

Wayne State University
Proceedings of the Student Affairs Committee
November 20, 2019

Present: Siobhan Gregory, Michael Horn, Barbara Jones, Amanda Levitt, Vicky Pardo, Shauna Reeves, Brad Roth, Krysta Ryzewski, Naida Simon, David Strauss, Jennifer Wareham, mark wenzel

Absent with Notice: Alexis Brown, Megan Courtney, Pamela Dale, Kelly Driscoll, Kristen Kaszeta, David Merolla, Rachel Pawlowski

Guests: Dawn Medley and Catherine Kay, Emma Mann (Student Senate)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30. The Agenda and Minutes were adopted as written.

Our guest speakers today were Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Catherine Kay, Director of Student Financial Aid (OSFA). Prior to this meeting, Naida had emailed Dawn and Cathy three questions which they answered. About two and half to three years ago the university restructured how it gave financial aid to our students. Financial aid used to be a line item amount in its budget. OSFA had a budget of roughly \$8,000,000 but routinely spent \$12,000,000 to \$13,000,000. Under Dawn's and Cathy's leadership a tuition discount model was set up with a matrix. The goal was to keep the tuition discount under 45 to 50% as the current rate was 56%. Each year we aim to bring in 2,500 new freshmen students. Under their leadership we now fund more students with more aid. As we are increasing our graduation rate, we have more students needing aid. Here are several scholarship programs:

- Detroit Promise: Students who graduate from a Detroit High School with a certain grade point average (GPA) and test score will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship. This amount is over and above a Pell Grant if eligible.
- Access Fund: This is a last dollar in award. The idea is to fill in the need for high need students where the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is 0 to \$5,000. The idea is that these students can attend Wayne State University (WSU) at a zero tuition cost.
- Heart of Detroit: This is a fill the gap award like the Access Award. This scholarship must be used in fall and winter only. (see below)

To keep any scholarship, a student has to earn thirty (30) credits each academic year. The student can do it fall and winter or fall, winter and spring/summer. Only 4% of scholarship students failed to meet the yearly threshold for renewal. The idea of a four year scholarship (provided they continue to meet the scholarship requirements of 30 hours earned and grade point average minimum) is to normalize a four year degree. According to Dawn, if a student is unable to graduate at the end of 4 years, we provide them with an additional fifth year provided they maintain full-time status. In addition OSFA has an appeal process if a student has issues with enrollment or needs longer to complete as some of our engineering students may

need to do so with co-op. The 30% summer discount is now permanent. If a student loses his/her scholarship, the student is informed of the appeal process.

- **Warrior Way Back:** There are roughly 700,000 people in the Detroit metropolitan area with some college credits but no degree. Of this number 13,000 are already WSU students. To be eligible for this program, a student needs to be able to finish the degree in two years. For every six hours successfully taken, WSU will forgive \$500 of the owed balance. The first year 130 students came back and thirty have graduated. The return on investment (ROI) is \$500,000.
- **Completion Grant:** These are institutional funds funded by donors. They may also be monies from the General Fund. Completion Grant decisions are made by OSFA personnel and decisions are made based on how close to the degree is the student.
- **Born to be a Warrior:** This scholarship is available to any full-time employee with dependent children. To be eligible, the child must have a high school GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and a 25 ACT score. The child would come to WSU tuition free.
- **Emergency Grant:** This is a fund to help students in dire straits. With a receipt it will reimburse student up to \$1,500.
- **Raise Me:** This is a national program of micro-scholarships to incentivize college readiness behavior. Most can earn up to \$4,000 but at WSU we can top it off to \$5,000. This eliminates the test score for merit scholarships. Examples of these micro-scholarships are (1) \$150 for getting an A in a core class, \$200 for taking the PSAT, \$100 for a leadership role in an activity, \$400 for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and using WSU code, and \$1,250 for visiting WSU's campus. A student has to sign up with Raise Me at <https://www.raise.me/join/wayne-state>

Other interesting tidbits:

- Enrollment Management is using an admissions software called Slate. This program can allow students to identify as Middle Eastern, North African instead of White.
- Students can appeal their four year award for a fifth year if they are progressing satisfactorily and need a fifth year to graduate.

Contact Information: Dawn Medley email: dawn.medley@wayne.edu Phone: 313-577-2008; Catherine Kay email: catherine.kay@wayne.edu Phone: 313-577-3049.

After Dawn and Cathy left the meeting, committee members volunteered to bring items for our December 11th Pot Luck Lunch. Those absent will be contacted by Naida by email to see if each person is coming and what he/she will bring.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Next meeting December 11, 2019 at 12 Noon in 3339 FAB. This is our Potluck Holiday Lunch.