Chapter/Network Leader
Frequently Asked Questions

Throughout October 2018, the Scholarships Department conducted one-on-one phone meetings with chapters and networks regarding the scholarship process. After speaking with 36 chapters and networks, we identified frequently asked questions from our conversations.

1. How does our chapter/network find more volunteers to review scholarship applications?
   This is when social media comes in handy! Consider posting a call for volunteers on your chapter’s/network’s Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter accounts. You can include a blurb in your monthly newsletters. We encourage you to be transparent with interested volunteers by telling them the time commitment involved, including review dates (even if tentative), and the process of reviewing (electronic reading, in-person interviews, etc.). If there are former scholarship recipients living in your chapter area, this is a great way for them to get involved, as they may feel motivated to give back to their community and participate in the scholarship review process.

2. Are there tuition fee waivers for out-of-state students?
   Yes and no. Each UT college has a small number of tuition waivers for out-of-state students. It is extremely rare that an out-of-state student receives a waiver. Additionally, receiving a scholarship from an out-of-state chapter does not grant the student eligibility for a waiver. The following must be met in order to be eligible for a waiver:
   - The student is awarded an academically competitive scholarship for at least $1,000.
   - The scholarship must consider both in-state and out-of-state students equally.
   - The scholarship must come from the University and not from an external source.

   For more information about tuition waivers, refer to this link.

3. What is the best practice for newly chartered chapters/networks who are about to award scholarships for the first time or are in their first few years of awarding?
   Chapters and networks are strongly encouraged to engage with alumni throughout the year before trying to award scholarships. Gameday watch parties, cook-offs, and other events are great opportunities for your members to get together and interact with each other in support of UT. The Chapters & Networks Department, along with the Chapter and Network Advisory Boards, can share event ideas with new chapters/networks looking to engage alumni.
The chapter/network should determine when is best to start awarding scholarships. A struggle that we have seen in the past is that chapters/networks hit the ground running with early fundraising efforts to award a scholarship immediately but then have difficulty with continued fundraising efforts. That then means chapters/networks either take gaps in awarding scholarships or continue to ask the same people for donations in order to continue awarding a scholarship. This strategy is not ideal.

Chapters/networks might consider fundraising and saving scholarship funds for a year or two before awarding a scholarship. This would ensure that there are funds in place to award a scholarship for some time (depending on how much has been raised and how many recipients are selected) while continuing to fundraise at events throughout the year versus asking people to donate in order to award a scholarship that year.

4. **What are other chapters/networks doing in terms of fundraising/events?**

The best fundraisers are those events that are tailored to the needs and unique qualities of your alumni. Alumni in different cities and communities have their own personality, and chapters/networks should take this into account when planning fundraisers. Below are a few examples:

- The Dallas Chapter is in a unique position thanks to the annual Texas-OU game and takes advantage of the weekend by a golf tournament the Friday before the game. In addition to the registration fee from participants, the chapter solicits sponsors for the event.

- The San Antonio Chapter capitalizes on the excitement surrounding the start of football season and hosts their annual Tailgate Party. There are silent and live auctions to raise funds, as well as the registration fee and table sales. The chapter brings in football experts to get the crowd excited about the upcoming season and ends the party with a live concert.

For some scholarship fundraising ideas, check out this [link](#). If you have questions related to fundraising and events, please contact the Chapters & Networks Department at [texasexeschapters@texasexes.org](mailto:texasexeschapters@texasexes.org).

5. **Is it possible for our scholarship committee to be informed about non-Texas Exes scholarships that applicants have received so far?**

Texas Exes does not have information about University or third-party scholarships that students receive. If a student receives a Forty Acres Scholarship from the Texas Exes, they are ineligible to receive other Texas Exes scholarships. We will do our best to inform chapters/networks of these recipients, but offers are made on a rolling basis throughout March and April.
6. I have been our chapter/network’s Scholarship Chair for years and have not been receiving communications from Texas Exes Scholarships—why is this?

In order to award scholarships, chapters/networks must be officially chartered by July 1 prior to the award year (ex: chartered by July 1, 2018, to award scholarships for 2019-2020 academic year). Chapters/networks submit forms every year as part of the chartering process, including an Officer Listing, to the Chapters & Networks Department.

In order to protect the private information contained in scholarship documents and reports, the Scholarships Department will only disseminate information to the chapter president/key contact and scholarship chair who are listed on the official Office Listing. Please inform our Chapter & Networks Manager, Jane Marie Agnew (janemarie.agnew@texasexes.org) of any changes in leadership or contact information to stay updated on all communications.

7. How are scholarship applicants matched to our chapter’s scholarship?

The Texas Exes scholarship application automatically matches students to chapter scholarships based on the student’s high school zip code. It is very important that students enter their correct high school zip code or their scholarship may not pull to a chapter’s list of applicants in the spring.

Additionally, the student’s UT EID on their application must match to a UT EID in UT’s system. We cross-reference our lists to ensure that only students who have applied and been admitted to UT are reviewed by chapters. Again, it is very important that students enter their correct UT EID or they will not be considered for any Texas Exes scholarship. The application explicitly states:

*If your UT EID is entered incorrectly and does not match the UT system, your application will not be considered.*

8. When reviewing scholarship applications, how do we know which students will end up attending UT?

There is no exact answer to this question. A student’s enrollment plan may change unexpectedly throughout the scholarships cycle. The Scholarships Department is able to provide the status of the student’s enrollment deposit. However, that is never a guarantee that a student will actually attend. Every year that are students that pay their enrollment deposit, accept the scholarship, submit required documents, and then their funds are returned from the Office of Financial Aid after the 12th class day (official class day) due to non-enrollment.
A suggested approach that chapters/networks may consider using to get a better idea of a student’s intent to enroll is to send an email to applicants inquiring about their continued interest in UT. If interested in this approach, chapters/networks can request a template from the Scholarships Department. Additional guidelines around the template will be communicated to chapters/networks who request the template.

It is our hope that this Q+A sheet will be helpful to you as we approach scholarship season this spring. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Stephanie at stephanie.sandoval@texasexes.org.