June 1, 2008

Members of the Faculty Senate Scholarship Committee met (3) times this semester to review the awarding process for the Foundation-based scholarships that are available to students who apply and meet the special criteria. Most scholarships require a 2.75 to 3.5 GPA. Others have additional requirements for eligibility. Those requirements have been noted as a point of interest. The committee would like to thank Ms. Annette Linders and Ms. Sara Tate, of the Student Financial Services office, for all of their hard work and dedication to the students. The awarding process, as presented by Ms. Linders and Tate brought to light a few issues for the next committee session.

1. There still remains the issue of being able to offer incoming Freshmen one, consolidated, letter from each and every department and the SFS office that makes the student well aware of their eligibility and award status. The SFS office has done a marvelous job at moving up the award season from late March – early April to late January – early February but the stumbling block remains with each department. The departments do not get their SPENDING AUTHORITIES until May so they do not know what they have to offer students until late in the semester.

   It is recommended that monies be held in the account for one year so that there is a known amount of money in the department’s university account and that amount of money can be designated for 09-10; or review the NSHE system to see if the spending authority amounts can be presented earlier in the semester.

2. There was a miscommunication between Dr. Rebecca Mill’s office, the Honors College, and the SFS office as to the status of Presidential and Provost Scholars being automatically accepted into the Honors College. I clarified the fact that NO student is automatically enrolled in the Honors College, regardless of their scholarship standing. The scholarship committee never discussed this issue. What was discussed was the fact the NO student should have to be enrolled in the Honors College to be able to accept the Presidential or Provost Scholarship. Dr. Peter Starkweather wrote back to each student rescinding the offer of an automatic enrollment into the Honors College but invited each student to apply if they so wish. I am not privy to the outcome of this issue but have heard that all turned out alright.

3. A policy needs to be written and approved by all entities involved with scholarship to determine when the scholarship is presented to graduate students and when it is presented to undergraduates. At this time it is an arbitrary recommendation by the present day committee based on sentiment as to what group of students has need. For example: The Barton Family Scholarship is for students of any class (freshman through Graduate) in the amount of $ 2500.00. The student must show "need" and have a GPA of 3.0. At this time (2) undergraduate students and (1) graduate student were offered this award. Again, this decision was based on need and if the student had received any other award. If not, and they were next on the list to receive funds, the scholarship was granted to them. There are only a few scholarships that fall in this category but the committee felt that there should be a written policy on exactly how to award the money.
4. The SFS office has some “stock” forms that are used to print out a copy of the presented awards. The SFS office will review these forms and fix any errors in the Title lines.

5. The scholarship committee of 2007-2008 wishes that the Faculty Senate would review the scholarship process from every aspect (Need and Non need based) scholarship to reveal the total process of how scholarships are presented at UNLV. It is an arduous task to explain to any committee how the donor dollars are received and what follows to allow the students to obtain those dollars. It is also a completely different and complex task to reveal how all other students (need-based) receive funds from departments, the NSHE system, or our ACCESS funds at UNLV.

The committee recommends that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee please discuss the details of having a ½ day session to story board the scholarship process, as it is today, at UNLV. Thank you.
The committee members who were able to attend are as follows:
Chris Stream
Zhanna Aronov
Kathy Lauckner
Marcos Cheney
Christine Wallace
Deborah Young
Kimberly Charron
Lateka Grays
Martha Young
Bill Werner
Craig Organek
Dave Foreman

Copies of the scholarships presented are enclosed. The summary amount as of 6/1/08 is:

513 scholarship awards accepted from Financial Aid & Scholarships, totaling $1,538,938,33.

Thank you for this opportunity. I am looking forward to continuing my service as Chair of the Scholarship Committee for 2008-09.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lauckner