

POLICY QUESTIONS REGARDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Academic Year 2010 - 11

Need-based student financial aid provides access for students who could not otherwise 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. Access and excellence are mutually reinforcing goals.

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

1. How do we continue to serve a growing population of students who have need, especially if tuition increases?
2. How do we strike the right balance between need-based and merit-based aid? Between aid for undergraduate and aid for graduate/professional students?
3. How do we increase the number of merit scholarships or initiatives that Carolina offers (and protect the purchasing power of those scholarships)?
4. How can we better manage the expectations of an increasingly vocal middle class who seek scholarship assistance?
5. What happens if the out-of-state scholarship provision for merit scholarship recipients is repealed by the General Assembly (as the athletic scholarship provision was in 2010)?
6. Will the federal government be able to protect and strengthen funding for Pell Grants going forward, given federal budgetary pressures?
7. Can we maintain UNC-Chapel Hill's current share of state-funded need based grant aid as the General Assembly considers the "simplification," consolidation, and redesign of state-funded student aid programs?
8. How can we maximize the use of student aid to further the University's retention goals?
9. What new grants or initiatives can we pursue in an effort to generate new scholarship sources (e.g., Covenant and HHMI, NSF; entrepreneurship, etc.)? ; and
10. What resources or efforts will we need to put into place in order to better compete for international students as Carolina endeavors to strengthen its global presence?