

## Undergraduate Scholarship Committee Report

### Members:

Kathie Beeman, School of Nursing  
Heidi Granger, Office of Scholarships  
Rosa Flores, Office of Scholarships  
Pricilla Gallegos, Student Representative  
Matthew Garcia, Student Representative  
Amey Gomez, Student Representative  
Diane Golding, Chair (Education)  
Peter Golding, College of Engineering  
Kyung-An Han, College of Science  
Rebecca Reid, College of Liberal Arts  
Yok-Fong Paat, College of Health Sciences  
Daniel Pastor, College of Business

The committee met on three occasions during the 2019-2020 academic year and the following is a summary of our work.

Discussion of the committee's role considering the automated scholarship award system that has piloted and then improve and refined in the last 2 years. The appellate role of the committee is seemingly not required because there are so few cases of students losing scholarships, and these are handled by the Office of Scholarships. One identified possible role is in the capacity of ranking and awarding scholarships when students may qualify for more than one scholarship. The committee recommends decodification of the duties of the committee to reflect the Office of Scholarships needs. A July strategic action meeting is planned.

Additionally, the Office of Scholarships recommends that the committee members whose term is ending now consider another year of service to see this process through. Two faculty members and one student representative have requested extension of their term on the committee.

The committee shares the following pandemic hardship statement:

### *Pandemic hardship consideration:*

*The committee recommends that undergraduate students that do not meet the GPA and credit hour requirements for institutional academic scholarships be provided with leniency for the 2019-2020 academic year.*

*The Office of Scholarships is well aware of the need to hold students as harmless as possible during this unprecedented time and will provide a one-time exception to those students needing to remain in good academic standing in order to continue receiving the student's scholarship.*

The committee, like our administration, expresses great concern for the risks and timing for added risks as we move forward with reopening. A statement was drafted as follows:

*The Undergraduate Scholarship Committee considers the safety and well-being of our Office of Scholarships (and Financial Aid) personnel as paramount, since by nature in their office and roles at work, the staff members directly interface with the students and the public; whose safety we equally respect and seek to maintain. We note that especially high traffic is commonplace both immediately before and at the start of the semester, at which time, there is a high influx of students with a multitude of needs.*

*We understand that the fall entry point into UTEP can be a difficult, challenging and stressful time for everyone involved. While we know the health risks, we also must consider the physical, emotional and mental risks that our UTEP community may be experiencing. We fear that, for any number of reasons, an individual or persons may react in an unacceptable manner that puts others' health and wellbeing in jeopardy. Even one incident could be catastrophic, and we cannot ignore this possibility; in fact, we must do all we can to avoid such occurrences. For these reasons, we recommend and urge our administration to enable staff to continue to work from home, especially those who normally have a high degree of interactions with the public. We must be proactive and broadly utilize effective technology platforms to provide services to our stakeholders, and support healthful outcomes for all, most especially, in these uncertain and unprecedented times.*