

Re: International Need-Based Scholarship Decisions



[REDACTED]

Subject: International Need-Based Scholarship Decisions

Good afternoon.

I hope you have been able to rest and decompress after a week's end which was very stressful. My hope is that you will ignore this email until we return to the office, but for me, putting potential next steps into words is therapeutic and will hopefully, allow me to step away from the matter briefly.

Because all of our need-based awards were denied due to "significant over-awarding of scholarship funds," and because we are now required to send any request for awards through Dr. Howard's office, I removed the student link to apply for an award. The reasons for removing the link are as follows:

First, the relationship between our unit, the Provost's office, and that of Student Affairs is obviously strained. While we could and possibly should advocate on behalf of our students, it has become more and more apparent that our requests, reasoning, and pleas will be rejected.

Secondly, the students for whom we requested a scholarship seemed to be viewed as a demographic group rather than as individuals. This is most apparent when we compare the case of [REDACTED] who was required to pay \$10k+ from [REDACTED] pocket last semester, whereas, [REDACTED] after all awards and scholarships are posted, owes less than \$2 each semester. For this reason, it seems doubtful that sending any additional requests through Dr. Howard and the Student Affairs will be of benefit to our students.

Finally, we have spent years cultivating relationships with our students and helping them to feel valued and supported. If they continue to apply through our office, detailing the family, health, and/or financial crisis that has caused them to reach out for assistance and we have no input or ability to help them, it looks like we don't care about their struggles, when we know that is not the reality of the situation. I feel it would be more transparent and advantageous to admit we no longer have the resources or authority to help them.

We understand that the university is battling to become financially solvent and if Student Affairs or the Provost needs to be in control of the emergency need-based scholarship funds distributed, I would like to propose that the funds be moved to their cost center and that they be responsible for reading the essays written by the students, reading the recommendation letters written by concerned faculty members, and reviewing the academic and financial history of potential international award recipients. They need to be responsible for determining the criteria upon which they make their decision and communicating their decision to our students directly. I have written my last email to communicate that "We are sorry to inform you that your requested emergency need-based award has been denied by the university."

I recognize that I am merely stating the sad reality that we are all facing and feeling on a deeply personal level.

My apologies if I have acted in haste by removing the link to request emergency funding. However, based on the increasing number of requests, I felt it was imperative that we act quickly as a department. All students who had their requests denied by Student Affairs and the Provost, including the two who are in peril of losing their F-1 status Tuesday when the last day to register for classes closes, have been contacted with the denial statement mentioned above.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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