Financial Aid Disbursement Policy

▶ Current Practice

- Disburse aid on the first day of each term.

- Modify aid every time throughout the term that the student changes their course schedule.

- Causes backlog of processing change in aid forms as well as debits/credits to the student account throughout the term.

▶ Proposal

- Establish a specific date/time to verify student enrollment level and disburse aid based on that enrollment (AKA: Fin Aid census date).

- Change the timing of when we disburse financial aid to the day after the add/drop deadline.

- Only disburse aid 1x based on the enrollment as of the census date.

- No more need for change in aid forms.

► Why a proposed Change?

- We want to start covering charges to the bookstore.

- We are a target for fraud rings with our current practice:

  ► 28 flagged files for 2017-2018– we owed the government $28k for aid that was disbursed for people posing as students.

  ► If grade changes occur that indicate the students never attended in 2018-2019, we will owe back around $65K.

  ► Every time a student adds/drops their course, their aid is potentially impacted:

  - Students don't realize the impact their schedule changes have on their aid and cannot rely on their aid package to cover their tuition and fees accurately.

  - Changes to the schedule cause delays in aid getting disbursed.

  - Responsibility falls to the student to notify Fin Aid Office related to changing enrollment status (E.g. full time to part-time) which holds up their aid disbursement and causes confusion and the potential for late/service charges ($30).

- Fin Aid office processes over 1000 "change in aid" forms each year creating a lot of administrative backlog.

  - We want to spend this time on allocating and distributing aid and financial literacy conversations instead.

- Retention issue if students owe money back to financial aid at the end of the term – can't progress

Pros:

- ▶ Will allow financial aid disbursements to pay Bookstore charges or any charges (example future meal plan).

- ▶ Helps reduce fraud rings and saves CCC money.

- ▶ Allows students to add and drop their courses throughout the term without any impact to their aid package.

- ▶ Will eliminate the change in aid process:

  - ▶ Eliminates the responsibility of the student to notify Fin Aid about change in schedule.

- ▶ Best practice that aligns our policy with all other CC's in Oregon.

- ▶ Allows students to withdraw within the first two weeks of term without having to repay aid.

- ▶ Creates the option for CCC to provide auto fin aid awarding.

Considerations:

- ▶ Starting in summer 2020 students would receive aid after we have verified enrollment (2 weeks after the start of term).

- ▶ Changes the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Fin Aid date to tie with the census date.

Questions?