

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision: Tuition for Certain Members of the Armed Forces

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

A number of Marines stationed at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) are currently attending Western Nevada Community College in Carson City and are subject to the tuition charges traditionally paid by non-resident students. Tim Tetz, Executive Director of the Nevada State Veteran's Office, brought this issue to the attention of System Administration, requesting that students stationed at MCMWTC not be charged out-of-state tuition.

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center is one of the Marine Corps most remote and isolated posts. The MCMWTC is located on California Highway 108 at Pickle Meadows. The center is 21 miles northwest of Bridgeport, California and 100 miles south of Reno, Nevada. The MCMWTC conducts formal schools for individuals and battalion training in summer and winter mountain operations. The training emphasizes development of both individual and unit mountain skills with primary emphasis on enhancing overall combat capability. Marines at the Center are also involved in testing cold weather clothing, equipment, human performance, rough terrain vehicles, and developing doctrine and concepts to enhance the Corps' ability to fight and win in mountain and cold weather environments.

Current Board policy provides that tuition shall not be charged to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States (which includes the Marine Corps), 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, family 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. The proposed policy change will provide for a specific tuition exemption for Marines currently stationed at MCMWTC.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3 to provide that Marines stationed at the MCMWTC shall not be charged tuition traditionally charged to out-of-state students. Therefore, these students would be charged in-state registration fees only.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Tim Tetz, Executive Director of the Nevada State Veteran's Office, brought this issue to the attention of System Administration, requesting that students stationed at MCMWTC not be charged out-of-state tuition.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopting this policy revision as proposed continues the Board's long-standing tradition of supporting members of the Armed Forces.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

No arguments against the proposal have been brought forward.

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

Maintain the current policy providing that only certain members of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be exempt from non-resident tuition charges as provided in Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 15 Section # 3
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
Explain: _____

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



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April 7, 2006

Dr. Jane Nichols
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Board of Regents
2601 Enterprise Rd.
Reno, NV 89512

Dr. Nichols:

As we discussed on the phone, the Nevada Office of Veterans Services is pursuing the opportunity to change Board of Regents policy concerning those active duty military members serving at the Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) in Pickle Meadows, California.

At this time, through the "Good Neighbor Policy" these permanent staff members of the training center qualify for reduced non-resident tuition. However, this is only if they become a legal bona fide resident of the neighboring county. For mostly financial reasons, most military members do not choose to become residents of California thereby excluding them from the policy. Those members fortunate enough to find housing in Nevada are eligible for resident tuition only after one year, establishing a dichotomy of equality.

The Board of Regents policy allows for members of the Armed Forces on active duty permanently stationed within Nevada to be eligible for resident tuition rates. This waiver also extends to their families. Since the MWTC is located less than 30 miles across the California border, approximately 170 service members are not covered by this exception. These individuals and their families either live on base or in military supplied barracks in Coleville. Of that number, only 5 are currently enrolled at WNCC and 2 at TMCC. Mr. Root, coordinator of their education programs, says this poor participation is largely due to the high cost, and the desire for further education is certainly there amongst the Marines.

We would request you extend the same opportunity to those members of MWTC as we do to our locally stationed military. As you may be aware, these individuals spend a great deal of their time, money, and community support hours in Nevada. They are members of Douglas County recreation programs, community service organizations, and an integral part of community fundraising activities in everything from Toys for Tots to the Big Brother/Big Sister programs. They are residents of Nevada in every sense but physical address. Their service to our country goes without mention.

I would be happy to meet with you or the Board of Regents at any time to discuss this matter and assist in any way. Offering this small token of our appreciation will forever show Nevada continues to support our troops and will be happy to help the entire military family in any way possible.

I look forward to your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Tetz".

Tim Tetz
Executive Director



**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 15, SECTIONS 3**

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 3. Tuition

1. Tuition shall not be charged to current enrollees or graduates of a Nevada high school.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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, family 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. ***Marines currently stationed at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California, shall not be charged tuition.***
6. 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.
7. 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.

(B/R 8/04)