

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Revision to Board Policy Regarding Scholarships

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

In reviewing the Board's policies regarding general and college/departamental scholarships, it was discovered that certain sections contradicted each other in terms of the GPA requirements (*Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 3 and 4*). This initiated additional reviews in consultation with the institutions' financial aid directors whereby it was recommended that the policy be aligned with current practice and that the GPA conflicts be resolved.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 3 and 4*) by removing contradictory language concerning GPA requirements for general and college/departamental scholarships, providing that institutions comply with federal regulations governing financial aid, providing exceptions for students with documented disabilities, and authorizing institutions to establish an appeals process. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Institutions are awarding scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year and the changes will allow them to move forward with more clear direction.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- As proposed, the revisions will eliminate the conflicting GPA requirements for general and college/departamental scholarships.
- Institutions need clearly defined Board policy as they award scholarships for 2011-12.
- It is important to acknowledge the requirement to comply with federal regulations.
- An allowance for exception for students with documented disabilities was noticeably absent.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward at this time.

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

Leave the scholarship policy unchanged.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 3 and 4*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
- Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTIONS 3 and 4
Scholarships

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

Section 3. Scholarships, General

1. All scholarships and [~~prizes~~] ***awards*** shall be administered by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Board at UNR; the Student Financial Services Office and the Faculty Senate Scholarship Committee at UNLV; the [~~Financial Aid and Scholarships~~] ***Institutional Scholarship*** Committee at NSC; and the Financial Aid offices of the community colleges, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Regents or by the donor and approved by the Board of Regents.
2. [~~Applicants~~] ***Except as otherwise provided, applicants*** for general ***and college/department*** undergraduate scholarships at UNR, UNLV, and NSC must have a minimum 2.75 grade point average for all college course work, with at least 12 credit hours completed at the universities and Nevada State College at Henderson[~~, except as provided in Section 13 of this Chapter~~].
3. [~~Applicants~~] ***Except as otherwise provided, applicants*** for regular freshman scholarships at UNR and UNLV must [~~have completed high school in Nevada with a "B" or better average in academic work,~~] ***be eligible for admission*** [~~except as provided in Section 13 of this Chapter~~].

[~~Strong applications from non-resident students may be considered by the Scholarships Board.~~]
4. [~~Applicants~~] ***Except as otherwise provided, applicants*** for ***general and college/department*** graduate scholarships at UNLV and UNR must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and must be enrolled for a minimum of six credits for the semester of the award.
5. Pre-arranged donor restrictions may dictate a change in institutional procedures.
6. ***All scholarships and awards must be coordinated through the financial aid office in accordance with federal regulations.***
7. ***The institution may make exceptions to the provisions of this section for students with documented disabilities.***
8. ***Exceptions to the provisions of this section may be made with approval of the President or his designee. An institution may establish an appeals process for those students who wish to appeal general and college/departmental award decisions.***

[~~Section 4. College/Departmental Awards~~

1. ~~At UNLV and UNR applicants for college or departmental awards based on academic ability must have a minimum 2.75 grade point average and must enroll on a full-time basis.~~

- ~~2. College or departmental awards for service or participation may be made to students with good academic standing. These awards will be packaged with general scholarships to prevent over awards.~~
3. Pre-arranged donor restrictions may dictate a change in institutional policy.]

RENUMBER SECTIONS 5 THROUGH 12 AS SECTIONS 4 THROUGH 11.