

Financial Aid Update: Initial planning

- I have met with Mike Sauer and Kris Shay on multiple occasions exploring options. We meet every two weeks to discuss enrollment management strategies. Discussing a strategic plan for scholarships comes up rather frequently.
- Mike Sauer, in collaboration with his Enrollment and Student Services direct reports, developed an Enrollment and Student Services 2016 Recruitment Plan. The section of the document related to financial aid suggests ways to improve the strategic use of scholarship dollars for recruiting purposes. Suggestions include stronger relationships between the UNLV Foundation and Advancement Offices, defunding prior financial aid commitments and examining if those funds could be used more appropriately, encouraging students to enroll and complete at least 15 credit hours by incentivizing scholarships and grants, a general scholarship fund and considering if centralizing the majority of scholarships administration within the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office for efficiency is appropriate.
- Mike Sauer and I also met with Scott Roberts, Associate Vice President, Development Operations and Nancy Strouse, Senior Associate Vice President, Development regarding the possibility of a general scholarship fund for recruiting purposes.
- I met with all the Development Officers at UNLV. I provided them a presentation about the existing concerns I have regarding current scholarship administration and how existing state and institutional funding sources limit the ability of Enrollment and Student Services to recruit high ability students. We also discussed donors tend to put many restrictions on scholarship selection. It would be helpful if memorandums of understanding could be written with less restrictions which may allow greater flexibility in recruiting high ability students to UNLV.
- If it is determined centralizing the majority of scholarship administration into the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office is appropriate, the office seating configuration within the processing area is not designed to absorb additional staff. Machabee Office Environments along with UNLV Planning and Construction have provided feedback and cost estimates to maximize staff work stations within the office. It is expected work stations within the processing area of financial aid will be reconfigured by mid-December 2016 to accommodate any new staffing resources allocated to the office.

Submitted by Carl Reiber

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