

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Donald R. Hopkins and William A. Cooper Scholarship Committee
July 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance:

Edwina Prime
Linda Dixie
Judy Davis

Staff in Attendance:

Chelsea Granell
Dexter Peralta

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was present.

Discussion: Consideration of 2020 Donald R. Hopkins and William A. Cooper Scholarship applicants. This year there has been only one applicant, a Coral Gables Highschool student who meets the criteria of the scholarship named Ashanti Gibson. A discussion of the candidate ensued.

Committee voted to award 2020 Scholarship Applicant, Ashanti Gibson as a scholarship recipient for the duration of her college attendance for up to 4 years so long as the requirements are met.

Moved, Linda Dixie

Seconded, Edwina Prime, Judy Davis Approved (3-0)

Committee voted to award Ashanti Gibson \$2,500 for each school year (funding permitted).

Moved, Linda Dixie

Seconded, Judy Davis, Edwina Prime Approved (3-0)

Discussion: Chelsea Granell briefly outlined the requirements of the Scholarship process and highlighted that Dexter has been reaching out and keeping track of the students and their application submittals/recertification.

Discussion: Dexter Peralta provided an overview on how previous awardees have not been responding to our Office's attempts to renew their scholarship and the communication challenges we have been experiencing. If the current awardees do not fulfill the requirements and submit their documentation, then we would need to move forward with the revocation of their scholarships. It was also noted that multiple deadline extensions were provided and flexibility was offered so long as documentation was provided outlining any challenges.

The lack of communication and challenges the Commission Office is experiencing was acknowledged by the Committee. The Committee agreed that if the students do not submit the necessary documentation within the specified time frame, we should move forward with revocation.

Discussion: Chelsea clarified that none of the students that had been awarded with the scholarship since 2018 have recertified their scholarship and to date, there are no scholarships being renewed. It was noted that there is presently \$20,000 in the Donald R. Hopkins and William A. Cooper Scholarship fund.

Discussion: A discussion on extending the scholarship program to Graduate students. The Committee discussed how they would like to move forward with this program. There was a discussion of up to \$500 per semester which should help cover books for a total of up to \$1,000 a year so long as the established criteria in the application is met for up to two years. Each application period, the Committee would decide on the exact amount as funding is available on a year to year basis depending on the availability of funds.

Graduate students who are interested in receiving this grant, would have to apply in a similar application to the undergraduate scholarship. The requirements would remain the same except, the graduate school GPA should be raised to 3.0 which is higher than the undergraduate scholarship requirement. The graduate scholarship deadline would be the same as the undergraduate timeline.

Only students who would be eligible for this program are students who were previous Donald R. Hopkins and William A. Cooper Scholarship recipients. The Committee did not want to extend the program to any other applicants.

The Committee was informed on the process of bringing this new program to the Commission and how their recommendation will be presented to the City Commission for the Commission's final approval. After the City Commission reviews and or approves, we will move forward with beginning the process for a targeted date of the 2021 academic year or sooner, depending on the timing.

Committee voted on all the items above regarding the proposed graduate scholarship requirements.

Moved by Linda Dixie

Seconded by Edwina Prime Seconded, Judy Davis approved (3-0)

Discussion: Ms. Dixie spoke about the opportunity to develop a future program to include Adult education. Ms. Prime and Ms. Davis stressed they should focus on the undergraduate and graduate program and possibly reassess in the future, but the priority should remain as it has been with students.

Discussion: Overview of all the items that were discussed and open the floor to any additional topics.

Discussion: A discussion about Willie Gibson writing our office on his interest in the Graduate Program. (Willie Gibson was the student who reached out to the Commission Office expressed interest in attending graduate school and how this program would be very helpful).

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Moved by Linda Dixie

Seconded by Edwina Prime Seconded, Judy Davis approved (3-0).

----Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.-----