Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee  
Report to Faculty of Science Council  
May 12th, 2017

Items for Approval:

1. The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee recommends Tasha Baller, BSc in Computer Science, with Great Distinction, Co-operative Education Designation receive the University Prize in Science at the 2017 Spring Convocation.
   1.1 A write-up for the Convocation program for Tasha is attached.

2. The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee recommends Tasha Baller, BSc in Computer Science, with Great Distinction, Co-operative Education Designation to be awarded the Faculty of Science Dean’s Medal at the 2017 Spring Convocation.
   2.1 Tasha was nominated for the President’s Medal, and the letter of recommendation from the Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee is attached for information.

Items for Information:

The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee awarded the Faculty of Science 10th Anniversary Scholarship to Celina Earl, an incoming Science student, working toward a Bachelor of Science (currently with an undeclared major). Once she’s completed a Bachelor of Science degree, her plan is to apply to the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan to become a General Practitioner. Once she has obtained her MD, she is considering further studies to pursue the field of Neurology.

The Department of Biology awarded the Dr. Robert M. Agnew Memorial Award to Judith Bjorndahl.

The Department of Chemistry awarded the Society of Chemical Industry, Canadian Section, Merit Award (Chemistry) to Kellsey Hamel.

The Department of Chemistry awarded the Society of Chemical Industry, Canadian Section, Merit Award (Biochemistry) Rachel Willis.

The Department of Geology awarded the APEGS Gold Medal to Amanda Palaniuk.

N. Mobed (Chair)  
Associate Dean (Academic)
1.1 University Prize in Science

The University Prize in Science is awarded at convocation to the most distinguished student graduating with a first degree from the Faculty of Science. Tasha Baller is the recipient of this prize at the 2017 Spring Convocation and is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, Great Distinction, with a Cooperative Education designation.

Tasha attended Martin Collegiate high school and joined the University of Regina community in 2014. While studying here, she has received several awards including: Academic Silver Scholarship (2015 and 2016), Association of Regina REALTORS Inc. Scholarships, Barry Bortnick Scholarship in Science, Shell Canada Scholarship in Computer Science, and Dean’s List (Science), in recognition of her academic achievements.

She completed two of her Co-op terms with SaskTel, in Information Technology Service Management (ITSM). During those terms, she was involved with developing software for ITSM to track incidents and changes to the IT infrastructure. Dave Frey, her manager during her work term, describes Tasha as “a model employee and perfect example of the benefit of the University’s Co-op program.” Additionally, “She will excel at whatever she decides to do and will go far in the Computer Science field. There is no doubt in my mind that she will become a natural leader anywhere she works and will quickly move into positions where she is managing her own teams.”

Her third term was completed at the University of Regina, funded through an NSERC award, carried out under the supervision of Dr. Howard Hamilton. During that term she worked on a project titled, “A Machine Learning Approach to Multi-Speaker Speech Recognition”. In writing about her work term, Dr. Hamilton stated: “She amazed me and I believe herself with the wide variety of specialized software that she was able to obtain, configure, and adapt to her purposes, as well as the novel software she wrote herself. She quickly acquired more expertise related to this problem than anyone else in our group. The report she prepares was used in the fall as the principal reference for a Master’s student who was defining his research project.”

Tasha will be working on a Master’s in Computer Science program at the University of Regina. The Faculty of Science congratulates Tasha on her accomplishments and wishes her the best of luck with her future endeavours.
2.1 Faculty of Science Dean’s Medal – Tasha Baller

The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee nominated Tasha Baller, BSc in Computer Science, with a Cooperative Education designation, to be considered for the President’s Medal at the 2017 Spring Convocation.

As a result of her outstanding academic record, Tasha received numerous awards, including: Academic Silver Scholarship (2015 and 2016), Association of Regina REALTORS Inc. Scholarships, Barry Bortnick Scholarship in Science, Shell Canada Scholarship in Computer Science, and Dean’s List (Science), in recognition of her academic achievements.

She completed two of her Co-op terms with SaskTel, in Information Technology Service Management (ITSM). During those terms, she was involved with developing software for ITSM to track incidents and changes to the IT infrastructure. Dave Frey, her manager during her work term, describes Tasha as “a model employee and perfect example of the benefit of the University’s Co-op program.” Additionally, “She will excel at whatever she decides to do and will go far in the Computer Science field. There is no doubt in my mind that she will become a natural leader anywhere she works and will quickly move into positions where she is managing her own teams.”

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Tasha has shown herself to not only be an outstanding academic, but also a natural leader through her co-op education terms. Tasha will be working on a Master’s in Computer Science program at the University of Regina, which will be a continuation of her research done under the supervision of Dr. Hamilton during her third work term placement.