

Discussion on Additional HEERF/CARES Awards to Students

1. Students who Owe Debt to College: Based on the March 19, 2021, news about a relaxation of the guidelines on how colleges can spend federal Covid release funds. Specifically, that “Any unspent CARES Act money can be used for costs dating back to March 13, 2020” when the national emergency was declared. Also that “colleges can use federal funds to cover losses, including tuition, enrollment declines, canceled events, and lost revenues from bookstores and parking.” And furthermore, that “colleges can use federal relief funding to wipe out unpaid balances that students owe to the college.”
 - a. Can student debt be paid so that they can be cleared to enroll?
 - b. If so, can we clear for all academic terms: Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021?
 - c. Once clarified, we can work with RIE to get a number and a proposal as to how we might be able to assist students in enrolling for Summer 2021 or Fall 2021.
2. Emergency grants to students based on need:
 - a. Out-of-state students are required to pay both the enrollment fees (\$46/unit) and our non-resident student rate + capital outlay per unit. For many students who receive the Pell grant, especially those who are full time, 100% of their Pell grant goes toward paying these fees plus they do not qualify for the CC Promise Grant.
 - These students have no money for books, housing, food, transportation.
 - If we can verify that the students have a hardship, can we assist by providing additional awards based on their unmet need?
 - In other words, if in-state students with the highest need get an additional \$500 grant; can we provide these students with substantially more than \$500 based on their unmet need?
3. Balancing impact of pandemic on student success:
 - a. Some students have lost their eligibility for financial aid (Pell or Veterans) due to academic issues since the onset of the pandemic.
 - We would compute their unmet need and develop a system to provide them with an emergency grant.
 - b. Some students have been delayed progress toward completing their goals due to having to repeat classes or classes not being offered. In order to support their enrollment in more units beginning this Fall, would it be possible to award additional funds to enable students to attend full time and to get caught up on enrolling into required courses?
4. Refund of lost revenues:
 - a. In addition to back-filling lost revenues to the Student Health Center and to Associated Students, can we reverse the parking fee shortfall that was taken out of the International student budget?