FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
Thursday, July 29, 2010 | 2:00 – 4:30 PM | Chancellor’s Conference Room

Attendance: Chris Frueh (CAS), Dexter Irvin (Athletics), Jim Mellon (DOS), John Pezzuto (COP), Marcia Sakai (CoBE), Jeff Scofield (FAO/Ex Officio), Mike Shintaku (CAFNRMD), Janis Shirai (SSSP-TRIO), Pila Wilson (CHL), Luoluo Hong (Chair)

Meeting Goal: To continue discussion about how merit aid should be allocated, specifically addressing the following questions: 1) Which units should remain in the merit list? Of these, which should be considered “protected” allocations, if any? 2) What units should be removed? 3) Which units should be combined? 4) Which units should be separated? 5) What should be the “formula” for determining how much merit aid is allocated to each unit? 6) To what proportion should we increase need-based aid?

1. Prior to the meeting formally beginning, the COP representative shared that the College was not planning on participating in the discussions any longer since COP representatives who had attended previous meetings reported that decisions had already been made and the College’s proposal had not even been reviewed or discussed. The Chair clarified that while decisions on the allocations of aid had already been decided for 2010-2011, few decisions had been made yet for future years beyond the upcoming academic year; the only recommendations made to date were a decision to increase the proportion of need-based aid and to maintain merit-based allocations by unit. No decisions about actual allocations to each unit had already been made. The reason a COP proposal had not been reviewed or discussed yet was that there was general agreement to discuss and focus on broad principles and values first, then follow that with delving into formulas and specific allocations. Others commented on the need for the committee to hear about the College’s desires, as well as for the College to listen to the needs and concerns of other University units. The COP representative decided to stay for the meeting.

2. Financial Aid Director clarified the following:
   a. The categories of “International Programs” and “International Student Office” are separate on the list of units is because that is how they are broken up in the UH Board of Regents (BOR) policy on financial assistance. The other categories in the BOR policy include Opportunity Scholarships (i.e., need-based aid), Achievement Scholarships (i.e., merit-based aid), Regents & Presidential Scholarships, and Pacific Islander Scholarships.
b. With regard to Achievement Scholarships, the BOR policy states that preference should be given to Hawaii residents if all else is equal.

3. The Chair reminded the committee that the source of funding for every scholarships does not have to come out of the 15% tuition “pot”; if we think a scholarship is important but not as high in priority, we can propose that funding for it come out of another source of funding, e.g., through private fundraising through the UH Foundation. The tuition “pot” can be viewed as a guaranteed funding source for institutional aid and as such, should be used to support forms of financial aid with the highest priority.

4. Question was raised about what the Chancellor’s ideas and priorities are. It was clarified that the committee makes a recommendation to the Chancellor, and he makes the final decision. The Chair summarized the discussion she had with the Chancellor, which she shared at the last meeting (see Meeting Notes from July 13, 2010).

5. The committee discussed which units on the current list should remain on the list (with more, less, or equal allocations), which should be removed, and which should be added. The following table summarizes the discussion:

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<th>RETAIN</th>
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<td>CAFNRM</td>
<td>International Programs</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>CAS</td>
<td>Admissions Office</td>
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a. It was noted that the Regents & Presidential Scholarship, Centennial Scholarship, and Athletics scholarships are not discretionary. We are mandated by BOR policy to provide a scholarship to students awarded a Regents', Presidential or Centennial Scholarship if they choose to come to UH Hilo. It was clarified that the Centennial Scholarship (awarded to students with a 3.8 high school GPA or 1800 combined SAT score) was established by former UH President David McClain; it is an unfunded mandate for each of the 10 UH campuses. For Intercollegiate Athletics, a minimum level of funding is necessary to be an NCAA Division II-affiliated campus. The Chair noted that in her conversation with the Chancellor, he indicated that if UH Hilo is going to choose to have intercollegiate athletics, then we must meet our obligations. All of
the other scholarships are discretionary, i.e., it is UH Hilo’s decision whether to award any of them and to determine the amount of a particular scholarship.

b. There was discussion about adding a category called "Performing Arts" but after some discussion, it was agreed that College of Arts & Sciences could incorporate scholarships for this purpose through their allocation. It also was unclear which "unit" would oversee such a fund and what the criteria would be.

c. The scholarships awarded by the Division of Student Affairs have included scholarships awarded to the winner of the Big Island science fair, student employee of the year, Upward Bound scholarships, those mandated by UH System agreements, such as the “Fun Factory” scholarship, and scholarships awarded in unusual or extenuating circumstances (a sort of “catch all” discretionary category). Continuation of the “Fun Factory” scholarship was questioned. The Financial Aid Director noted that he has spoken with the UH Foundation about the latter scholarship, which may have been an appropriate scholarship at the time it was established years ago; at this time the Foundation is reluctant to modify or end the agreement with the donor. It was agreed that we need to retain a “catch all” category for these types of scholarships, and that the Division of Student Affairs would be the most appropriate unit to administer these.

