



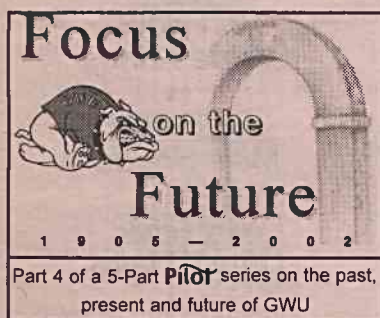
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Making 'cents' of Gardner-Webb scholarships



Jennifer Menster
Pilot web editor

What draws students to Gardner-Webb University?

Is it the Christian environment? The faculty and staff? The Caf food?

For the majority of students it is not the Caf food, but the help of scholarships.

According to Patty Cope, director of financial planning, 80 percent of Gardner-Webb students receive non-need-based scholarships. Of that 80

percent, three-fourths receive academic money and the rest receive athletic money.

In the 1999-2000 school year, which happened to be Gardner-Webb's final year of Division II, there was \$5 million budgeted for scholarships. Fifty-five percent of that \$5 million went to academic students; the other 45 percent went to athletes.

Over the last two years, however, the numbers have flip-flopped, according to research gathered by Jeff Tubbs, GWU's assistant vice president for institutional research. In the 2001-2002 school year, there was \$6 million available for scholarships. Fifty-seven percent went to athletes and 43 percent went to academic students. Of the total scholarship money, athletes received \$3.4 million, a \$1.1

million increase since the 1999-2000 school year.

Many may speculate that the scholarship reversal is due to the move to Division I.

However, GWU president Christopher White, believes the figures can be misleading.

According to White, under Division I rules, the academic money athletes receive is counted as athletic money. So, when the school went under Division I rules two years ago, an increase was expected. "Not all the money athletes receive is athletic money," White explained. "It is 'stacking' different kinds of money and just added together."

The 'different kinds of money' athletes receive include athletic money and grants from Gardner-Webb. If, for example, an athlete receives 75 percent of his/her scholarship from ath-

letic money, academic money may be used to cover the other 25 percent. This increases the number of full-ride scholarships for athletes.

The academic money is then counted under athletic scholarship spending while the money is taken from the academic scholarship budget.

According to White, the apparent increase in athletic scholarship spending will benefit the university.

"Almost every good school in the nation is Division I," he said. "Becoming a Division I school has nothing to do with athletes. It's about marketing for the University."

Tubbs speculated that of Gardner-Webb's more than 350 athletes, only about 15 are not receiving any scholarship money.

Currently an equivalent of

180 full-ride scholarships can be given out to Gardner-Webb athletes (Equivalent does not mean that all 180 scholarships are given as full rides. They may be divided up amongst the athletes). When full rides are rewarded to athletes, they include tuition, room and board, meal plan and books. Currently, there are no full-ride scholarships available for non-athletic students.

"We have to spend money on athletes to compete in Division I," said Tubbs, who agreed with White that the University is not overspending on athletic scholarships.

In fact, they believe the school may be underspending.

"We are still spending less [on athletic scholarships] than most schools at this level," said

Please see Scholarships p.2

SGA petition hits stand still

Emily Killian
Pilot staff

Before spring break, SGA proposed drafting a petition to represent the complaints and desires of the student body and to present it to the administration. Thus far, however, SGA's petition has not gotten very far.

At first, it seemed that SGA was dragging their feet.

As of April 10, the president's office had only been presented with a preliminary draft of the petition.

"I talked to Dr. White today [April 10] and he said that he hadn't seen anything," said Walter Miller, assistant to the President.

According to Miller, SGA only turned in a rough draft directly to him, and White's office wasn't presented with the completed document until April 11, at which time he was out of town.

Patrick Woody, SGA vice president, drafted the petition,

which addresses student concerns ranging from relations with the administration to the deterioration of classroom and laboratory facilities.

The petition spells out student concerns about staff reductions in Campus Ministries, reductions in the Dimensions budget, lack of adequate funds for Student Activities and Development, the library and Residence Life and problems with Academic Advising.

Even so, some students are skeptical that the administration will act on the petition.

"I don't think it's going to have a profound effect on Dr. White because students don't have a profound effect on him," said junior Charlie Baber. "I believe they [SGA] will submit it though."

As a part of the submission, SGA made proposals for the University to promote the Academic Advising department and that they give other depart-

ments more freedom regarding paperwork and how their funds are spent.

In the petition, SGA addressed Scholarship Equality and the possible addition of a Scholarship Coordinator for the University. They hope that by adding a Scholarship Coordinator, there will be a greater number of students awarded scholarships, in an effort to reduce the cost of attending Gardner-Webb and increase the retention rate for the school.

The petition also expresses concerns about the perceived lack of administration-to-student communication, student budgetary concerns and the general feelings of hostility between athletes and non-athletes.

Woody stated that the petition suggests increasing student representation on the Board of Trustees. "We don't feel like the alumni representatives are adequate," he said.

The Doc makes house calls



Photo by Lee Adams

Doc Watson brought his Grammy Award-winning country bluegrass sounds to Dover Theater on April 13. See story on page 10.