

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Free Tuition for Veterans

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to fix a tuition charge for students at all campuses of the Nevada System of Higher Education but requires that tuition be free for: (1) all students whose families have been bona fide residents of Nevada for at least 12 months before matriculation; (2) all students who themselves have been bona fide residents of Nevada for at least 12 months before matriculation; (3) public school teachers; (4) full-time teachers in private schools who satisfy certain criteria; (5) employees of the System; and (6) members of the Armed Forces of the United States. In other words, these groups are deemed residents for tuition purposes, and therefore are subject to pay resident registration fees only. Senate Bill 318 (Chapter ____, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*) provides that members of the Armed Forces of the United States must be on active duty and stationed in Nevada to receive free tuition. In addition, this bill provides that tuition must also be free for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged and who were on active duty and stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or certain other military installations on the date of discharge. Senate Bill 209 is effective July 1, 2009.

Staff recommends revising Board policy to align with the provisions of Senate Bill 318.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3 to align the Board's current policy on tuition with the mandatory provisions of Senate Bill 318. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This recommendation to amend Board policy is brought forward in response to the passage of Senate Bill 318 of the 2009 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The proposed revisions supports members of the U.S. Armed Forces, not only while on active duty (which is the current policy of the Board), but also following discharge.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None, as the provisions of Senate Bill 318 are mandatory.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # ____ Chapter # ____ Section # ____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # ____ Section # ____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes ____ No ____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 15, SECTION 3
Tuition

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 3. Tuition

1. Tuition shall never be charged to current enrollees or graduates of a Nevada high school.
2. Tuition shall not be charged to returning students who had established an exemption from tuition charges at any NSHE institution in their prior enrollment period.
3. Tuition shall be charged to nonresident students, except that at the community colleges no tuition shall be charged for registration in community service courses that are not state funded.
4. Tuition shall not be charged to a professional employee, classified employee, postdoctoral fellow, resident physician, or resident dentist of the Nevada System of Higher Education currently employed at least half time, or the spouse or dependent child of such an employee.
5. Tuition shall not be charged to a graduate student enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher Education and employed by the System in support of its instructional or research programs, only during the period of time of such employment.
6. Tuition shall not be charged to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, on active duty, stationed in Nevada as a result of a permanent change of duty station pursuant to military orders, or a person whose spouse, parent or legal guardian is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in Nevada as a result of a permanent change of duty station pursuant to military orders, including a Marine currently stationed at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California. If the member ceases to be stationed in Nevada, reside in Nevada, be stationed in Pickle Meadows, California, or be domiciled in Nevada, the spouse, child or legal guardian of the member shall not be charged tuition if the spouse, child or legal guardian of the member was enrolled prior to the reassignment and remains continuously enrolled at an NSHE institution. (B/R 8/07)
7. *Tuition shall not be charged to a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who was honorably discharged and who on the date of discharge was on active duty stationed in Nevada, including a Marine stationed at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California, pursuant to military orders.*
8. Tuition shall not be charged to a student enrolled in the University Studies Abroad Consortium or in the National Student Exchange Program, only during the period of time of such enrollment. Time spent in Nevada while a student is in the National Student Exchange Program shall not be counted towards satisfying the residence requirement of Section 4, Paragraph 2 below, nor shall enrollment through the Consortium or the Exchange Program be included in the "date of matriculation" for evaluation of Nevada residency.
- [8]9. Tuition shall not be charged to members of federally recognized Native American tribes, who do not otherwise qualify as Nevada residents, and who currently reside on tribal lands located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the State of Nevada.