

Committee: Student Scholarships, Fellowships, and Financial Aid

Meeting Date: 2:30 p.m. Oct. 23, 2023

Person Presiding: Zi-Wei Lin, Chair

Regular Members In Attendance: Zi-Wei Lin, Selim Mustafa, Erin Clark Frost, Kindal Shores, Carrie Lee, Heather Kindl

Ex-Officio Members In Attendance: Samantha Moore, Charlene Loope, Julie Poorman, Summer Edwards

Others In Attendance: none

Actions Of Meeting:

Agenda item: Approve September meeting minutes

Discussion: None

Action taken: Minutes approved

Assigned additional duties to: None

Agenda item: Review of committee charge

Discussion: none

Action taken: none

Assigned additional duties to: All members should review the charge and bring any revision suggestions to the committee's next meeting

Agenda item: Impact of Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard, 600 U.S. 181 (2023)

Discussion: Poorman advised that we consider the impact of the fair admissions decision in November in advance of the spring awards process. System office has asked us to ask students not even to volunteer information on race. Edwards advised that we do not yet have definitive guidance on how the decision affects scholarships. Poorman advised that this committee should know the steps that go into the review so we can speak on the process. Kindl asked how the decision affects this committee (as opposed to admissions). Clark Frost suggested inviting Admissions to provide context. Edwards reported there are two separate processes. Selim pointed out that we are left with two things: merit and need. Poorman agreed but said we need to talk about scholarships that use the language of "underrepresented students": What does this mean, and how do we weight it? Kindl asked what more we can do; it is up to the student to submit a narrative, so how would our job change? Poorman said we need to better codify what we already do. Lin clarified this means we could write a recommendation to have the application require more elaboration or recommend requiring different weights. Poorman said that we can make recommendation to faculty senate. Edwards said we can update the rubric to take into consideration extracurriculars, work, elder and childcare, etc. Lin asked if there was a question about work. Edwards said yes, there is a question about if the applicant is employed and how many hours per week they work; there is also a place for applicants to provide additional information. Kindl asked about the points system and suggested there should be a section for extracurricular items that also has associated points. Edwards said we can build the rubric as we want; standardization is important. Selim noted that some students are not allowed to work and a narrative does a better job allowing us to make informed decisions. Loope asked for an overview of the award process. Edwards said we have ECUAward, which is the portal for all incoming students and contains a general application and the

system also reads in certain data; the system matches students to opportunities they're eligible for. Some they're automatically considered for and others are supplemental opportunities where the student must click "apply" and fill in additional information. Colleges have different processes. Edwards manages changes to rubrics as recommended by each individual awarding unit. Lin added that this committee can make changes to the rubrics for scholarships it awards. Edwards said that the rubric for this committee (faculty senate scholarships) evaluates leadership, service, and GPA. Lin said we can ask Edwards to send us the latest rubric and then we can review it at our next meeting.

Action taken: none

Assigned additional duties to: Edwards will send rubric out to committee. Lin will be in touch with Edwards about whether we should have a presentation on the Fair Admissions decision at our November meeting.

Agenda item: Report on how changes to financial aid have impacted students

Discussion: Poorman said she has provided the annual report via Teams but she recommends this is an item we table for a year until we can see those effects in order to report on them.

Action taken: none

Assigned additional duties to: none

Agenda item: Annual financial aid report

Discussion: Poorman shared this report via Teams. Poorman noted that pandemic relief funding is not reflected in our annual reports but had a major effect for three years in a row particularly on work-study and student borrowing. Highlights for this year include: Close to 30,000 applications received, we dispersed \$36M in Pell grants, \$2M in supplemental grants (which is high—related to pandemic funding), and \$16M in NC scholarships. Based on new need-based requirements, we do not know if our funding will be similar next year. This committee oversees five "special funds" scholarships: S090, the Chevrolet Scholarship, S002, the Andrews Scholarship, S354, the Lillian Tucker Probey Scholarship, S171 the Lillian Jenkins Scholarship and S081, the Eastern NC Foundation Scholarship. Some of these were not awarded last year because the funds didn't generate enough. These five funds are all older, endowed, and have specifically-written funding agreements. Kindl noted that it seems like we have a lot less money and wonders if there's anything we can do to increase funding; also asked how some of these accounts can be "underwater." Poorman explained that these funds are dependent on the market and sometimes there is no interest available based on what happens between award decision and actual award. Edwards said we'll have spendable balances on these at the end of November and at that time we can make funding decisions.

Action taken: none

Assigned additional duties to: none

Lin made a motion to adjourn, Poorman seconded, meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: 2:30 p.m. Nov. 27, via Teams or in Rawl Annex 142 (with notice)