



CLABS

Center for Latin American
and Border Studies

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Scholarships Committee Meeting Minutes

October 14th, 1:00 PM

In attendance: Christopher Brown, Delano Lewis, Dino Cervantes, Erica Nikolaisen, Yvette Navarro, and David Ortiz.

- David Ortiz welcomed everyone and asked each member to quickly introduce themselves.
- Charles and Willoughby Nason Scholarship pre-application form
 - David Ortiz showed the draft of the scholarship pre-application on Word Press to approve. He requested questions, suggestions, and ways for improving the form.
 - Erica Nikolaisen asked if the awards were only for student's conducting research on the border and Latin America or if they could also be awarded to students that were interested in study abroad to Latin America. The committee stated that they were for multiple purposes including study abroad. She, then suggested that we add a question pertaining to study abroad since the current questions were based on research projects only. She provided us examples of the questions she uses for other study abroad application. The committee agreed to include a separate question that can be used by students interested in travelling abroad to Latin America
 - Dino Cervantes suggested that we change the application wording to account for students that plan to enroll since the committee also want to use these scholarships as a way to recruit students to NMSU. After discussion, the committee agreed to the wording change. Erica Nikolaisen

said that checking for enrollment status can further be done via the Scholar Dollars application that every student is required to fill out for the award.

- Christopher Brown suggested that we remove the section of the application where it asks for two references to simplify the process of applying so to not deter applicants. Delano Lewis suggested that the references might be a good tool for establishing credibility of the applicants, but also suggested that we change the question to ask for only one reference of the applicant's choice. The committee agreed to this decision.
- After discussion of the relatively modest amount of funds provided by the scholarships for recruiting purposes, Delano Lewis asked about the option of making less awards that were larger (e.g. give two \$1000 dollar scholarships instead of four \$500 ones per year). David Ortiz opened the topic for discussion to the committee, noting that the committee should also discuss community outreach to get more donors that will allow the individual scholarships to grow. Christopher Brown suggested that CLABS is still rebooting its center, so that it would be preferable to make sure we offered smaller awards than to offer larger awards and then have to go back to smaller ones due to lack of funding. This way the awards can be stable and steadily grow as the center grows. Delano Lewis agreed. The committee voted to keep the four \$500 per year.
- Due dates
 - David Ortiz brought up that we need to change due dates for the applications since it may be too late for the committee to receive applications this Fall term. Christopher Brown said it might not be realistic to promote and receive enough applications by this month, and suggested that the committee should aim for a Spring deadline for the four scholarships this year, then plan ahead for deadlines during Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.

- The committee agreed to award four scholarships this Spring and move to two scholarships in the Fall and two in the Spring starting next academic year. The following dates were agreed upon for the awards:
 - The Spring 2022 deadline will be March 1st (four awards)
 - The Fall 2022 deadline will be October 15th (two awards)
 - The Spring 2023 deadline will be March 1st (two awards)
- Flyers/Advertisement
 - The committee approved the scholarship flyers created by Yvette Navarro to advertise the scholarships and encourage applications, with the exception of changing the application dates to meet the changes discussed earlier in the meeting.
 - David Ortiz said that advertisement would be done on CLABS's social media pages, MyNMSU, Canvas, and sent across our email listservs. The committee agreed on that dissemination strategy.
- David Ortiz mentioned to the committee the need to have another meeting to talk about how to better involve the community in our efforts both for involving them in our activities and to gain their support to grow our scholarships and other projects. The committee agreed to this.
- After no more discussion, David Ortiz thanked the committee members for their work on the committee and the meeting was concluded and adjourned.