Scholarship Administrator Meeting
Virtual Meeting – April 1, 2020

Welcome

Advising initiatives for the last three weeks (beginning of COVID19) to present – Amy Hackett, Office of Undergraduate Education

- Effective for spring term only, undergraduates can change from A-F to S/N (equivalent of Pass/Fail)
- Can still get credit for the course but does not affect their GPA, i.e. neither increase nor decrease of GPA. This is a dramatic change for students, and could affect courses for their major/minor.
- At the meeting, it was stated that students could make a choice one time. Since then, there has been a procedural change: Students are allowed to make multiple changes back and forth between April 1 and April 30th, but whatever is in place on April 30th, will remain and cannot be changed retroactively. Note: This is updated information.
- The Office of Undergraduate Education webpage (undergrad.umn.edu) has Q & A resources for COVID-19.

OSF Update (Michelle and Nate)

Emergency Grants
One Stop and Apus referrals

- President Gabel has sent mass emails requesting funding assistance for scholarships
- Funds will be split between all UM campuses, based on headcount
- The intake form is only asking for basic information, not very detailed.
- The intake form is not available online. The student must make the request through their advisor, who will contact OneStop, or the student can contact OneStop directly, requesting the form. The final action will result in the intake form will be sent out to the student by OneStop.
- Can include money for rent, computer purchase,
- Open to all students, other than PSEO and non-degree
- Timeline and tracking of student identity is being done
- One time only grant.
- Intent is for students to use any available loan eligibility before awarded a grant.
- Over 200 applications already
- These funds are going to be passed through to students, NOT to be used to pay balances on student accounts.
- No late fees for April and May
- If students owe a balance on account, will be allowed to register for fall

Message from Bob McMaster

- See the following message from Bob McMaster asking depts. to be flexible with scholarship dollars/removal for the spring term as well as awarding for next AY.

Student Employment (work-study)

- We are continuing to pay students for federal work-study, even though they may not be working as allowed by the Dept. of Education.
- We are waiting for similar guidance from the State of MN for state funded work-study.
• We just started the processing of hours on March 30th, so not sure how quickly funds will be paid to students.

Larger Financial Changes at federal level – what we know in a nutshell (CARES)
• Frozen/no interest for 6 months
• No payment of monthly payments for 6 months Student must contact servicer to request.
• Cease all collection on defaulted loans.
• No RT24 necessary if student withdraws
• OSF has no intentions
• OSF has no intentions to publish our own document regarding CARES, will direct to the Dept. of Ed website.

Summer Scholarship Processing - Nate Rosckes
• You can now upload scholarships for Summer 2020, remembering that a student must first be registered for summer term.
• Refer to the ASR webpage https://www.asr.umn.edu/training-and-support/scholarship-administrators for a listing of important dates as well as directives for using Summer Course 4999.

Admissions Update - Jenny Malek
• Shut down call center
• Pulled back counselors that normally travelier
• All visits are now virtual both to high schools and on campus visits; all are virtual. More calls, etc.
• Too early to determine what will happen with admissions. Still keeping May 1 as confirmation date, but using softer language, allowing for extension of deadlines.
• Awarded OVER 10,000 scholarships so far.

The next meeting will be held June 3rd, 1:00 pm, location TBD.

Disclaimer: Information provided in this meeting/these minutes were effective on April 1, 2020. Changes have continued to evolve as a result of COVID-19
March 27, 2020

Dear Scholarship Administers,

During these unprecedented times, the University needs to be proactive and flexible in our support to students. Our goal is to ensure minimal negative impact on students’ degree progress and financial support given the current upheaval to their learning environment, college experience and personal circumstances.

Given this, I am asking you to adhere to the following guidelines that the Office of Undergraduate Education is applying to centrally coordinated University of Minnesota undergraduate student scholarships:

- Be as lenient and flexible as possible to avoid canceling existing (spring ’20) scholarships until and unless a student has a complete withdrawal. Even then, these circumstances may need to be reviewed if the student is part of the study abroad group of students.

- For renewal scholarships that require a GPA threshold, students will not lose their scholarships based on their performance in Spring 2020. Normal GPA requirements will be applied in the fall.

- Students are allowed to adjust their grade basis (from A/F to S/N) for spring semester, similar to all undergraduate students, without penalty to their scholarship. Students are being encouraged to be thoughtful about this decision and consult with their advisor before changing their grading basis.

The Office of Undergraduate Education encourages schools, colleges and departments to embrace as much flexibility as possible when it comes to their scholarships and student retention.

Sincerely,
Robert B. McMaster
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education and Professor of Geography
Office of Exec VP and Provost