

Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship Committee Minutes

Present: Kaine Ezell, AmiJo Comeford, Elfi Gabriel, Carie King, Terry Phelps, Felicia Steele

I. Approval of Minutes: minutes of September meeting approved

II. Old Business

A. Short-Term Study Abroad

Possible Revision: The scholarship provides up to \$3,000 for the purpose of studying in a program that furthers the applicant's engagement with Sigma Tau Delta's mission for an **academic term** or year in a certified, undergraduate program outside the country in which the nominating chapter is located. **Applicants may also apply for a short-term study abroad that provides up to \$1,500. A short-term study abroad scholarship will be considered for programs that last fewer eight weeks but still provide academic credit.** Applicants should demonstrate academic scholarship and chapter service; they also must explain the relevance of their study abroad program and activities to fostering the discipline of English, including literature, language, writing, or literacy.

The definition of Summer Program scholarship adopted for COVID response (2020-2022) will become permanent to stipulate a “program in the student’s own country.”

Motion 1: The Scholarship Committee requests that a study abroad scholarship in addition to the existing study abroad scholarship funding with \$6000 in funding.

III. New Business

A. Current Applications (As of Tuesday Morning), but these are not necessarily predictive of final numbers. Examining trends over time would be useful. Some regions produce more applicants, but Eastern and Southern Region have many more students overall.

Graduate (7)

Junior (3)

P.C. Somerville (0)

Continuing Education (4)

Senior (11)

Study Abroad (1)

Regent—Eastern (37)

Regent—Far Western (10)

Regent—High Plains (5)

Regent—Midwestern (23)

Regent—Southern (30)

Regent—Southwestern (5)

Summer Program (0)

LIT (0)

William C. Johnson (10)

Scholarly Paper—Undergraduate (3)

Scholarly Paper—Graduate (3)

B. Other New Business?

1. Could we explore a designated HBCU scholarship? How else could we ensure equity? NEHS has a “supplemental funding” scholarship that targets economically disadvantaged students. The analogy to the “school lunch program” would be Pell Grant eligibility. The Scholarship committee agrees that we should pursue this in concert with the DEI task force to put into place for next Spring.

Steele will ask her local student financial aid officer about what documentation students receive to verify Pell Grant eligibility.

2. We will need to ask for an additional line item for this “supplemental scholarship.” This could be awarded as a “Regents Supplemental Scholarship” specifically targeted to Pell Grant eligible students.

3. We would also have to figure out how it is calculated. If we establish it as 50% of Regents Scholarship, it would not have to be recalculated when that scholarship increases.

Recommendation to the board as a whole: The scholarship committee proposes a “Regents Supplemental” Scholarship program on the model of the NEHS supplemental. Goal is to have clearly written description to bring before the expanded scholarship committee during the summer with a motion for the program and its funding for the Fall Board meeting.

IV. Dismissal