COMMITTEE: Student Scholarships, Fellowships & Financial Aid

MEETING DATE: 24 November 1997

PERSON PRESIDING: Hoekstra

PERSON RECORDING: Bergstrom

ACTIONS OF MEETING

1. Minutes for 27 Oct 1997 - approved

2. Committee's charge
Hoekstra has been invited to attend the meeting of the Committee on Committees to be held on 2 Dec 1997 at 1600. He will report our concerns to this committee. Gustafson will also attend.

3. Discussion of NCAA guidelines and appeals process
Thompson and VanSant discussed the process of granting athletic scholarships. See attachments to these minutes for handouts they presented. (National Letter of Intent, pages 182-185 of NCAA handbook, ECU Grant-In-Aid agreement form, pp. 35-38 of ECU manual) Some points that were brought up included the following:

-the university is required by NCAA rules to have some sort of appeal process that is "in accordance with its normal practices for students generally" [section 15.3.5.1.1. of NCAA rulebook]

-most appeals will probably happen in the spring, a few may take place in the summer.

-the Athletic Department tries to have all decisions made by April 15. Some sports, however, have seasons that do not finish until summer. On the other hand, autumn sports generally have made their decisions by the beginning of spring semester. The absolute deadline is July 1. The FA office actually sends out the letters to students. For decisions made on April 15, students have probably received notification by April 22.

-The internal process of decisions is: 1) the team coach notifies the Athletic Department 2) The Athletic Department has a small committee which reviews these decisions and often modifies them. Egregious errors are generally caught at this stage and modified. 3) The Athletic Department notifies the Financial Aid Office. Further review happens there, and sometimes other errors are caught and modified. 4) The FA office sends the official notice to the student. 5) The student accepts or rejects the offer.

-All offers of aid are always for one year only. Students are never told they will be receiving aid for their entire college career. All students sign forms at the beginning that state, among other things, that they understand this.

-Most students whose aid is not renewed know full well what went wrong and do not appeal the decision because they know the reason(s) and know they would never be successful if they tried to appeal.

-The purpose of a hearing is to determine that due process was followed by the university.

-It would be nice to be able to have appeals heard as early as possible, before students leave for the summer and while they still have time to look for and/or accept offers from other schools which might be available. On the other hand, students need a reasonable
amount of time in which to prepare for an appeal.

- At the actual hearing, only the student and the team coach are allowed to speak. Witnesses, parents, attorneys, etc. can talk to the Athletic Department informally beforehand, and perhaps the department might change their decision based on this information. (e.g. If the student and the coach have different stories about something, and all the other members of the team back up the student and deny the coach's story.) Appeals committee members can ask for information or clarification of things they don't understand from people like the FA office representative at the hearing.

Based on the discussion, the committee decided to set three regularly scheduled hearing dates for any kind of financial aid appeal. These will be the first Friday in November, the first Friday in May, and the third Monday in July.

4. Scholarship directory

FA office has sent out a memo to departments asking for the needed information.

5. Next meeting: 26 January 1998