

POLICY QUESTIONS REGARDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Academic Year 2008-09

Need-based student financial aid provides access for students who otherwise could not afford to attend the University. Merit-based aid recognizes and rewards student talent and promise, without regard to need. Both are important sources for the recruitment and retention of undergraduate and graduate/professional students and for the achievement of the University's mission.

These are the policy questions that we believe to be most relevant to campus discussions this year:

1. How many more students will likely need financial aid given a weakening economy and coupled with planned enrollment growth? And is there sufficient funding available to meet this need?
2. How will likely tuition and fee increases at the state or campus level impact the need for additional grant aid, and for whom?
3. Given the credit crisis, will students continue to have access to federal student loans this year? Will there be adequate capital available for private loans for those students who do not qualify for need-based aid?
4. What do we know about "middle income" students who just miss qualifying for federally means-tested student aid, and how do these students/families pay for education?
5. How should the University respond to growing number of institutions nationally which provide "no loans" student aid packages to middle-income (however defined) students? How does Carolina remain competitive?
6. What steps should Carolina take to increase scholarship assistance for high-achieving international and undocumented students?
7. What progress is the University making in providing health insurance to students with need?
8. What is the best use of the Trademark licensing funding, going forward, given the multiple priorities stated above?