Hello Financial Aid Colleagues,

We have received some great questions in relation to recent guidance and so we are issuing further clarification. The updated guidance pertains to state grant programs only.

For your reference the original guidance as it pertains to this topic is:

Quarter based institutions will not be required to calculate Winter 2020 SAP for state aid students who attended the Winter 2020 quarter but were unable to complete. Institutions will be allowed to exclude any attempted but not completed credits as a result of this emergency for the Winter 2020 quarter. This means colleges do not have to refer any state aid repayments that would have been typically referred during a SAP review.

Clarified Guidance

WSAC will waive and recall accounts from UAS, the billing agent, for all student grant repayment obligations reported for students on or after March 1, 2020. This date coincides with the Emergency Declaration for our State. Note this involves approximately 40 student repayments. A list of students affected by these changes will be sent to the institutions.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Institutions will need to refund payments made and reported on or after March 1, 2020 directly to the student for the Winter term.
- Institutions will need to ensure the initial debt amount is updated to zero to prevent errors with the award amount when receivables are cancelled for these accounts.

Please be aware that you may use professional judgment based on information you have been provided at the campus level also. For example, if you have a student who was reported as owing a repayment in January/February due to COVID, based on information the student reported to you, you may notify our office and that repayment will also be cancelled. Conversely, you may use professional judgement to calculate a repayment for a student due to unofficial withdrawals if you know that their last date of attendance was on or before March 1 and not COVID related. We will be meeting with the State Aid Work group on Friday to discuss additional considerations and questions.

Best, WSAC Student Financial Assistance Division

