DATE: May 16, 2013
TO: Faculty, Staff and Students
FROM: Lori E. Varlotta
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RE: Important Financial Aid Changes

Faculty, staff and students should be aware of two important changes to financial aid policy: one regarding course repeats, and the other to State University Grants.

The first change relates to students repeating courses they already have passed with grades of D-minus or higher. The new Federal Financial Aid Repeat Policy only allows undergraduate students to repeat a course that they have already passed one more time. This is true even if the passing grade was not high enough to meet the minimum required grade for a course to count towards the major or graduation. In some cases, this may result in students being awarded less financial aid than they expect.

The relationship between financial aid and course repeats is complex. There are situations where curriculum is designed with the expectation that students will repeat a particular course (e.g., instrument instruction classes in music) or where a student may enroll in a special topics course in different semesters where the content is different but the course number is the same. To help faculty, staff and students understand this new regulation, the division has launched a comprehensive Financial Aid Course Repeat Overview and FAQ, available at:

http://www.csus.edu/student/CourseRepeatUpdate

Staff and faculty who advise students are especially encouraged to become familiar with this new policy and to contact the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office with further questions.

The second change relates to the State University Grant. The California State University system has established new policies that impact a student’s ability to receive a State University Grant (SUG). There are two main changes effective starting with the Fall 2013 semester. First, students pursuing a Second Bachelor’s degree, Second Credential, or Second Master’s degree will no longer be eligible to receive the State University Grant. Second, a student’s lifetime eligibility for SUG is now capped based on the number of units required to graduate in his/her declared major. For more information on this change, please visit the Financial Aid Office web site at:

http://www.csus.edu/aid/policies/Program%20Changes.html