

Scholarships and Academic Awards Fall Board Meeting Minutes

9–10:15 a.m. Friday, 20 September 2019 | Palma C

Members present: Lexey Bartlett, Leigh Dillard (chair), Elfi Gabriel, Natasha McPartlin, Shannin Schroeder, Felicia Steele

1. Reviewed goals and objectives from strategic plan

- Discussed potential revisions to **award recognition procedure**, including asking students whether they would like us to communicate their achievements to their advisor, chief academic officer, hometown newspaper. **Elfi and Leigh will look at the necessary parts of this new procedure and consider timing.** Ideally we would like to introduce it in the spring cycle. The committee will draft a letter in Google Docs in early spring (January/February) GoToMeeting.
- Discussed **application strategy**, including revisions to the Classroom Library Grant and LIT Grant.
 - The committee would like to add up to five Classroom Library Grants to the fall application cycle in addition to the existing 10 in the summer cycle. ****MOTION: The committee moves to add five Classroom Library Grants to the fall cycle.** This will amount to an additional \$2000 in the budget.
 - Multiple ideas emerged for improving promotion for the LIT Grant, including discussing it more thoroughly at the scholarship session at the convention, advertising it differently on english.org, promoting it through Regents' messages to advisors, and shifting the LIT Grant and other opportunities for individuals (Somerville, internship stipends, et al.) to a separate page. Last year's winner of the LIT Grant has prepared entries for english.org that will provide applicants a sense of what works.

2. Reviewed 2018-19 **scholarship numbers**:

- Elfi explained scholarship overview spreadsheet and the shift in the application cycle two years ago. The numbers reflect that the change has been productive, allowing more students who were falling between categories to apply.
- **Remind Central Office (Bill and Karen) to reflect use of buffer funds when they are used to cover additional awards**

3. Revised **prompts for scholarship essays**

- How have your encounters with wilderness transformed and shaped you—as writer, as reader, or as human being?
- In what ways have landscapes (themselves transformed by the elements) helped you understand the relationship between land and personal identity?

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4. Next meeting

- The committee will meet again before the Spring 2020 Board Meeting via GoToMeeting, in a date January/February to be determined later.
- Discuss language in study abroad scholarships to consider shorter programs.
- Consider weight of “cards” in scholarship applications to better acknowledge diverse student applicants
- Consider additional deadlines for LIT Grant