

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Fee Waiver for Active Military

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Current Board policy honors the service of active and retired members of the Armed Forces and provides certain tuition benefits in recognition of this service, including the following:

- Active members of the Nevada National Guard are eligible for a fee waiver that will permit such Guard members to register for courses without a registration fee (e.g. resident tuition), including certain laboratory fees (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12 of the Handbook and NRS 396.544*).
- Active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in Nevada, as well as their spouses and dependent children, are eligible for in-state tuition (*Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3 of the Handbook and NRS 396.540*).
- Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged and who on the date of discharge were on active duty stationed in Nevada are considered residents of the State for tuition purposes and are eligible for in-state tuition. In addition, any veteran honorably discharged within the two years immediately preceding the date of matriculation is exempt from paying non-resident tuition (*Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3 of the Handbook and NRS 396.540*).

In an effort to assist active duty military stationed in Nevada with their education, institutions may wish to waive certain fees, including special course fees, certain student fees and other mandatory fees approved by the Board. Federal financial assistance is available for many active military personnel, but typically only covers a small portion of institutional fees, and therefore, enrolling in a course at an NSHE institution remains financially challenging.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 15 of the Handbook* to add a new section authorizing institutions to waive certain fees, if approved by the president, for members of the Armed Forces on active duty who are stationed in Nevada or at the Marine Corps Mountain Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

At least one NSHE institution – UNLV – is currently exploring options, including financial options, to assist active duty military stationed at locations in Nevada, including Nellis Air Force Base

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The proposal will serve to assist active duty military in pursuing their education, which benefits both Nevada and the nation as more individuals earn degrees and training that support our workforce in the future.
- The proposal is consistent with existing Board policy and State law and programs to assist active duty military and veterans interested in pursuing their educational goals. In his proclamation declaring 2014 as the Year of the Veteran, Governor Sandoval expressed that “in terms of services, resources, benefits, and opportunities afforded to those who are currently serving, those who are returning, and those who currently live in our state, it is my stated goal to make Nevada the most veteran- and military-friendly state in the nation.”
- Under the policy language, institutions are not required to waive fees but will have the discretion to do so if it determines such a waiver is necessary and financially feasible. The waiver must be approved by the institutional president.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented at this time.

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

None have been presented at this time.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____

X Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 15 *new* Section # 14

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Other: _____

X Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____

Explain: Institutions will forgo the revenue for any special course fees, student fees, or other mandatory fees, excluding registrations fees, that are approved to be waived under the proposal policy.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, *new* SECTION 14
Fee Waiver – Active Duty Military

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

Section 14 – Fee Waivers for Active Duty Military

- 1. If approved by the president, institutions may waive special course fees, student fees, and other mandatory fees except the per credit registration fee for members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are stationed in Nevada or at the Marine Corps Mountain Training Center at Pickle Meadows, California.***
- 2. For purposes of this section, “Armed Forces of the United States” means the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, on active duty and does not include the National Guard or other reserve force, with the exception of active members of the Nevada National Guard.***

RENUMBER SECTIONS 14 THROUGH 28 AS SECTIONS 15 THROUGH 29.