



Center for Latin American and Border Studies (CLABS)

MSC 3445
PO BOX 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Nason House
1070 University Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88003

CLABS Scholarships and Community Engagement Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

In Attendance: David Ortiz, Christopher Brown, Delano Lewis, Dino Cervantes, Erica Nikolaisen, Yvette Navarro

- **Scholarship Spring 2021**

The committee discussed the issue of the 1200-page Scholar Dollar document that needs to be sorted to find potential candidates to award scholarships. Chris suggested that we contact Computer Science and ICT to find a better way to code and sort the PDF file. Delano encouraged contacting the remaining Nason family to fix the issue with the broad agreement so that we tailor the scholarships through more strict guidelines. A priority for the committee is award this money by the end of March 2021 to ensure that we do not run out of money, but to think ahead so that there is a uniform way of awarding scholarships for future endowments.

- **Future Scholarships**

David suggests that we give out four scholarships per year, two undergraduate winners and two graduate winners. Of those scholarships, it would be ideal to give one scholarship to recruit an undergraduate and graduate student. In an attempt to tailor the CLABS scholarship to students who are interested in Latin America and potentially doing research in this area, David will ask Carley to create a webform application that will be on the official CLABS website. The committee agrees that this will be an easier way to get applicants that are relevant to our mission.

Since these applicants will need to also apply via NMSU's Scholar Dollar, it will still be compliant with the foundation rules. Dino suggested there be a specific date that the committee works by in the Spring and Fall for awarding scholarships so that students have adequate time to think of how to use that money for potential research projects. David suggested that Fall might be best to award monies to current students and Spring could be better for recruitment purposes. Dino also suggested that we filter out graduating students, particularly during awarding scholarships during the spring. David said that we start to create and promote advertisements for the scholarships starting Fall 2021 and suggested Chris can draft this announcement.

- **Community Engagement**

The committee agrees that our long-term goal is to figure out ways to involve the local, national, and international community. Delano suggested another meeting to figure out how to get the community connected to CLABS's mission.

- **To Do**

Erica and Yvette will split up the 1200-page document with the 300 Scholar Dollar applicants to find suitable candidates for receiving the scholarship for Spring 2021. They will each send the committee members the top candidates that will potentially be chosen for a scholarship.