



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, June 6, 2022

**Members Present:** Chelsea Ewer, Lyle Markhart, Neil Neroutsos, Joshua Wood

**Members Absent:** Kathy Coffman, Beverly Jagla

**Staff Present:** Ellora La Shier, Mireya Sanchez

### CALL TO ORDER 12:00pm

#### 1) CONSENT AGENDA

- A. December 2021 minutes approved without changes or dissent.

#### 2) NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2022-23 Spring Scholarship Awards- total awarded so far \$429K, still have around \$117K remaining from unawarded funds, as well as some restricted funds that have been reserved for fall cycle. Have also awarded BSN recruitment awards. Students do not have to submit a separate application for bachelor scholarships (selected via program application). Around \$16K remaining for BAS-Teaching and BAS-Engineering Technology as well. There were 136 awards to 125 students, which is an increase in number of awards. Over 50% of awards went to renewals, showing an increase in retention. High percentage of first-gen students, bilingual students as well. Over 1/3 of students have children or dependents. 90% of students are from our service area and over 50% over the age of 26. Small percentage of students from outside our service area, usually attending WVC 4-year programs, or from Grant county.
- B. Scholarship Evaluation Process Review- total of 43 volunteers, higher number of bilingual volunteers allowed us to promote completing the application in English or Spanish. Each volunteer had 28 applications and 4 weeks to evaluate. Over half of evaluators are WVC faculty or staff, with mix of board members and community volunteers making up the rest. Positive feedback from reviewers on the experience, training and guide, and unanimous response that they will return to help again. Committee recommended training volunteers to only score a "0" when students do not answer a question (such as writing "NA").
- C. Guiding Philosophy: Completion- review of importance of degree completion and how it can improve not only the student's life, but their ability to contribute to community economy and improvement. Ratios discussed of non-completion and impact on wages. Also discussed retention, completion timeline averages, and transfer statistics. WVC's average retention from fall-fall has been on the low end of the minimum 35%. Proposed strategies discussed. Awarding policies- proposal to remove the limit on Maximum Attempted Credits for foundation scholarships, which can interfere in completion due to accrued credits not resulting in a degree, which in turn makes the student ineligible for Federal and State funds. Removing the limit on MAC would make our scholarship awarding more student-centered. Consensus from committee to remove the limit and allow students the flexibility to complete their degree in the method that works best for them. Existing procedures- quarterly application cycles, scholarships available for the entire academic year, preference

for renewal applicants, only focused event for specific scholarship fundraising is the Fun Run going to the Finish Line scholarship. Additional proposed procedures: guaranteed two-year awards; focus marketing efforts on current students, faculty/staff and PIO outreach-including closer partnership with WVC recruiter working high schools; prioritize awarding scholarships to students with some college but no degree, and allowing scholarship deferment up to one year for flexibility. Suggestion to come up with specific guidelines for the multi-year awards, to limit timeframe to two years, etc., and make sure the funds are given from endowments to ensure award availability; and also, to determine the best way to reserve funds for students who need deferment. Suggestion to discuss with Budget and Finance committee, as this has the potential to effect funds available at any given time. All proposed procedures were agreed upon by present committee members, with more specific details to be determined going forward.

- D. **Action:** Minimum scholarship award amount- the current minimum of \$1000 has become impractical due to endowment spending policy changes. There are some endowed scholarships that award less than \$1000, and in the past the foundation used unrestricted funds to meet the minimum award amount.

**Motion to remove the minimum award amount for scholarships made by Lyle Markhart. Second from Chelsea Ewer. Motion passed without dissent or abstention. Motion will move on to the Full Board for change in procedure.**

### **3) OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Meeting Schedule 2022-23: Committee agreed to follow a similar meeting schedule for the upcoming year.
- B. Report to the Full Board

**ADJOURNMENT 1:08pm**

**Minutes taken by Mireya Sanchez**