Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees  
January 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Regulation: FGCU-PR7.005 Student Financial Aid

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve FGCU-PR-PR7.005, Student Financial Aid, regulation relating to the administration, distribution and use of student financial aid.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.009 requires each university board of trustees to establish by regulation a policy relating to the administration, distribution and use of student financial aid. This regulation shall not conflict with existing state or federal law or regulation relating to the award of student financial aid. Such regulation shall as a minimum provide:

(a) that a policy level committee shall be established which shall have the responsibility to recommend university policy on matters relating to financial aid, recommend specific financial aid program objectives in support of the university master plan, and facilitate the conduct of financial aid activities;

(b) that a single office shall be designated to coordinate the collection of data for all programs of financial aid for use in university system and state information systems; and

(c) a procedure for the distribution and use of financial aid funds. This policy shall identify those institutional resources to be available for financial aid and shall provide that financial aid resources be used in a manner that serves the institution’s plan for equalizing educational opportunity. Financial need and academic merit shall be given primary consideration in the award of financial aid funds.
Supporting Documentation Included: Notice and Text for Regulation Student Financial Aid (FGCU - PR7.005)

Prepared by: Director of Student Financial Services Jorge Lopez

Legal Review by: General Counsel Vee Leonard (December 9, 2010)

Submitted by: Vice President for Administrative Services & Finance Joe Shepard
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY
NOTICE OF REGULATORY ACTION
December 16, 2010

REGULATION TITLE:
Student Financial Aid

REGULATION NO.:
FGCU-PR7.005

SUMMARY:
Approve Florida Gulf Coast University-PR7.005, Student Financial Aid, regulation relating to the administration, distribution and use of student financial aid.

FULL TEXT:
The full text of the regulation being proposed is attached and can also be found at http://www.fgcu.edu/generalcounsel/promulgation.asp

LAW IMPLEMENTED:
BOG Regulation 3.009

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REVISED REGULATION:
Linda Bachelet, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services/Controller

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL APPROVING THE PROPOSED REGULATION:
Dr. Joseph Shepard, Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance

PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION:
Diane St. John, Administrative Assistant, dstjohn@fgcu.edu; 239.590.7466 (Phone), 239.590.7470 (Facsimile); 10501 FGCU Blvd. S, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565.

ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 4, 2011 BY 5:00 P.M. THE COMMENTS MUST IDENTIFY THE REGULATION ON WHICH YOU ARE COMMENTING.

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED ON THE FGCU WEBSITE ON: DECEMBER 16, 2010
REGULATION: FGCU-PR7.005
Student Financial Aid

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships provides services to both traditional and nontraditional students pursuing either an undergraduate or graduate degree. Financial aid programs available for these students shall include scholarships, grants, loans and student employment from federal, state, private and institutional sources of funding.

B. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Financial Aid Programs at Florida Gulf Coast University shall be administered according to the following principles:

1. No student shall be denied the opportunity to attend the University and successfully pursue his/her educational goals due to the lack of financial resources.

2. The family (parents, student and/or spouse), shall be responsible for educational expenses. Financial aid shall be available to supplement the family's contribution so that students can meet the cost of education at the University. The amount of money that a family is expected to pay is calculated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

3. In the assignment of funds to financial aid recipients, the largest amount of grant assistance shall go to students with the greatest amount of need;

4. Financial aid policies and procedures shall treat each student in a fair and equitable manner, taking into consideration each student's unique financial situation as well as any unusual circumstances; and

5. Financial assistance shall be provided to all students regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic background, religion, or disability.

C. FINANCIAL AID POLICY COMMITTEE

Financial Aid Policy Committee shall be established with the following purposes:
(a) recommend University policy on matters relating to financial aid; (b) recommend specific financial aid program objectives in support of the University’s master plan; and (c) facilitate the conduct of financial aid activities.

D. SINGLE OFFICE DESIGNATION

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships shall be the single office designated to coordinate and administer financial aid at the University, as well as coordinate the collection and processing of financial aid data for use within the university system and state information systems.

E. DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF FINANCIAL AID

Financial need and academic merit shall be given primary consideration in the awarding of financial aid to students. Additionally, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships shall consider the funding levels between need-based and non-need based programs to reflect the needs of the student population, the necessity for increasing current programs versus the need for new programs based on University priorities and assuring fiscal integrity.

1. Need-based funds shall be distributed on a priority basis to students who apply between January 1 and March 1 each year and who have a demonstrated financial need, as determined by a nationally recognized need-analysis system, and who complete all student financial aid application requirements. The optimum financial aid package may vary considerably due to student classification, family financial status, availability of funds and application date.

2. Academic merit assistance shall be awarded to students according to their academic standing, achievement test scores or ability to contribute to the institution.

3. The University shall also recognize special student talents and qualities in artistic, athletic, technical and other areas, and award scholarships, grants and waivers for such contributions.

4. Information concerning institutional need-based financial aid program shall be maintained by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships shall award and coordinate the distribution and use of all need-based resources, as well as all merit-based programs awarded by the Office of Admissions, Graduate Studies and the individual colleges or departments of the University. Additionally, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships shall coordinate scholarships awarded to students from external sources.
Law Implemented:
   BOG Regulation 3.009
History of Regulation:
   New 01/18/2011
Effective Date of Regulation: ____________________