhanced learning experience for students.

Statistics and Actuarial Sciences

Total Requested: \$14,703.89

Total Granted: \$14,703.89

Items Requested:

- New Windows Server (\$7,526.13)
- New PCs (x8) (\$7,177,76)

Items Approved:

- New Windows Server (\$7,526.13)
- New PCs (x8) (\$7,177,76)

Reasoning:

The Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences is requesting a total of \$14,703.89 from the SSC to purchase a new Windows Server and 8 new PCs. The upgraded server and new technology are projected to affect more than 1000 students who are enrolled in selected courses throughout the department. Their request of funding was approved in full by the SSC and the plan involving the new technology will be implemented by the end of Summer 2020.

The new Windows Server, costing \$7,526.13, is to enhance the student learning experience within the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences. The 8 new PCs that were requested and approved, costing \$7,177.76, will be added to the lab to replace older models that have reached the 5-year warranty.

Physiology and Pharmacology

Total Requested: \$26,114.38

Total Approved: \$22,602.98

Items Requested:

- Lightboard with markers(\$11,458)
- Advanced Physiology TeachingKit (\$8,941)
- Virtual Reality Headset (\$549.99)
- Computer for VR Headset (\$1,655.99)
- Multi-Channel Pipettors (\$3,511.40).

Items Approved:

- Lightboard with markers(\$11,458)
- Advanced Physiology TeachingKit (\$8,941)
- Virtual Reality Headset (\$549.99)
- Computer for VR Headset (\$1,655.99)

Reasoning:

The application from the Physiology and Pharmacology department was partially approved. The department's request for Multi-Channel Pipettors (\$3,511.40) was not approved. The Multi-Channel Pipettors request was deemed essential and should be funded through faculty funding rather than student donations. Funding from student donations must be prioritized towards items that would most likely result in an enhanced and differentiated learning experience for students at Western rather than essential items.

Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences

Total Requested: \$20,417.20

Total Granted: \$20,417.20

Items Requested:

- ChemiDoc Imaging System upgraded for fluorescent multiplexing with western blots (\$20,417.20)

Items Approved:

- ChemiDoc Imaging System upgraded for fluorescent multiplexing with western blots (\$20,417.20)

Reasoning:

The ChemiDoc Imaging System will elevate the experience of Interdisciplinary Medical Science (IMS) students in their respective lab and research classes. The new imaging system allows for the analysis of protein expression through the use of fluorescent multiplexing, a method that results in more data being obtained and fewer reagents being used. The ChemiDoc system will lead to IMS students being able to answer more complex biological questions, an opportunity that will expand their knowledge of science.

Summary

Between the nine science departments that applied for the funding, the full requested amount totals \$334,121.11. Taking necessity and impact on student learning experiences into careful consideration, the funds of the science donation fee are allocated as followed, with the distributed funds totalling \$167,846.97. The remaining funds will be allocated towards the endowment fund in addition to the original 15%.

DEPARTMENT	REQUESTED	DISTRIBUTED
Anatomy and Cell Biology	\$62,400.00	\$44,200.00
Biochemistry	\$16,220.99	\$16,220.99
Chemistry	\$111,791.00	\$30,596.00
Earth Sciences	\$19,571.00	\$9,030.00
Biology	\$27,731.23	\$23,346.83
Physics and Astronomy	\$35,117.42	\$9,278.06
Statistics and Actuarial Sciences	\$14,703.89	\$14,703.89
Physiology and Pharmacology	\$26,114.38	\$22,602.98
Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences	\$20,471.20	\$20,471.20
Total	\$334,121.11	\$190,449.95

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