Scholarships and Financial Aid (CSFA)

Governance Committee
Chair: Dana Hebreard

A. Major issues addressed by the committee during the 2014–15 year

The full committee met on Monday, October 27, 2014.

During this meeting, the committee members introduced themselves and reviewed the committee mission. Craig Heerema explained the structure of the committee and how it would be split into two sub-committees for efficiency. Most of the work of the committee was carried out through these groups: the First Time in Any College (FTIAC) and Transfer sub-committee and the Upperclassmen subcommittee.

1. The FTIAC and Transfer sub-committee met regularly during the fall and early spring to review the academic scholarships awarded to prospective students. The sub-committee reviewed the automatically awarded academic scholarships to ensure accuracy and consistency, and made decisions about awards for students who were near the cut-offs for the different scholarships.

2. The Upperclassmen subcommittee has met, and will continue to meet, during the summer to review scholarship appeals from returning students who have had their scholarship awards reduced or taken away completely because their GPA did not meet the renewal criteria.

Changes to the 2015-2016 academic scholarship program were also presented. The program expanded to reach a broader academic group and increase dollar amounts at most academic levels. This was particularly true for the Trustee and Presidential scholarships, which are targeted at our strongest academic applicants (see Appendix One). The Trustee scholarship was awarded to students at the time of admission rather than in late February when it has been historically awarded. This was an additional effort to keep our highest quality applicants in the enrollment pipeline.

B. Actions brought before Faculty Senate

None

C. Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the committee initiated or implemented

Committee member, Stephanie Sandberg asked about AHANA students and the financial aid process impact on retention. Paul Witte noted that there is a group already exploring these type of retention issues. Todd Dornbos provided the key points under review including scholarship and financial aid as one of the highlighted sections. CSFA committee members were presented as willing to help in this project.

D. Issues that will continue to be before the committee next year

The scholarship and financial aid program for students starting in 2016 has been under a major review and modification with the help of the consulting firm, Scannell & Kurz. The new awarding model, internally named FA16, focuses on academic quality groups to distribute academic and need-based institutional aid, generally awarding more aid to stronger academic applicants. Scholarship levels will remain similar to past years, however the percentage of need met will be determined by academic quality groups and the students increased likelihood of becoming a graduate.

FA16 is being adopted as a more strategic approach to financial aid. In addition, it is helping to simplify the financial aid and awarding processes. The new model includes the elimination of the various fellow program scholarships and enhances a combined denomination and legacy award. The FA16 model also emphasizes automated awarding and eliminates the need for the FTIAC & Transfer Subcommittee. The 2015-2016 Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid will discuss and determine its role moving forward at our annual meeting this fall.