



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1



U SPORTS

Conference and Annual Meeting.



06/12/2023



Components.

1. Eligibility & AFA Alignment

- Synopsis
- Summary of survey
- Next steps

2. Member Engagement Session

- Proposal

3. Equity in AFA Distribution

- Synopsis
- Next steps

4. Member Engagement Session

- Proposal





Eligibility & AFA Alignment.





Alignment.

Synopsis.

- Key goals continue to be:
 - Ability to support more student-athletes entering into U SPORTS through the reduction of entry barriers
 - Follow the U SPORTS EDI Committee's recommendation to remove the 80% barrier
 - Reduction in administrative tasks for both entering and year-to-year student-athlete AFA & eligibility qualification
- Appear to continue to have the mandate of the membership to find a pathway forwards to achieve the two goals listed above

“Institutional barriers previously identified as preventing students from engaging in quality learning outside of the traditional classroom setting include, but are not limited to, a lack of administrative support... and other challenges related to finances, time commitments, equity and access.” (Stirling et al., 2021: 271-272).





Alignment.

Options Provided in Survey.

Entering:

1. If **admitted** into university and **enrolled in a degree-granting credits**, the student- athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA (note: this option would remove the Spring Award entirely)
2. If **admitted** into and **enrolled in a degree-granting program**, the student-athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA; or, **if not** admitted into and enrolled in a degree-granting program (but taking degree-granting credits), the student-athlete is eligible and **can only receive a Spring Award if they meet the Year-to-Year requirements** (ie: 21 CR with a 65% average, if that's selected).
3. If **admitted** into a **degree-granting program**, the student-athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA; or, **if not** admitted into a degree-granting program, but **admitted** to the university and **taking degree-granting credits**, the student-athlete is only eligible to Participate and an AFA **if they have an entry average of 65(?)%**; or, **if not admitted into a degree-granting program, and do not have an entry average** (eg: entered through a mature student application), the student- athlete is not eligible for Participation, and cannot receive an AFA that academic year. They are able to receive an AFA and are eligible to Participate in **Year 2 if they meet the Year-to-Year requirements**.

Year-to-Year:

1. Successfully complete 18 degree-granting credits (no GPA)
2. Successfully complete 18 degree-granting credits (with 60-65% GPA)
3. Successfully complete 21 degree-granting credits (no GPA)
4. Successfully complete 21 degree-granting credits (with 60-65% GPA)
5. Successfully complete 24 degree-granting credits (no GPA)
6. Successfully complete 24 degree-granting credits (with 60-65% GPA)
7. Maintain full-time student status in a degree-granting program





Alignment.

Summary of survey.

ENTERING

- No clear consensus, but option 3 can be eliminated, having received 11%
- Option 1 is the most popular as an option 1 at ~55%
- Option 2 received ~35%, but also received ~52% of second option votes in ranked ballot
- When looking at the ranked ballot, Options 1 & 2 came in equally

YEAR-TO-YEAR

- The majority of institutions appear to support 18-21 credits, either with or without a GPA attached, but appear not to be in support of moving to 24 or to full-time program of study





Alignment.

Summary of survey.

ISSUES WITH ENTERING STUDENTS OPTIONS

- The apparent removal of academic requirements was untenable for them;
- Entry immediately into an open studies or alternative – but not into a program of study – is common at my institution, and I am concerned by options 2 and 3;
- Student-athletes who were deemed ineligible upon entry would not stick around;
- The removal of the spring award is a concern; and,
- Retaining the spring award is a concern;

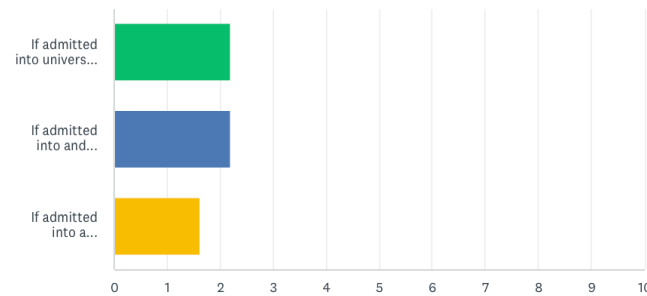


Alignment.

Entering.

Please rank the three options listed below in order from best (1) to worst (3):

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
▼ If admitted into university and enrolled in a degree-granting credits, the student-athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA (note: this option would remove the Spring Award entirely)	52.17% 24	15.22% 7	32.61% 15	46	2.20
▼ If admitted into and enrolled in a degree-granting program, the student-athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA; or, If not admitted into and enrolled in a degree-granting program (but taking degree-granting credits), the student-athlete is eligible and can only receive a Spring Award if they meet the Year-to-Year requirements (ie: 21 CR with a 65% average, if that's selected).	32.61% 15	54.35% 25	13.04% 6	46	2.20
▼ If admitted into a degree-granting program, the student-athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA; or, If not admitted into a degree-granting program, but admitted to the university and taking degree-granting credits, the student-athlete is only eligible to Participate and an AFA if they have an entry average of 65(%)%; or, If not admitted into a degree-granting program, and do not have an entry average (eg: entered through a mature student application), the student-athlete is not eligible for Participation, and cannot receive an AFA that academic year. They are able to receive an AFA and are eligible to Participate in Year 2 if they meet the Year-to-Year requirements.	15.22% 7	30.43% 14	54.35% 25	46	1.61





Alignment.

Summary of survey.

