Clarification of National Guard Fee Waiver – State-Supported vs. Self-Supporting Courses

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:
Existing Board policy provides that 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) (Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12 of the Handbook and NRS 396.544). This waiver will also pay for laboratory fees associated with certain courses. In practice, the fee waiver applies only to state-supported academic credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate. However, the policy does not specifically distinguish between state-supported and self-supporting courses. System staff recommends revising Board policy to clarify this language and reflect existing practice.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:
Amend Board policy (Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 12 of the Handbook) to clarify that state-supported academic, credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate are eligible for the fee waiver, but self-supporting courses are not eligible for the fee waiver. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):
This policy revision is recommended to clarify existing Board policy and reflect existing practice.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:
- The policy revision will assist students and institutional staff by clearly distinguishing which types of courses (state-supported vs. self-supporting) are eligible for the National Guard fee waiver.
- The policy revision reflects existing practice.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:
None have been presented.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:
Retain the existing policy.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:
- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 17 Section # 12
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other:
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No X____
  Explain:__________________________

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4. Any member of the active Nevada National Guard, including a Nevada National Guard recruit, or the child or spouse of a person who was killed while performing duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard, may be permitted to register for credit without a registration fee or, except as otherwise provided, laboratory fee(s).

a. This policy is applicable during Fall and Spring terms only.

b. State-supported academic credit-bearing courses that will lead to a degree or certificate, including state-supported distance education courses, independent learning, and continuing education courses are eligible for the fee waiver. Self-supporting courses, including Non-state-supported independent study and correspondence courses, are not eligible for waiver under this policy.