

University of North Alabama
Student Financial Services Committee
Annual Report
2014 – 2015

I. Executive Summary

The Student Financial Services (SFS) Committee met formally five times during the 2014 – 2015 academic year. The committee did not review Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeals to the extent of past years due to the need for a shorter response time to meet student demands. The committee considered four different student athlete appeals. Dr. Mark Lawrence served as Committee Chair.

Committee members are:

Mr. Ben Baker (non-voting, by position)	Dr. Mark Lawrence (Faculty, 2016)
Dr. Thomas Calhoun (non-voting, by position)	Mr. Mark Linder (by position)
Dr. Dan Hendricks (by position)	Ms. Prema Monteiro (Faculty, 2016)
Dr. Kristy Oden (Faculty, 2015)	Ms. Glenda Richey (Staff, 2017)
Ms. Doris McDaniel (Faculty, 2015)	Dr. Felecia Harris (Faculty, 2017)

II. The Committee's Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

1. To serve as an advisory committee in the area of student financial services
2. To serve as a board of appeal on financial aid awards
3. To gather information on student financial services and allied fields and assess these services in light of the information obtained
4. To propose changes in student financial aid policies and procedures consistent with federal, state, and NCAA regulations and donor agreements

III. The Committee met on the following date(s):

July 16, 2014	10:00 am	Casey Roethler Athletic Appeal Hearing
July 30, 2014	2:00 pm	Jere Vucica Athletic Appeal Hearing
November 4, 2014	1:30 pm	Terrance Hayward Athletic Appeal Hearing
April 22, 2015	2:30 pm	Endowed Scholarship Selection Meeting
May 7, 2015	9:00 am	Jessica Brown Athletic Appeal Hearing

IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

1. The SFS Committee was not asked to perform any services related to item 1
2. The SFS Committee was asked to consider four (4) student athlete appeals regarding athletic participation. Athletic appeals must be considered by a committee outside the UNA Athletic Dept. The SFS Committee did not consider any Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeals. The SFS Office itself received about 435 total SAP appeals. Of

the total number of appeals received, 56.44% (246/435) were approved and 43.56% (189/435) were denied.

3. The Committee was not asked to perform any services related to item 3
4. The Committee was not asked to perform any services related to item 4

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

1. The SFS Committee met on April 22, 2015 to select nominees for forty-four (44) endowed scholarship awards for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Student Financial Services (SFS) Team had received over 640 applications for endowed scholarships. The SFS Committee met to make recommendations for 44 recipients of various scholarships totaling \$43,514. The committee reviewed and analyzed over 640 scholarship applications to select the 44 recipients. These scholarships are provided by endowment funds administered through the UNA Foundation.
2. The SFS Committee considered four (4) student athlete appeals. The committee upheld the decision of the UNA Athletic Dept on the appeals by Vucica, Hayward, and Brown. The committee reversed the decision of the UNA Athletic Dept on Roethler.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

1. In the coming year?
 - a. To continue assisting the SFS Office with decisions on student athlete appeals when called upon
 - b. To continue assisting the SFS Office with decisions on scholarship selections and scholarship appeals when called upon
2. In future years?
 - a. Same as 1 (a)
 - b. Same as 1 (b)

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

1. Response times on SAP appeals are often too slow to meet the needs of the students. A periodic, regularly scheduled meeting might help solve this problem. However, the number of appeals and the response time needed to adequately serve the students do not lend themselves to structured scheduling.
2. Trying to assemble a quorum of members in order to conduct business for regular meeting times is difficult. Faculty and staff members already struggle with overloaded schedules that adversely affect the scheduling process.

VIII. Comments.

The members of the SFS Committee have performed a vital service to the administration of the financial aid process at the University for the period of this report.

For several years, there has always been at least one faculty member appointed to the SFS Committee by the Shared Governance Committee who has not taken seriously the obligation to make every effort to be available when called upon. Dr. Alex Aguado has become a "regular proxy" for one of the faculty positions on the committee due to the continued absences of one faculty member.

It would be most helpful if the Shared Governance Committee would consider suggestions from the Director of Student Financial Services on known faculty members willing to make the extra effort to serve on the committee.

Annual Report

Date Due: July 31, 2015

Student Financial Services Committee

University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama

Dr. Mark Lawrence

Dr. Mark Lawrence
Committee Chair

7/31/2015
Date

Submitted to: _____
Title/Committee

Date