

Annual report to: Interim Chancellor and Provost Garnett Stokes

Attention: Anna Ball, Michelle Marsden

From: Jeanne Abbott, chair, Student Financial Aid Committee



Date: June 7, 2017

The Student Financial Aid Committee convenes when the Office of Compliance for the Athletics Department has a request from a student athlete to appeal any cancellation or adjustment of scholarship aid. NCAA rules require a panel of at least three faculty and two students for an appeals hearing.

The make-up of the committee is designed to meet this stipulation. For 2016-2017, the committee has had five faculty members (Jeanne Abbott, chair, plus members: Bradley Curs, Carrie Duncan, Mirae Kim and Joan Hermsen); four undergraduate students (Darielle Kriss-McKellar, Karlie Klimes, Joshua Tennison, John Blevins — all MSA-appointed); and one graduate student (Christopher Austin — GPC-appointed), plus Nick Prewett, the director of Financial Aid at MU.

The committee serves as a hearing panel, but only when requests are made. The Office of Compliance also holds an education session annually to go over NCAA rules and procedures for granting and adjusting (increasing, decreasing, removing) scholarship assistance for athletes. This meeting was held March 1, 2017.

Other than the education session and hearings as requested, the committee does not otherwise meet or attend to any additional business. When Marie Concannon was chair, she set up a session with the Financial Aid Office to determine if the committee should make any additional contributions to the university. The office persuaded us that no further contribution was needed, other than to satisfy NCAA regulations that require hearings as requested.

Two requests for hearings were made in 2016-2017.

The chair of the committee is also responsible for signing off on voluntary relinquishments of aid. Between Sept. 5, 2016, and June 7, 2017, the chair documented 16 voluntary relinquishments of aid.

I believe the committee has fulfilled its responsibilities this year in accordance with NCAA hearing regulations. Every athlete who loses scholarship assistance has the right to appeal, and the procedures are clear that a panel must be convened to conduct the hearing.

As long as there are enough faculty and student members to meet the quorum requirements, I believe the committee make-up is sufficient. It is difficult to set a time for an appeal that meets the needs of all concerned, however. Not only does the committee need to be present, but also a representative from Financial Aid, several from the Office of Compliance, plus the student involved.



That proved to be the most difficult task during the academic year, but overall, the committee’s duties were executed fully and with integrity.