

CHARTER COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SHARED GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Committee: Financial Aid Advisory Committee

Report Year: 2019-2020

Committee Chair(s)	Carolyn Colvin (Faculty), Adam Burghduff & Carolina Herrera (Students)
Committee Members	<p><i>Faculty</i> Cassie Barhardt Higher Educ & Student Affairs Maresi Berry-Stoelzle Family Medicine Elena Gavruseva Linguistics M. Lei Geng Chemistry Sue Moorhead College of Nursing</p> <p><i>Staff</i> David Lam-Lu Pharmacy, Practice and Science Marlys Boote CLAS</p> <p><i>Students</i> Jordyn Sanders CLAS Caren Li Sun CLAS Anders Frieberg Graduate College Kaleb Brooks College of Public Health</p> <p><i>Administrative Liaison</i> Brent Gage Associate VP for Enrollment Management Cindy Seyfer Director, Student Financial Aid</p> <p><i>Affiliated (if applicable)</i></p>
Committee Charge	<p>The Committee shall (1) Review and make recommendations to the President regarding all forms of student financial aid.</p> <p>The Committee shall (2) Assist the Office of Student Financial Aid or other University offices administering financial aid in communication all financial aid policies to the University Community.</p>
Current Year Meeting Dates	10-11-19/11-8-19/12-13-19/1-24-20/2-28-20/3-27-20 (Cancelled)/3-28-20=co-chairs meeting with Shared Governance Review team/6-2-20
Please indicate the typical frequency of meetings (e.g., first Tuesday of month at 4 pm). If there are subcommittees, please indicate the frequency of those meetings, too.	<p>Full Committee meetings once a month for 90 minutes.</p> <p>Co-chairs meet 3-4 times per semester as needed. Small/subgroup meetings (i.e. Shared Governance Review meeting, co-chairs meet with C. Seyfer to develop agendas).</p>
Current Year Activities	Committee members spent the first two meetings being immersed in the activities of the Financial Aid office, learning about the Federal Guidelines that the University must adhere to in dispensing financial aid, understanding the complex decisions and timelines surrounding dispersal of aid, who qualifies, etc. Critical to understanding financial aid is the interplay and relationship with awarding scholarships/grants and the work study program. Members also learned about campus data collection to document students' understanding of financial aid.

	<p>Members read materials supplied by the Financial Aid office to better understand trends in financial aid and the way financial aid is supported/funded on campus. At the December meeting Members were consulted and reviewed documents that propose changes made by the FA office to procedures for awarding financial aid including revisions to how students/families are notified. In January 2020 the FA office moved to the 2nd Floor of the Old Capitol Mall. The Committee meetings were moved to the FA Office Space so members could observe the way offices are arranged to allow for student privacy when meeting with counselors. The student co-chairs presented a program they proposed for implementation in Fall '20 to create greater student awareness of financial aid while discovering what undergrads know/don't know about financial aid. At the February 28th meeting, revised plans for helping student become more aware of FA were discussed. To complement the FA Open House (March 10th), there was discussion of partnering with UISG to increase student awareness of FA. The FA office contracts with a national organization of Financial Aid Advisors to evaluate the University's compliance with Dept of Education regulations and members reviewed specific elements of the survey and proposed a more expansive internal survey for campus use. Because of COVID, the March meeting was cancelled. Members met in June 2020 to devise a list of continuing topics for discussion by the 2020-21 Committee members.</p>
<p>Topics your committee anticipates addressing during the coming year</p>	<p>Members of the 2019-20 committee responded favorably to a partnership effort with UISG and the FA office to more fully acquaint students with FA programming. This discussion will continue. Members will continue discussion on the internal survey to be designed/implemented by FA Staff and with support from UISG. The purpose is to better understand how to get financial aid information to students who qualify but are not applying. Because demographic estimations suggest that enrollment patterns will shift, the FAA will continue to discuss the vital role the FA Office on campus.</p>
<p>Other issues of concern</p>	<p>Student members of the FA committee advocated for effective use of social media to recruit interested members and to inform current members of topics of discussion. This discussion was shared with members of the Shared Governance Review team during the March meeting. We recommend changes in the way social media is made available to the work of Faculty/Staff/Student committees to promote wider discussions and increase interest.</p>
<p>What should we tell applicants for this committee regarding expectations of members (anticipated workload, existence of subcommittees, etc.)?</p>	<p>Consistent attendance is important for the functioning of this committee. The committee co-chairs anticipate the work of sub-committees assuming a greater role in 2020-21. Please consider joining this committee if you are interested in policy related to financial aid and learning more about the complex system of supporting students who rely on financial aid to attend the University. Attendance during the 2019-20 session was impressive. We'll continue to work toward strong and engaged attendance in the coming year.</p>
<p>The Faculty Senate Office collects agendas and minutes from the charter committees to send to the university archives. Please let us know the best way to get that information from you (e.g., direct us to a website, put us on the committee's distribution list, etc.).</p>	<p>These documents will be made available as requested.</p>
<p><i>Recommendations, if any, to the shared governance groups.</i></p>	<p>FA Members will continue to hold discussions about the effective use of social media by committee members, students, faculty and staff and we encourage similar discussions in the shared governance groups.</p>