Need-Based Grant Policy

This policy has been given governing authority via Addendum 8, Article 3, Section 2 of the ASOC Bylaws

Description: This policy covers the addition of a new needs-based grant supplied to students by the ASOC. This grant will provide assistance for educational and educational-related expenses for underserved populations at Ohlone.

PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of this policy is to provide a form of relief to the students who are undergoing financial stress during their time at Ohlone.

Section 1.1: The needs-based grants are a way for students to pay off or cover the costs that they might incur in the form of buying school materials such as textbooks, paying for classes, and/or food expenses.

Section 1.2: The grant will serve approximately 10 students a semester, providing payments of $250 each. This totals out to $5,000 in relief grants provided to students a year. The specific allocation amount can be altered, up to the discretion of the ASOC Executive Council, based on the number of applicants.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 2: The ASOC president will have the power to call upon an ad-hoc committee every semester who will be responsible for verifying and choosing the grant winners.

Section 2.1: The members of this committee will be ASOC President, ASOC Vice-President, ASOC Faculty Advisor(s), Director of Student Life, and Director of Financial Aid. The ex-officio member of this committee is going to be the Vice President of Student Services.

*Up to the discretion of the ASOC President: 1 optional ASOC member not listed on the list above shall be allowed each semester to serve on the committee.

Section 2.2: All of the committee members will work under the FERPA laws, Ohlone college policies, and ASOC bylaws.

Section 2.3: All of the student information shared with the ad-hoc committee members will be strictly confidential.

CRITERIA

Section 3: The requirements for these grants are as follows:

Section 3.1: The student should have a 2.5 GPA and should be enrolled in 5 units.

Section 3.2: Both the part-time and full-time students are eligible for these grants.

Section 3.3: The low-income criteria will be determined based on each applicant’s place of residence and how their home county defines/sets low-income standards.
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Section 3.4: Along with this, the students will be required to fill out an application.
   Section 3.4.1: The application will have a few questions that students will need to answer in order to qualify.
   Section 3.4.2: The other questions will include providing basic information such as student’s financial information, and student ID number.
   Section 3.4.3: The students at the end of the application will be required to sign to confirm all the information provided is correct.

PROCEDURE
Section 4: The committee will follow the following procedure for verifying and choosing the candidates.
   Section 4.1: The ASOC student members (ASOC President, ASOC Vice President, & 1 Optional member) alongside the ASOC Faculty advisors will initially screen applicants and narrow down the list to viable candidates.
   Section 4.2: The list of viable candidates will be sent to the Director of Student Life to verify that the student GPA requirement and status at Ohlone is satisfactory.
   Section 4.3: The screened list of viable candidates will then be sent to the Director of Financial Aid to verify their given financial information.
   Section 4.4: If the candidate specified a special condition on their application, this information will be reviewed and verified by the Vice President of Student Services prior to the final review conducted by the entire ad-hoc committee.
   Section 4.5: The finalized list of candidates that meet all of the criteria will be reviewed and approved by the entire ad-hoc committee.
   Section 4.6: If the final list of candidates is less than the previously agreed upon number (in this case, 10), then the funds for that semester will be equally split between these final candidates after getting approval from the ASOC Executive Council.