COMMITTEE: Student Scholarships, Fellowships, and Financial aid Committee

MEETING DATE: January 30, 2006

PERSON PRESIDING: Chal Benson

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chal Benson, Brent Henze, Jill Matarrelli Carlson, Anthony Overton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Ann Jenkins

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Matt Wagoner from SGA

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Old Business: approval of minutes from last meeting, Scholarship Weekend update, Introduction of Matt Wagoner.

Discussion: Chal made the committee aware that we had not as of yet received an invitation to Scholarship Weekend.

Action Taken: Minutes from the November 28th, 2005 were approved. It was decided that Chal Benson would follow up with Kathy Bernstein about our involvement in the Scholarship weekend activities.

Assigned additional duties to: Chal will follow up with Ms. Bernstein.

Agenda Item: Student text book cost issues.

Discussion: Matt Wagoner from the Student Government Association met with us to get some feedback for possible resolutions to the text book pricing problem. This committee had addressed this issue last year, and came up with a report and some suggestions to keep prices for students down. Matt shared a resolution passed by the Student Government Association (7/11/05) that offers more suggestions both to the text book publishers, to the faculty and book store at ECU. Matt also introduced us to two possible websites for student book swaps that are in the works to be offered at ECU (this option is preferable to one that takes business off campus to an online retailer like Barnes and Noble, which would hurt the ECU bookstore) www.campusbookswap.com and www.1beatmybookstore.com, both non profit groups that offer free services, are possible candidates for students to list and sell their books to one another at lowered rates without hurting the bookstore. We asked if something like this couldn’t be set up on One Stop. Matt explained that on One Stop a student would have to look through every listing to find a book, but with one of the above services, students could search by title, class, professor, etc., making the search more organized and less time consuming. We also asked about how payment would be dealt with; Matt explained that it was all done through e-mail and that students would work it out between themselves so no personal information other than an e-mail address would have to be entered.
We also discussed what else could be done and what we as a committee could do to help. It was discussed that one of the problems was that professors were unaware of what they could do to keep prices down (using the same edition as long as possible, ordering books that do not come bundled, placing their text book orders early or at least on time, ordering paperback when possible, making students aware of online versions of text books that are available, placing the text on reserve at the library etc.) We discussed an effective way to get this information to faculty without making it seem like we were telling anyone what to do. It was decided that we would draft a letter in support of the SGA’s resolution and Matt would then request that the book store include the SGA resolution with their text book order forms so that faculty can be made aware of ways they can help keep these costs down for students.

Action Taken: Chal Benson agreed to draft a letter of support from our committee and once approved will send it to Ms. Wanda Scarborough, Director of Dowdy Student Stores.

Assigned additional duties to: Chal Benson, who will draft the letter.

NEXT MEETING: February 27th, 2006

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Scholarship Weekend and any results of the Student Textbook initiative