ISSUES WITH YEAR-TO-YEAR STUDENTS OPTIONS

- There must be a GPA requirement;
- Progress towards degree is the most important metric / goal;
- A heightened credit requirement would be problematic as student-athletes need to be able to work in the summers, etc., and the pressures associated with aligning eligibility to participate with a higher credit requirement would be problematic;
- The submitting institution has a GPA requirement in place; and,
- Attaching a GPA requirement to athletic participation (year-to-year eligibility criteria) would be problematic.



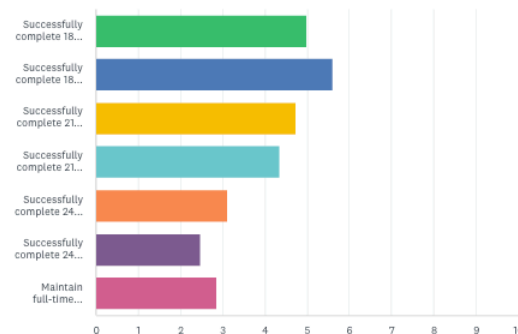


Alignment.

Summary of survey.

Please rank the three options listed below in order from best (1) to worst (7):

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
▼ Successfully complete 18 degree granting credits (no GPA requirements)	35.56% 16	17.78% 8	11.11% 5	11.11% 5	2.22% 1	13.33% 6	8.89% 4	45	4.98
▼ Successfully complete 18 degree granting credits (60% or 65% GPA requirement)	32.61% 15	30.43% 14	15.22% 7	13.04% 6	6.52% 3	0.00% 0	2.17% 1	46	5.61
▼ Successfully complete 21 degree granting credits (no GPA requirements)	6.52% 3	21.74% 10	30.43% 14	21.74% 10	19.57% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	46	4.74
▼ Successfully complete 21 degree granting credits (60% or 65% GPA requirement)	8.89% 4	17.78% 8	13.33% 6	24.44% 11	31.11% 14	4.44% 2	0.00% 0	45	4.36
▼ Successfully complete 24 degree granting credits (no GPA requirements)	9.09% 4	2.27% 1	4.55% 2	11.36% 5	22.73% 10	47.73% 21	2.27% 1	44	3.11
▼ Successfully complete 24 degree granting credits (60% or 65% GPA requirement)	0.00% 0	2.27% 1	11.36% 5	11.36% 5	11.36% 5	34.09% 15	29.55% 13	44	2.48
▼ Maintain full-time student status in a degree granting program	9.09% 4	9.09% 4	15.91% 7	4.55% 2	4.55% 2	0.00% 0	56.82% 25	44	2.86



Alignment.

Next Steps.

- Thorough discussion at this session
- Brief summary of the discussion presented on final day of the Conference
- Providing a motion to the Board in September 2023



Member Engagement. Proposal.

- Only the Entering Student category is addressed at this time
- Options 1 & 2 are discussed, and we eliminate Option 3
- That a motion be sent **to the Board for the September 2023** meeting for implementation in the 2024-2025 Academic Year
 - This will ensure that we make progress towards reducing barriers for entering students
- That the AFA & Eligibility Committees continue to move towards addressing the Year-to-Year requirements, but that they stay status quo for the time being
- That there be no changes to Team and Individual Caps, or the Academic All-Canadian Exemption for 2024-2025





Member Engagement. Rooms.

Remaining two options:

1. If admitted into university and enrolled in a degree-granting credits, the student- athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA (note: this option would remove the Spring Award entirely)
2. If admitted into and enrolled in a degree-granting program, the student- athlete is eligible to Participate and receive an AFA; or,

If not admitted into and enrolled in a degree-granting program (but taking degree-granting credits), the student-athlete is eligible and can only receive a Spring Award if they meet the Year-to-Year requirements (ie: current regulations).

Discussion Prompts:

- Would you be amenable to either option?
- If not, what is the operative reason you're advocating for your choice?
- Are you seeking clarity on any of these options?





Equity in AFA Distribution.





Equity in AFA Distribution.

Synopsis & Next Steps.

- This concept has been consistently discussed, but most recently discussed as a membership in 2018
- The AUS and OUA members and their respective Boards have requested that U SPORTS implement a policy to mandate gender equity in AFA distribution
- A policy itself would be “relatively simple” to create
- Following discussion at this Member Engagement Session, we will review the information, determine if there is sufficient information to proceed further, and would look to bring a motion to the September 2023 Board meeting





Equity in AFA Distribution.

Synopsis & Next Steps.

1. Would you be in support of moving to a 10% of AFA units distribution window (55% / 45%)
2. When should the policy be implemented:
 - a. 3 years (2025-2026)
 - b. 4 years (2026-2027)
 - c. 5 years (2027-2028)
 - d. Incremental step-up (from 20% window down to 10% over three years), ending in 2027-2028
3. Next steps: prospective to bring the motion to the U SPORTS Board in September 2023, for implementation on agreed upon schedule (i.e. 5 year implementation timeline)





Member Engagement Session.





Member Engagement.

Rooms.

1. Would you be in support of moving to a 10% of AFA units distribution window (55% / 45%)
2. When should the policy be implemented:
 - a. 3 years (2025-2026)
 - b. 4 years (2026-2027)
 - c. 5 years (2027-2028)
 - d. Incremental step-up (from 20% window down to 10% over three years), ending in 2027-2028

PLEASE RETURN BACK TO THIS ROOM AFTER YOUR DISCUSSION!





THANK YOU

U.S. SPORTS