d. Discussion about the Chancellor’s Scholarship included questioning whether any data exists on its outcomes, whether it is achieving the purposes for which it was originally intended (e.g., attracting the “best and brightest” of Hawaii residents, particularly from Oahu and other neighbor islands), and whether the components of the program might be modified (e.g., having the Scholars meet monthly for dinner with the Chancellor). At this time, the Chair has not discussed with the Chancellor his feelings about maintaining a Chancellor’s Scholarship or about his level of interest in being involved with the Scholars. It was also suggested that if funds for the Scholarship are retained, the Scholarship could be awarded through the degree-granting colleges.

e. Discussion about the international scholarships included clarifying that the International Programs scholarships are often awarded to international exchange students from institutions with whom UH Hilo has established an agreement; many of the scholarships are awarded to international students who attend UH Hilo for a semester or year and are not planning or graduating from UH Hilo. The scholarships were instituted initially by the former Director of International Programs with the strategy that awarding scholarships to international exchange students would attract additional degree-seeking, full-paying students from the international institutions with which we have agreements. It was noted that some international agreements allow UH
Hilo degree-seeking students the opportunity to study abroad and receive a partial or full scholarship. The International Student scholarships are awarded to students on the basis of GPA; students apply annually for the scholarship and a committee reviews applications and selects recipients. It was suggested that funds for scholarships for international students could be allocated to the colleges, with the colleges working with the Center for Global Education & Exchange and the International Student Services office to award them.

f. Regarding the Admissions Office scholarships, it was suggested that a different way to award the scholarships would be to allocate the funds to the colleges, and have them work with Admissions to recruit students into their academic programs. However, it was noted that in the past, some of the Colleges have not truly leveraged these funds to recruit students to attend UH Hilo, so we would need to make a change in this regard.

g. Discussion took place about allowing units to attract certain students (e.g., from a certain geographic location) and diversify its students, along with a discussion about creating scholarships for students in the performing arts. It was pointed out that the Colleges are empowered to do this now, and the policies proposed so far would continue to enable them to do so.

6. In determining what the formula should be for determining how much merit aid should be allocated to each unit, the Chair suggested that the committee think about what we want to accomplish. The committee agreed on the following:

a. Recruit top students, with an emphasis on Hawaii residents
b. Reward continuing high performing students, with an emphasis on Hawaii residents
c. Promote the vibrancy of the units

"Maximize the amount of demonstrated need met via institutional aid" was initially included on the list, but then later removed.

7. The comment was raised that before determining a formula for the distribution of need-based aid, it would be important to know whether we want to include graduate & professional students as eligible for need-based aid. It was clarified that for the 2010-2011 year, the committee decided to allocate $100,000 in need-based aid for graduate & professional resident students, but that the committee had not yet decided on this for future years. The Financial Aid Director reminded the committee that the financial needs of undergraduate students are not currently being met; at least $1 million in addition to the current need-based allocation would be needed just to meet the financial need of undergraduate Hawaii residents.
The formula used to award institutional aid (i.e., both need-based and merit-based) is currently 45%, i.e., 45% of a student's financial need is met through institutional aid, and the remaining 55% met through other sources such as Federal Pell grants, loans, and work-study. The awarding of need-based aid is made on a first-come, first-served basis; awarding of aid is processed as completed applications are submitted to the Financial Aid Office. The comment was made that if we were to include graduate & professional students as eligible for need-based aid, it is possible that all of the need-based aid could be awarded to them and none could be awarded to undergraduates; however, the committee could ensure that policies are developed so that a proportion of the funds could go to both undergraduates and graduate & professional students. This could be accomplished, for example, by establishing a dollar limit on the amount allocated for graduate & professional students, establishing a percentage limit on the amount allocated for graduate & professional students, or changing the percentage of aid (45%) that is currently met through institutional aid.

8. A vote was taken on whether we want to continue allowing graduate/professional students to be eligible for need-based institutional aid.
   a. 6 voted to allow graduate/professional students to be eligible
   b. 2 voted not to allow graduate/professional students to be eligible

9. The next questions to be discussed include: What should the share of the need-based funds be for undergraduate and graduate/professional students, and how do we want to allocate the funds (e.g., by capping a total dollar amount to be awarded to undergraduate and graduate/professional students respectively, by establishing a maximum award per student, or by allowing both undergraduate and graduate & professional students to be eligible for all of the need-based aid without any caps or limits)?

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mellon
7/30/10