

University of North Alabama  
Student Financial Services Committee  
Annual Report  
2015 – 2016

I. Executive Summary

The Student Financial Services (SFS) Committee met formally three times during the 2015 – 2016 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 did not consider any student athlete appeals this year. The 2015-2016 year is the first year in many years that the SFS Committee did not hear at least one student athlete appeal. Dr. Mark Lawrence served as Committee Chair.

Committee members are:

Ms. Shauna James (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. Jeff Bibbee (Faculty, 2018)	Ms. Glenda Richey (Staff, 2017)
Dr. Leah Whitten (Faculty, 2018)	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):

March 23, 2016	2:00 am	Endowed Scholarship Selection Meeting
April 25 & 26, 2016	3:30 pm	Edward F. Mauldin Scholarship Interview And Selection Meetings

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 review over 900 Endowed Scholarship applications and make selections of 42 students for scholarships totaling \$43,729. The SFS Committee did not consider any Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeals. The SFS Office itself received about 428 total SAP appeals. Of the total number of appeals received, 53.75% (230/428) were approved and 46.25% (198/428) were denied. The SFS Committee was

asked to conduct thirteen (13) interviews for two (2) different Edward F. Mauldin Scholarships. The Mauldin Scholarships are worth \$5,000 per year for five (5) years. The Mauldin Scholarship is the one, single largest scholarship offered by UNA. Due to the large value of this scholarship, the SFS Committee has always been used to conduct interviews and select the student(s) to receive this scholarship.

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 March 23, 2016 to select nominees for forty-two (42) endowed scholarship awards for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Student Financial Services (SFS) Team had received over 915 applications for endowed scholarships. The SFS Committee met to make recommendations for 42 recipients of various scholarships totaling \$43,729. The committee reviewed and analyzed over 915 scholarship applications to select the 42 recipients. These scholarships are provided by endowment funds administered through the UNA Foundation.
2. The SFS Committee did not consider any student athlete appeals for the first time in many, many years.

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. For the 2015-2016 academic year, one faculty member completed a three-year term on the SFS Committee without having attended one meeting in the presence of the former Director of SFS, Ben J. Baker. The SFS Committee has relied on Dr. Alex Aguado to be a "regular proxy" for this faculty person. Ms. Lisa Rhodes from the UNA Business Office has filled in very capably as a proxy when a staff member of the SFS Committee could not attend

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. Some of the faculty members who have served reliably and dependably in recent years have been Dr. Mark Lawrence, Dr. Kristy Oden, Dr. Jeff Bibbee, Dr. Brian Thompson, Ms. Doris McDaniel and Dr. Pat Sanders.

# Annual Report

Date Due: July 31, 2016

Student Financial Services Committee

University of North Alabama  
Florence, Alabama

Dr. Mark Lawrence

Dr. Mark Lawrence

Committee Chair

7/31/2016

Date

Submitted to: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Date