

**Student Financial Aid Committee  
March 29, 2023**

**Members Present**

Melissa Creek  
Allen Driggers  
Mark Groundland for Debbie Barnard  
Kaden Jones  
Judy Riggsbee  
Frank Tittle  
Donna Wallis

**Members Absent**

Nicole Henniger  
Lori Maxwell  
Sadie Short

**Guests**

Cassandra Gronendyke  
Karen Lykins  
Jerri Winningham

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Driggers present the agenda to the committee members. Ms. Wallis made the motion to approve and Dr. Tittle second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of October 26, 2022 Minutes**

Dr. Driggers presented the last meeting minutes to the committee members. Dr. Tittle made the motion to approve and Ms. Creek second the motion. Motion pass unanimously.

**Scholarship Program**

Dr. Driggers recognized Karen Lykins to present on the current status of the scholarship program. For the Fall 2022 freshman class we had three levels of criteria for the Presidential Scholars.

<b>Guaranteed Scholarship Program 2022-2023</b>	
<b>Amount Per Year</b>	<b>ACT Score</b>
\$3,000	22-24
\$4,000	25-32
\$5,000	33+

Ms. Gronendyke provided the number of Presidential Scholars offered for the 22-23 class was 2,483 and the number at this time for the 2023-2024 class is 2,821. Based on the offers and acceptances along

with the characteristics of the students qualifying, adjustments were made to modify the criteria for the incoming Fall 2023 freshman class. Two additional levels were added for an award of \$8,000 and \$10,000. The ACT requirement for the levels were modified. With these changes in the program, it will make reaching out to National Merit finalist easier. There are approximately 50 students who fall into this category so it is not a big risk to the University.

We do have a short waiting list for the guaranteed scholarship program where exceptions are considered every couple of weeks. But, we have increased our offers over 400 compared to last year. In the last several days, we have reached 8,029 applications for this fall which is 1,042 over last year to date.

At this time, we know that approximately 95% are on target to renew if they do as well as they did fall semester. The retention rate for these scholars is high.

<b>Guaranteed Scholarship Program 2023-2024</b>	
<b>Amount Per Year</b>	<b>ACT Score</b>
\$3,000	23-24
\$4,000	25-29
\$5,000	30-34
\$8,000	35
\$10,000	36

This fall the University will be offering a Tech Transfer Pride scholarship for up to \$3,000 per year. This scholarship is renewable and is the first time we have offered guaranteed scholarships to transfer students. We have not had a large amount of money to award in the past for this group of students. The deadline is May 1. We are approximately at the same point we were last year with transfer applications and admits but with this program we think we should be able to increase the numbers this next coming month.

<b>Tech Transfer Pride Program 2023-2024</b>	
<b>Amount Per Year</b>	<b>GPA</b>
\$1,500	3.49
\$2,000	3.5 – 3.74
\$3,000	3.75+

In about six weeks we will have some indicators of the number that plan to enter for the Fall 2023 class which is on target to be above the 2,000 mark.

### **Election of Chair**

Ms. Wallis shared with the committee that she and Dr. Barnard had met earlier this semester to select a nominee for the 2023-2024 chair position. She presented Dr. Driggers as the nominee and he agreed to serve another year if elected. Ms. Wallis made the motion to elect and Ms. Creek second the motion. He was elected unanimously.

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### **Such Other Matters**

Dr. Driggers questioned if there were any other items from the committee members. Ms. Creek questioned whether we had any retention data on the 2023 class. Ms. Lykins responded that it is too soon to know. We do know that our freshman retention ticked up to 91.5%.

With no such other matters presented to the committee, Dr. Tittle made the motion to adjourn and Ms. Riggsbee second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:17