

Minutes from the Spring 2013 Scholarship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 9 to 10:20 pm - in the Council Suite, 3rd Floor

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Item # 6: For the Part-Time Undergraduate Scholarship, alter within STARS the prompt that requests an explanation of part-time status. Change it to: "Explain how this scholarship would benefit you as a part-time student."

Item # 7: "increase the award amount for the Scholarly Paper Awards each from \$150 to \$250." (for the Fall 2013 cycle and beyond, the web site will need to be updated to reflect this change for both the Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarly Paper Awards. (Approved by the Board on 3/21)

Board Members Present: Brewster, Gabriel (Staff), Kerrigan (Chair), Miller, Reyes, Reznik, Stanley, Williams

Board Members Not Present: Daley, Hoagland

1. Spring application cycle is underway (Mar. 4 to April 1)—with thanks to Elfi Gabriel for her work
2. Elfi provided an update on the STARS online submission process
 - a. In July, STARS was bought by Cappex, a Chicago based company. They are in a one-year period of transition. Our basic agreement with STARS remains the same. However,...
 - b. Because of an issue with missing documents during our Fall application cycle, Cappex officials believe there is a glitch in the system and had difficulty addressing the problems we experienced because of the bureaucracy of the present system, in which STARS is hosted by Northern Illinois University servers. Cappex recommends moving to a "cloud" system so that STARS would be hosted by them, not by NIU, meaning less bureaucracy and quicker response time when there are issues.
 - c. Elfi has negotiated a deal with Cappex that would cost \$1800 annually for service plus hosting through Cappex, for the next three years. During that time, we would actually save money by not having to pay NIU for their more costly server space. Elfi believes that there will not be drastic cost inflation from Cappex once our agreement expires in three years, because competition will increase.
 - d. We are told that a new version of STARS (5.0) will be ready for Fall 2013 cycle. Elfi noted a couple of the key changes to features that will make 5.0 easier to use for scholarship application, administration, and review.
3. John shared information about the Fall 2012 scholarship and application review cycle. See Appendix A.
4. The committee reviewed two proposed rubrics for the Scholarly Paper Awards and voted to approve one of the rubrics. See Appendix B.

5. The committee agreed in spirit but did not officially approve a language change to clarify expectations within the description of the Scholarly Paper Award. John has been tweaking the language and will bring the clarified language back to the committee before it gets altered on the website. Because this is a clarification that does not alter the scholarship criteria in any way, this change will not need Board approval. See Appendix C.
6. The committee briefly discussed the rubric and expectations for the Part-Time Undergraduate Scholarship Rubric. The committee approved changing the language of our request within the STARS application itself from "Provide a brief explanation of your part-time status." to adopt committee member Williams's suggestion: "Explain how this scholarship would benefit you as a part-time student."
7. The committee reviewed the amounts and types of scholarships, as charged, even while acknowledging that this needs to be done on a regular ongoing basis. Based on its review, the committee recommends to increase the award amount for the Scholarly Paper Awards each from \$150 to \$250.
8. Running out of time, the committee postponed a discussion of the viability of the Summer Program Scholarship, with Kerrigan suggesting that two ways we may be able to expand the scholarship are emerging: 1) allow applications for short-term summer international study experiences 2) allow students who are graduating in the spring to apply for the Summer Program Scholarship, which would involve altering the final sentence of the description. The issue will be revisited during discussions preceding and at the Fall Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kerrigan, Ph.D.

APPENDIX A. Statistics from Fall 2012 application cycle

Scholarship Name	FALL 2012	FALL 2011	FALL 2010 (pre-STARS)
Alumni Epsilon Scholarship	1	5	n/a
Graduate Scholarship	16	10	12
Junior Scholarship	62	70	49
P.C. Somerville Awards for Future Teachers	16	22	6
Part-Time Undergraduate Student	3	n/a	n/a
Scholarly Paper Award (Undergraduate)	9	14	?
Scholarly Paper Awards (Graduate)	8	6	?
Senior Scholarship	64	65	41
Study Abroad Scholarship	15	19	18
William C. Johnson Distinguished Scholarship	58	82	39
TOTAL	252	293	165

- 252 students representing 92 chapters applied for scholarships during Fall 2012 cycle (compared with 292 students from 107 different chapters in Fall 2011).
- Only thirty chapters had at least one student from their school apply for scholarships both in 2011 and 2012. 78 schools had one or more students who applied in 2011 but not 2012. 62 schools had one or more students apply in 2012 but not 2011.
- There were applications from students in five chapters that have a Board member as sponsor.
- Elfi was for the first time this year able to track the number of web page views for our Scholarship pages (<http://www.english.org/sigmatd/members/scholarships/index.shtml>). We learned, for example, that there were 1663 pageviews for the scholarship materials during the six-day period of 10/3 to 10/9/12.

Region	# of 2012 Scholarship Applications*	# of 2012 Scholarship Recipients**
Southern	71	9
Eastern	47	5
Midwestern	47	4
Far Western	21	2
Southwestern	30	3
High Plains	0	0

*Does not include applicants for PT scholarship, AE scholarship, Somerville Award, or Scholarly Paper Awards.

**Contingent upon Board approval.

APPENDIX B. (Approved) Rubric for the Scholarly Paper Award (Undergraduate and Graduate)

Dimension	Points out of 100
<p>Quality of the Paper. Judges should consider the quality of the writing, the quality and originality of the scholarship, the amount and quality of research, and the length of the paper in relation to stated expectations.</p> <p>To be eligible for the award, papers must meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *have been presented at a regional, national, or international professional conference *be written on an English-related subject *have been presented during the year prior to the application (i.e., since November of the year previous to that of the application) 	100

APPENDIX C. Proposed changes to the Scholarly Paper Award description

Current description:

Sigma Tau Delta will award up to \$150 for the best undergraduate/graduate student scholarly paper presented at a non-Sigma Tau Delta professional, academic conference. The paper must be on an English-related subject and have been presented at a conference within the past academic year (since November of the previous year).

Revised description:

Sigma Tau Delta will award up to \$150 for the best undergraduate/graduate student scholarly paper presented at a non-Sigma Tau Delta professional, academic conference. The paper must be on an English-related subject and have been presented at a regional, national, or international conference within the past academic year (since November of the previous year). To be eligible, the paper must have been presented at a venue that is not a local symposium organized to recognize student research on the student's own campus. Most scholarly papers will be between seven and ten pages in length.