

Dr. Sheila Embleton
Chair, Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents (OCAV)
c/o Council of Ontario Universities
180 Dundas Street West
Suite 1100
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8

Dear Dr. Embleton:

This letter is intended to inform OCAV regarding the development of a proposed Common Scholarship Application initiative for Ontario universities.

In August 2006, Mr. Ken Lavigne, the former chair of the Ontario University Council on Admissions (OUCA), requested that the Ontario University Registrars' Association (OURA) Standing Committee on Awards consider the feasibility of a common scholarship application for incoming applicants. The impetus for this change was two-fold. First, guidance counsellors have expressed concerns about the work required for high schools in completing applications and in fact have directed students to narrow their choices. Second, and related to the first point, universities have experienced a decline in applications for national scholarships. It was felt these could both be addressed with a common scholarship application form.

Ms Fiona Kay, then OURA Awards committee chair, responded on behalf of the OURA Awards committee in September 2006. The committee had indicated that the concept was feasible and prepared a document outlining a possible solution which was presented to the Ontario University Registrars' Association Executive. Following this the OURA Executive expressed its support to continue exploring this concept further in association with the Ontario University Council on Admissions.

In November 2007, Joanne Duklas, President of the OURA Executive, signalled OURA's interest in pursuing this initiative further in a presentation to COU Executive Heads. In November 2007, the Ontario University Council on Admissions met to review the proposal in detail via a presentation delivered by the current chair of the OURA Awards committee, Rico Natale. In his presentation, Mr. Natale outlined the difficulties faced by our incoming students with the current process as identified by students and counselling stakeholders, and the benefits that could be derived from a consolidated application method. The presentation also identified the components of a scholarship application, and proposed an electronic method of collecting these documents through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre. The components of the application were identified as follows:

- Personal Information for Award Purposes
- Extracurricular Activities
- Leadership Activities
- Third-party Endorsement/Nomination
- Financial Declaration
- Supplementary Information Form
- Academic Transcript

After the presentation it was resolved that, "OUCA support continued exploration of this initiative as a concept in principle and a joint approach with OURA to OCAV to signal interest in pursuing this project further." At the OUCA meeting institutional representatives indicated a willingness to engage in a deeper consultation discussions to ascertain the nature and scope of this initiative.

It is the intention of both OURA and OUCA to pursue this initiative further; however, we would like to solicit the comments of OCAV and gauge their support regarding this concept before continuing the process.

The presentation made by Mr. Natale is attached and he has indicated his willingness to make the presentation again if it would be helpful in the deliberations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Joanne Duklas
President, Ontario University Registrars' Association

Mr. Lou Ariano
Chair, Ontario University Council on Admissions