New Scholarship Process Call

September 26, 2012 – 12:00 PM

Lori Bolding, Tiffani Gonzales

- **Introductions** – thank you for all that you do for the scholarship program
  - Lori Bolding – joined UT 4 years ago for fundraising specifically for 40 Acres, asked last December by Leslie to join the Texas Exes to oversee all Scholarships
  - Tiffany – recipient of a Texas Exes Scholarship, joined in June to begin building relationships, etc. with scholarship recipients

- **New Process**
  - Looked at the process in December- all processes, all scholarships: very segmented, 3 different applications, 2 within chapters – not student friendly (feedback from students and high school counselors)
    - Even if students were able to find the scholarships, you probably didn’t find all of the options
  - Needed to also look at how to get the online application across the board – many scholarships had to be printed and mailed, not enough resources to continue this – not efficient enough
  - High school students are used to everything being available online and all in one place – why not do this for the scholarships
    - Now we can bundle scholarships based on where a student is, etc. and then they can be reviewed
  - More efficient for students and the University
    - Partnered with UT, they asked that we do all of our scholarships like they do theirs to make the partnership the best it can be

- **At Conference:**
  - Kedra Ishop spoke – talked about this effort being better for all, especially in terms of recruitment
  - Michael, UT Admissions – it will help the University because we will now have a more complete set of candidates for each scholarship

- **Timeline:**
  - Coming with great detail; currently being built with office at admissions
  - FIRST: Identify who your readers will be – right away!
    - Each reader must get an EID – let Texas Exes know and we will get them in the system/assign
  - SECOND: Develop criteria for the scholarships you hold
    - May just be the zip codes, that is completely acceptable
    - If your chapter has different scholarships for more specific students – determine these details
THIRD: After the Fall each reader who has been submitted, they must do FERPA training – for the protection of the students information, and your own protection as well
   - No longer have to feel obligated to tell your neighbors/friends information if their student has submitted an application, etc.
FOURTH: Each reader must download a specific program (provided by Texas Exes) on to their computer that they will be reading on, training will then take place
After all of these steps are complete by about March, Tiffany will send each reader the EIDs of the students they will be reviewing
   - You will be able to access more of a “360” look at each student
   - You will also be given a complete guide on scoring
There may be hiccups – this will be a process and we may have some bumps but once it’s honed it will be best for the students and worth the efforts
   - Chapters will be able to truly recruit and reward students – no longer just whoever finds it and applies receives a scholarship

Good to remember – whoever applies to UT will automatically be considered for Scholarships
   - This will also encourage and help chapters to develop relationships with high school counselors

Questions:

- When do readers need to be gathered; is there a maximum?
- Timeline description:
  - Does not matter how many readers you have – will need to be proportionate to the region you are in
  - BEST to identify more than you need just in case – we need to know this in the Fall (NOW)
    - You will need ask who is really committed to read during the final timeline
- Timeline with University – what if some of the students don’t get into UT
  - You will only be given a pool of candidates of students who have been offered admission
    - Will be encouraged to choose numerous candidates, number from 1 – 15 or so in case all of the top choices decline their offer to attend the University
Scholarship Department Presentation Recap
Texas Exes Chapter Leadership Conference

Friday, August 31st, 2012

Over the past year, the Texas Exes has reviewed our efficiencies and processes across the association. In the Scholarship department, we have identified main priorities and goals of student recruitment and development, and positively impacting the student experience. In addition, it was in the best interest of the student, the Chapter volunteer, the Texas Exes as a whole, and the University, that we improved our scholarship application, review, and selection process. Armed with the findings of a focused task-force and the support of the University of Texas, we are preparing to combine our scholarship application process with the University’s admissions and scholarship process, in an online format. Ultimately, we believe that this will have a significant positive impact on the scholarship process. We understand that this is very new to all of you, and we will be here to support you through this, every step of the way. Below, please find some helpful information to help you process the changes we are putting forward. We will be in touch with more information as it becomes available, but please contact us with any questions or concerns you have, as we know that many others will have those same questions.

What this means for the student:

The student will not have to separately apply for a Texas Exes scholarship. They will be automatically eligible upon application to the University. We are taking the job of finding us out of their hands, and letting them focus on submitting an excellent admissions application.

What this means for you as a reader/selection committee member:

- You will not need to seek out students in your area who have applied to the University to encourage them to apply for your chapter’s scholarship

- In creating a more substantial and beneficial partnership with the University, your Chapter’s scholarship is gaining the power to be an incentive to attend the University, not just a reward for that decision

- Applications will no longer be printed and sent out to chapters for review

- You will have a more robust application to review when selecting recipients. This means you will have a more complete picture of the student, which should aid in selections

- All reviewing of applications will be completed online, through a connection to the University’s database. We will work with the University to set up your access to this database

What has not changed:

- Chapters will still read applications and select recipients based on their own criteria

- Chapters are encouraged to help recruit students in their area to the University, and to celebrate those students who decide to attend UT and/or those who awarded a chapter scholarship
What comes next:

- Within the next few weeks, we will provide you with a timeline for the new process

- The first thing we will ask you for is a list of the names and contact information for all chapter members who will be reviewing applications- this will be due in the fall

- Start thinking about what your criteria will be for students to be considered for your scholarship(s)- we will need that information to filter the students that we pass on to be reviewed

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Our chapter area sees 10,000 applicants to UT each fall. Will we be sent all of those, and need to sort them ourselves?

A: We will use the criteria you give us to sort the applications, and will then give you access to a pre-set amount of applications

Q: We have good relationships with the local high schools and always have a good pool of applicants. Why would we need to make this switch?

A: Your relationships with these counselors are very important to the Texas Exes and to the University. We hope that you’ll be able to use these relationships to continue to encourage students to apply to, and ultimately attend, the University.

Q: I don’t feel confident using a computer to review these applications. Will you help me figure out how to do it?

A: The Scholarships team will be there for you every step of the way. We will make sure you are trained and comfortable with the system beforehand, and we’re just a phone call away if you encounter an issue during the review and selection process.

Q: Do we have to switch to this online system?

A: Yes. The University has stated that we can only participate in this online system if all scholarships administered by the Texas Exes, including Chapter, Named, and the Forty Acres Scholars Program, participate.

Please contact Tiffany Gonzales, Scholarship Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

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