Date: May 30, 2018

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 2017-2018, the committee had five faculty members (Jeanne Abbott, chair, plus members Bradley Curs, Carrie Duncan, Mirae Kim and Joan Hermsen); four undergraduate students (Tristan Detzel, Alexandria Gentile, Davis Perry and Kelsie Wilkins — all MSA-appointed); and one graduate student (Christopher Austin — GPC-appointed), plus Nicholas Prewett, the director of Financial Aid at MU.

The committee serves as a hearing panel, but only when requests are made. Other than an education session and hearings as requested, the committee does not otherwise meet or attend to any additional business. The Financial Aid Office has determined that no further contribution was needed, other than to satisfy NCAA regulations that require hearings as requested.

Two requests by MU athletes for hearings to reinstate financial aid were made in 2017-2018.

The chair of the committee is also responsible for signing off on voluntary relinquishments of aid. Between June 7, 2017, and May 28, 2018, the chair documented 14 voluntary relinquishments of aid. In sum, 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 can be difficult to set a hearing at a time that suits everyone’s schedule, but we were able to do so for the sole hearing conducted this year.

Overall, I believe the committee’s duties this year were executed fully and with integrity.