The Goals of Financial Aid

The President’s Informational Assembly on Thursday was used to share with students information regarding financial aid. Mrs. Sandra Gibson, Director of Financial Aid, stated three goals of the financial aid office: 1) have 100% of the college’s in-state students receive the SC Tuition Grant for 2015-2016; 2) increase the number of scholarships students receive from outside sources, including the SC LIFE and the SC HOPE scholarships; and 3) encourage all students to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). “When this is done,” Gibson stated, “students can stay in school, become eligible for other types of financial aid, and proceed toward graduation.”

Students can help the financial aid office achieve these goals by completing the college’s application for financial aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 30, 2015. This includes applying for summer school. “Students need to have their tax returns or their parent’s tax returns completed at least two weeks before they apply for FAFSA,” she stated. Students completing a FAFSA for 2015-2016 must create a “User ID” and “Password.” Pin numbers previously used will be invalid. She urged students to have everything done before leaving at the end of the spring semester.

Students who received the LIFE and HOPE scholarships for this year must have a 3.0 GPA and have passed 30 college credit hours to be eligible for 2015-2016. Also, students must pass 24 credit hours in order to receive the SC Tuition Grant, as well as maintain SAP as outlined in the college’s catalog.

Mrs. Gibson informed the audience of a change by the federal government to insure students are progressing toward graduation. “At the end of four semesters of studies,” she said, “students must have a 2.0 GPA.” Another change is that students must pass all developmental courses the first year. In order to take a developmental course a second year, a student must have 12 hours of college credit, along with their developmental course, in order to receive full-time financial aid. Because students will not be eligible for financial aid after six years, students are advised to work with their advisors and map out all the courses they need to take within their major. For additional information, students may go to the Office of Financial Aid, located on the first floor of the Mabel K. Howard Building, or contact the office at (803) 934-3238.

Following a passionate presentation by Dr. Maggie W. Glover, who hailed Dr. Luns C. Richardson as a “living legend in education,” the president came forward. During this first assembly of the spring semester, the president recognized members of the 2015 graduating class and had each member of the president’s cabinet to give a brief description of what they do at the college.

In the place of a message, Dr. Richardson re-emphasized the very important information students received from the Office of Financial Aid. Although the college does all it can to help students understand the importance of financial aid, the president stated that “students must complete and submit their applications on time.”

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Dr. Richardson made the following announcements: 1) There will be only one session of summer school this year, and it will run for six weeks, beginning June 8 and ending July 21, 2015. “To be classified as a full-time student,” he said, “students can carry a minimum of six hours and a maximum of nine hours.” 2) All seniors expecting to graduate on May 2, 2015 must check with their academic advisor, academic division chairperson and the academic dean to make sure they are currently enrolled in the necessary courses to complete their requirements for graduation.

The president concluded the assembly by wishing everyone a very successful semester and expressed his desire that all students will pass all of their courses.”