

B-1 Committee on Financial Aid to Students

John Traphagan, Chair

Max Snodderly, Vice Chair

During the 2018-2017 academic year, the Committee on Financial Aid to Students (B-1 committee) met four times to identify and discuss Financial Aid problems experienced by undergraduates at the University and to assist in making decisions about awarding scholarships in Student Government and the Brown Scholarship. John Traphagan (Chair) and Max Snodderly (vice Chair) provided leadership to the committee throughout the year.

At the September meeting, the group discussed more closely coordinating efforts with the Student Government Endowment Committee in relation to the endowments they have available for small student scholarships. Questions were raised about providing help in identifying financial need among students who apply, given the fact that Student Government members cannot review the financial information of other students. After conversations with the legal department by Traphagan, it was decided that the B1 committee can review files but cannot indicate specific levels of need to the students. After further discussions, it was determined that the B1 committee can rank the students in terms of need without giving out specific financial information. This approach was employed as a means of assisting the SGEC with distributing funds during the 2017/2018 decision cycle. The committee also discussed the need to put financial aid at the forefront of the next capital campaign and to emphasize addressing the needs of middle-income families.

At the October meeting, the committee reviewed a letter sent by the Chair to thank Steve Hicks for his large donation to the School of Social Work. The committee also reviewed financial aid to rank applicants for student government scholarships for approximately 80 applicants. In addition, the committee discussed data provided by one member on how we define affordability and raised a question about having the committee attempt to formulate an approach to defining affordability in the future. The March meeting of the committee focused on issues related to defining affordability and reporting by the Chair on the activities of the Strategic Enrollment Management Working group. And the April meeting focused on selecting recipients for the Brown Scholarships, which involved reviewing and ranking the applications of approximately 20 students.

Over the course of the year, the Chair (Traphagan) reported on the activities, discussions, and progress of the Strategic Enrollment Management Working group, on which he served throughout the year, specifically emphasizing discussions related to improving financial aid packages for students.