

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER  
*HANDBOOK* REVISION: Student Access Awards

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

At the April 3, 2008, meeting of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee, regents requested that staff continue to research a new name for awards granted under the current Student Access Aid Program and bring potential names back to the Committee for consideration. The Office of Academic and Student Affairs consulted with the campus directors and managers of marketing, communications, and public information in developing optional names for the Committee to review. Based on that effort, the Committee recommended that Student Access awards be named the "Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award."

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend the *Handbook* (Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 18) to provide that awards granted to students using Student Access funds shall be named the "Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award." As soon as practicable, NSHE institutions should implement the name change. (See attached Policy Proposal)

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

This policy proposal is brought forward at this time as a result of the recommendation by the Student and Academic Affairs Committee in June 2008.

**BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

Referring to Student Access awards as the Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award is intended to attract students and eliminate any negative stigma that may have existed under the prior name.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been brought forward at this time.

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

Reverse the actions taken by the Board in June 2008 and retain the current name of "Student Access."

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

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

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 18**  
**Student Access Funds**

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

**Section 18. Use of Student Access Funds**

In order to improve the access of all students and to encourage participation in higher education, an amount up to 50% of all registration fee increases, net the amounts distributed to other fee categories, will be dedicated to student financial assistance. For the purposes of this section, “Student Access funds” means budgeted dollars intended for student financial aid, including allocations for such funds from state appropriations and funds generated from registration fees. The guidelines for the use of Student Access funds are as follows:

1. One-hundred percent (100%) of Student Access funds will be used for financial assistance for students. Except for the Regents’ Service Program, funds will not be used for administrative or any other purposes, unless specifically authorized by Board policy. The portion derived from undergraduate student enrollments will be dedicated to undergraduate financial assistance. The portion derived from graduate student enrollments will be dedicated to graduate financial assistance.
2. At least ninety percent (90%) of Student Access funds for each institution each academic year will go to need-based programs, according to federal government methodology, for both undergraduate and graduate students.
3. The remainder of the funds (not to exceed 10%) for each institution each academic year will go to other “access-oriented” financial assistance, including but not limited to non-need based grants and work study programs, for both undergraduate and graduate students.
4. The institution will present a report each year to the Board of Regents showing how the Student Access funds were utilized. The findings of the report will be used to evaluate these guidelines.
5. Nothing in this Section precludes an institution from allocating additional funds for general scholarship purposes. Any such additional allocations are not subject to the student access distribution established in this Section.
6. *Awards granted to students using Student Access funds shall be named the “Regents’ Higher Education Opportunity Award.”*