

## Scholarship Administrators Meeting - Minutes

October 5, 2016

### Introductions

#### International Students – Gabriele Schmiegel, ISSS

- Discussed frequently asked questions
  - o **Is it okay to award International students?** Yes – there is nothing in the regulations about awarding unless the donor requires citizenship or filing a FAFSA. Students should let ISSS know about the scholarships they are receiving as the Department of Homeland wants the information, the scholarships will not affect anything.
  - o **Are there tax implications?** The ISSS office does not offer any tax advice as each situation can be very complicated based on the student status, tax treaty with their home country, etc. Very basic information – living expense money is taxable. If it is directly related to tuition/fees, it is usually not taxable. Departments should reach out to the University Tax Office if they have specific questions. You may also send questions to ISSS at [iss@umn.edu](mailto:iss@umn.edu).
  - o **Tips and tricks to offer:**
    - Defer to University policies
    - ISSS has a small fund available to those that have a high need to go towards tuition/fees typically for students close to graduation. They are not usually involved with living expense needs.
    - A Billing Authorization that covers tuition and fees expenses with no extra amount going to the student should not be taxed.
    - I-20 is the financial certification form – the student indicates where they are getting the funds to cover the cost for 12 months. The cost and resources have to at the very least match; resources cannot be under the cost at all. The I-20 enables the student to get a Visa (F1 is the most common). Awarding scholarships/fellowships have no legal implications nor will it change anything for the student.
    - International students have to be full-time to maintain their Visa (some exceptions do exist).
    - In some situations students may need to provide more information to prove that they have the money available to cover costs for longer timeframes.
    - Students are certified in a system called SEVIS verifying enrollment.
    - Students are required to complete a tax form each year.

#### Financial Aid Updates – Dianne Danov

- As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, the University loaded 2017-18 FAFSAs for the 2018 aid year. About 400 FAFSA records came in (83 were new Freshman). We will continue to load records every night for admitted students.
- The 2017-18 FAFSA year uses tax information from 2015 – the same year as the 2016-17 FAFSA is using. This will be the only year that the tax information will be from the same year. If there is a tax data conflict between the two FAFSAs, no aid can be disbursed for the current year until the conflict is resolved.

- Administrators can **begin** entering freshman scholarships **on January 4, 2017**. All freshman scholarships should be **entered by Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**, in order to be included in the initial estimated financial aid letters. You may get templates ready, but do not submit/upload until January 4, 2017.
- If you are uploading any large dollar amount scholarships for the current year, please contact us prior to uploading them as it may have an effect on the student's current aid.
- Maximum Pell for 2017-18 will be 5920, Pell chart with EFCs and Pell amounts will be published in December. State budget will be set in May, award letters will include estimated numbers based on State guidance.
- Update from Jenny (Admissions)
  - o FAFSA deadline remains March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o November 1<sup>st</sup> is the priority deadline for applying for scholarships (decisions made by end of January); regular deadline is December 15th (decisions made by end of March)
  - o Have admitted 600 students, will be another 500 this week
  - o Will be meeting with colleges/departments over the next several weeks

#### Student Selector Data Notes:

When a student files a FAFSA for a future aid year the previous year's FAFSA information is removed from the data warehouse Student Selector table. The result is that the data displayed in the Scholarship Student Selector will now reflect only the future (or newest) aid year's FAFSA information for that student.

**Example:** Today's date is October 15, 2016: Sam Student has a 2016-2017 FAFSA on file and has financial aid packaged for the current aid year. Sam has also filed a FAFSA for 2017-2018 that has recently been loaded into PeopleSoft.

- 1) A scholarship administrator runs the Scholarship Student Selector in STAR, selecting **Fall 2017** for the term. Sam Student has 2017-2018 FAFSA loaded in the system, so all Aid Year 2017-2018 financial aid information displays correctly.
- 2) A scholarship administrator runs the Scholarship Student Selector in STAR, selecting **Fall 2016** for the term. Since Sam Student already has a 2017-2018 FAFSA loaded, the Scholarship Student Selector will display that the student **'did not apply'** for financial aid. No EFC, COA, scholarship, or financial need information will display for this student even though Sam did apply and has been packaged for 2016-2017.

We are currently looking into the situation since it is occurring so much earlier to see if anything can be changed. In the meantime, please contact us at [saosf@umn.edu](mailto:saosf@umn.edu) for help with determining need for scholarship awards for the current year if the student you are looking for in the Selector doesn't have the current year information.

#### Scholarship Processing, CSOM – Linda Millington

- In 1990, CSOM had \$10,700 for 10 students
- In 2016, CSOM has about \$2 million for 653 student awards
- 2017 – 2021 they will have a Capital Campaign in hopes to raise \$17-18 million
- They work with over 10 different departments
- Groups of students served:
  - o Freshman
  - o Renewals
  - o Continuing/Upper Division
  - o Transfer
- There are different timelines and criteria for each group.
- Working to have more awards shifted to 4 year renewable awards.
- Freshman 2016 awards – total \$793,500 for 189 students (average award \$4,189)
- Students receive a general letter stating they have received a scholarship for \$XX amount, in June they notify the student with the specific scholarship name/details.
- Fall 2017 is budgeted and now they are working on decisions.
- Renewal 2016 awards – total of \$483,000 – look at GPA, community service, and more.
- Continuing/Upper Division 2016 awards - \$722,264 for 331 students (average award \$2,333)
  - o They used the online scholarship application and had 453 students apply (out of about 2400 student population). Of the 453, 369 students completed the application and most were able to be awarded a scholarship.
- They work to connect student to their benefactors through receptions, dinners, or thank you letters.

Next Meeting –December 7<sup>th</sup>

Time: due to room scheduling the meeting will be from 1:30 – 2:30