

Admissions and Student Aid Committee

Minutes: Monday, October 20, 2014

In Attendance: Marc Harding, Robin Kear (chair), Hillary Koller, Steven Levine, Juan Manfredi, Randall McCready, Carol Mohamed, Sanjeev Shroff, Michael Spring, Juan Taboas, Lauren Terhorst (secretary), Janice Vance

Regrets: Leonard Baido, Gregory Besin, Linda Dudjak (on leave), Julius Kitutu

Observers: John Baker and Beverly Gaddy (co-chairs University Senate Budget Policies Committee), Marty Levine (University Times)

Chair Robin Kear called the meeting to order.

Marc Harding, Chief Enrollment Officer of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OAF), introduced Randall L. McCready as the Director of Financial Aid. Dr. McCready discussed his background and shared examples of how he improved financial aid procedures in his prior place of employment (University of Wisconsin-Parkside). He stated that he was very familiar with PeopleSoft and has worked with the software since its inception.

The goals of the financial aid office were then discussed. The main goals will be to streamline processes, restructure the department, and increase the number of employees within the office. Right now, the processes and structure are being evaluated in order to make the best possible changes. One of the first steps to streamline processes will be to change manual entry procedures to electronic, which will lead to quicker entry and response times for students and parents applying for financial aid. Additionally, increased interactions of the financial aid offices throughout all Pitt's regional campuses will be a desired outcome.

Committee members were interested in the methods that school-specific scholarships are distributed and tracked. Dr. Juan Manfredi, vice provost for undergraduate studies, reported that the decisions to award scholarships are made by the provost's office with input from deans and other administrators, and that federal and state laws guide the amount of financial aid that is distributed. Dr. McCready wishes to have these scholarships uniformly reported.

The content of the meeting was covered by Marty Levine for the October 23, 2014 University Times. <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=32733>

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 25, 2014 and Kellie Kane, Director of Operations & Strategic Planning, OAF, will be talking about testing changes (including the SAT) that could impact the admissions process.