COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

A. Purpose

This policy provides general guidelines to be used in the selection of students who are awarded competitive scholarships by The University of Texas-Pan American. The purpose of awarding scholarships is to promote academic excellence.

B. Persons Affected

Persons affected by this policy are students who may qualify for competitive scholarships, and administrators, staff, faculty, deans and department heads involved in the awarding and administration of competitive scholarships.

C. Policy

Competitive scholarships shall be awarded on a competitive basis based on demonstrated academic achievement, or potential, as evidenced by scores on standardized tests, earned grade point average or other relevant criteria. Criteria must meet the approval of The University of Texas System Board of Regents pursuant to the Regents' *Rules and Regulations,* Series 40303, establishing both admission policies and criteria for award of scholarships and fellowships.

Competitive Scholarship Waiver for Nonresident Students: An institution of higher education may, at the university's discretion, charge a nonresident student who holds a competitive scholarship of at least $1,000 for the academic year or summer term for which the student is enrolled resident tuition and fees without regard to the length of time the student has resided in Texas:

1. To qualify for exemption from paying non-resident tuition rates a nonresident student must be awarded a competitive scholarship of at least $1,000 (or a combination of scholarships totaling at least $1,000) for the academic year, the summer sessions, or both. The student must have competed with other students, including Texas residents, for the award. The scholarship must be awarded by an official University Scholarship Committee.

   If non-residents or foreign students in competition with other students, including Texas residents, obtain these competitive scholarships, the students may receive a waiver of nonresident tuition for the period of time covered by the scholarship, not to exceed 12 months. Waivers may be received in any year in which the student meets the competitive scholarship requirements.

2. A competitive scholarship that qualifies the holder for a waiver of the difference between the tuition charged to resident and non-resident students shall be awarded for

the purpose of encouraging academic excellence in the academic program in which the student is enrolled.

3. The total number of students paying resident tuition under this section for a particular semester may not exceed five percent of the total number of students registered at the institution for the same semester of the preceding academic year. This will be monitored by the Student Financial Services and Scholarship Office, and the Comptroller's Office.

D. Definitions

Not Applicable

E. Responsibilities/Procedures

1. Department Committees

   a. Each dean or director, upon recommendation of the department committee or College Council and/or College Faculty Senators, shall appoint the individuals who will serve on the department/college scholarship committee(s) of their respective college.

   b. The department scholarship committees shall be charged with the responsibility of awarding competitive scholarships in the various disciplines administered by the respective colleges by following procedures set by the University Scholarship Committee and by ensuring that donor and institutional criteria are met. The specific criteria must conform to general criteria found in this policy statement, unless pre-empted by donor criteria.

   c. The department scholarship committees shall abide by a university-wide calendar for awarding competitive scholarships, as established by the University Scholarship Committee.

2. University Scholarship Committee

   a. The President shall appoint the members of the University Scholarship Committee. The membership shall include at least one representative from each college.

   b. The University Scholarship Committee shall be charged with the following responsibilities:

      i. monitor the administration of scholarship awards;

ii. establish the awarding procedures used by the departmental scholarship selection committees in awarding scholarship recipients;

iii. ensure awarding criteria used by department scholarship committees conform to general criteria as specified in Section C of this policy statement and that they meet specified donor criteria:

iv. establish a common university-wide calendar that shall be adhered to by all scholarship selection committees;

v. award competitive scholarships not otherwise restricted to a departmental scholarship committee.

F. Review

The divisional head for this policy is the Vice President for Student Affairs, and this policy shall be reviewed every five years or sooner if necessary by the following stakeholders:

1. Executive Director Student Financial Services – Senior Reviewer
2. Academic Affairs Executive Team
3. Student Government Association
4. Faculty Senate
5. Vice President for Academic Affairs