2020 Annual Retreat Follow-Up

08/24/2020

The first (and hopefully last) online-annual retreat was conducted on Thursday, August 20th. We have compiled responses to questions asked during the retreat, in addition to the archived recording and a pdf version of the slides used during the presentation.

Slides

YouTube Recording

- Terry Messmer asked for a summary of the last few years of UDWR contracts. Here are the numbers from the USU SPO office:
  - Here are the values for grant dollars awarded to QCNR faculty by UDWR
    - FY 20 - $149,000
    - FY 19 - $577,000
    - FY 18 - $228,000
    - FY 17 - $1,309,000
    - FY 16 - $1,643,000
    - FY 15 - $894,000
    - FY 14 - $643,000
  - One of the reasons that FY20 is so low is that we had to give back about $200k when a faculty member with grants from FY17 left the university. Even with that, FY18,19, and 20 were pretty low years.

- Many of our scholarship accounts are based on Endowments. In addition to these we have endowments set up for the following:
  - Doc Daniel Endowment
  - Colorado River Science Center
  - Berryman Institute
  - Andrew Senti Endowment
  - Fritz Knopf Fellowship
  - We have a number of smaller endowments for internships, student research, etc.

- In making my list of the teaching modes for Fall 2020 classes, I combined truly on-line courses and web broadcast courses into that first category. Those two combined represent approximately 70% of our course offerings.

- Update on student hardship fund
- An update on the University wide Student Emergency Hardship fund can be found at this link. The QCNR is looking into formalizing our College specific student emergency hardship fund to then be able to award QCNR students as the need arises throughout the year.

- Endowment management fee plan
- Endowed Investment and Spending Policies

The University’s spending policy is to distribute, annually, 4% of the three-year average fair market value of the endowment. These funds are taken from the earnings. In years when the investment does not earn 4%, the transfer for spending can come from appreciation. In addition to the 4% that is transferred for spending, the university currently retains 1.5% of the value of the endowment to fund administration and to reinvest in advancement to grow the endowment through new gifts.

The spending policy benefits both the donor and the University by protecting the core growth of the endowment. This protects the distributable income. Therefore, the University ensures that donors’ funds are not losing income for awards made according to donors’ wishes.

Link to more information on USU’s Endowed Funds policy Temporary University Policy 20.T4: Student Code Health and Safety Violations

More answers will be posted once they have been received.