

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Operations Committee
RE: Recommendations for Academic Advisers Related to Financial Aid
DATE: 177th Plenary, October 19-21, 2017
LOCATION: SUNY Delhi
RESOLUTION #: 177-03-1
VOTE TALLY: For: 33; Against: 6; Abstain: 3

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS state, federal, and private aid sources have varied and student-specific academic progress-related conditions required to meet academic eligibility requirements for financial aid; and

WHEREAS it is critical for students to be fully informed about the impact of registration choices on their financial aid support; and

WHEREAS incomplete and incorrect information related to the impact of a student's registration on current or future financial aid eligibility may negatively impact a student's funding eligibility and persistence/graduation, and create legal implications for academic advisers; and

WHEREAS understanding the complexity of determining satisfactory academic progress (e.g., the number of semester credits attempted and completed, the specific courses for which students are currently registered, total credits hours earned, and cumulative GPA are all considered when determining academic eligibility for financial aid), the changing nature of aid eligibility regulations, and a comprehensive understanding of the intersection of these matters on individual student's aid eligibility requires a focus and commitment of time that is unreasonable to expect of academic advisers whose primary purpose is to provide academic, major, and career guidance within the scope of their expertise rather than financial counsel;

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that campuses should make it clear to academic advisers that students' registration impacts their financial aid eligibility. As such, academic advisers should refer students to the financial aid office on their campus for information on how registration and registration changes may impact aid eligibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUNY develop and deploy on all campuses an automated financial aid information system that will provide to students clear and early information on their aid eligibility statuses and aid eligibility appeal procedures, and provide warnings during registration processes that notify students that their aid may be impacted by particular semester registrations or changes to registration during the course of a semester.

BACKGROUND:

None provided.