

Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid

2:30 PM, Wednesday, October 19, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rachel Polet (student), Joella Ranaivoson (student) John Ferdinands (chair), Dana Hebreard, Craig Heerema, Dale Kuiper, Marjorie Hoogeboom (alumni representative), April Si, David Reimer

Members Absent: Pearl Shangkuan

I. Introduction:

- A. Dana Hebreard opened the meeting prayer
- B. Committee members shared their name, position on the committee, and length of time involved with Calvin

II. Mandate Review:

- A. Committee members were given a copy of the current mandate (as approved in February 2011)
- B. John Ferdinands (chair) gave an overview of the committees work for the sake of new members. He explained that most of the work is done in two subcommittees.
 1. FTIAC Subcommittee:
 - This subcommittee meets on a biweekly basis throughout the fall and winter to monitor and award new student academic scholarships and diversity awards.
 2. Returning Student Subcommittee:
 - This subcommittee evaluates and makes decisions on scholarship appeals from returning students and meets less regularly. Students appeal their scholarships in the spring and summer, so most of this subcommittee work is done at that time.

III. Sub-committee Updates

Craig Heerema presented on changes to the academic scholarship and diversity award programs

1. Academic Scholarships:
 - Provided rationale for increasing award values. The changes were explained as an effort to make Calvin's scholarships more competitive amongst peer institutions, create a splash in the market, and streamline the scholarship programs.
 - Explained changes to the awarding methodology which were implemented to ensure competitive awarding and align our program more closely with peer institutions.

2. Diversity Awards:

- Provided the rationale from moving to one diversity award. The changes were made to curb confusion around why students would receive one award over the other, and enable us to award diversity awards to a growing population of students.
- Reviewed changes to the awarding criteria. Award consideration is no longer tied to admissions status and is now based on GPA or test score. This also helps eliminate confusion about when a student qualifies for a diversity award.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.