

## **Report of the NUFA Scholarships Committee for the Annual General Membership meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.**

**Submitted on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Committee membership (as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016) included: Rachel Norman, Linda Piper, Toivo Koivukoski, and Carly Dokis (Chair). Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 the committee has held seven meetings: August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The committee received 104 applications for the NUFA Textbook Bursaries for the 2016-2017 year (77 applications received in the fall term, and 27 applications received in the winter term). The committee approved 100 NUFA Textbook Bursaries, and four applications were denied because they were incomplete or without receipts. In total, the committee awarded \$4,942.64 in NUFA Textbook Bursaries out of the \$5000 budgeted for this purpose (\$3,704.73 in the fall term, and \$1,237.91 for the winter term).

The committee requested that the eligibility for the NUFA Textbook Bursary be revised to include part time students for the next academic year. A motion to this effect was presented to the NUFA Executive and was passed. The committee also worked to raise awareness about the NUFA Textbook Bursaries including redesigning the NUFA Textbook Bursary bookmark that is provided to students in their welcome packages, and placed around campus, and created slides that were circulated to faculty and put on the LCD screens on campus and in student residences.

The committee received 62 applications for the NUFA Learning Opportunity Awards for the 2016-2017 year. The committee approved 53 NUFA Learning Opportunity Awards, and 9 applications were denied either because they did not meet the eligibility criteria or because they did not have appropriate documentation. In total, the committee awarded \$12,437.00 of the \$12,500 budgeted for this purpose. The committee would like to acknowledge and congratulate the recipients of these awards; many of them are presenting at national or international conferences or pursuing valuable and interesting learning opportunities that will enhance the knowledge that they gain in the classroom.

The committee reduced the frequency of applications for the Learning Opportunity Awards from six to four per year. The new application deadlines are: September 15<sup>th</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and June 15<sup>th</sup>. We feel that the four application deadlines helped the committee to be more equitable in the allocation of funding as we had a clearer picture of how many applications we might receive throughout the year. On the whole, the committee has seen an increase in the number of Learning Opportunity Award applications. In 2012-2013 there were 15 LOA applications, in 2013-2014 there were 36 LOA applications, in 2014-2015 there were 39 LOA applications, in 2015-2016 there were 30 LOA applications, and this year (2016-

2017) we received 62 LOA applications. Due to the increase in applications, and consequent constraints on the LOA budget, we found it difficult to provide students with the maximum award amount. Because the Learning Opportunity Awards provide support for important experiential learning opportunities for our students, it is suggested that NUFA seek additional funding for the Learning Opportunity Award budget.

Finally, the committee would like to acknowledge and thank Angela Fera for her work in maintaining the records and coordinating the administrative functions of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Dokis  
Chair, NUFA Scholarships Committee  
on behalf of Rachel Norman, Linda Piper, and Toivo Koivukoski