

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Budget and Finance
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – U
DATE: December 11-12, 2024

SUBJECT

Reduced Tuition Annual Report

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

- [BOR Policy 5.5.1](#) – Tuition and Fees: On-Campus Tuition
- [SDCL § 3-20-1](#) – Reduced Tuition for Certain State Employees
- [SDCL § 33-6-5](#) – Tuition Benefits for National Guard Members
- [SDCL § 13-55-2](#) – Veterans Entitled to Free Tuition at State Institutions
- [SDCL § 13-55-6](#) – Free Education of Children of Residents Who Died During Service in the Armed Forces
- [SDCL § 13-55-10](#) – Free Tuition to Child or Spouse of NG Member Disabled or Deceased in the Line of Duty
- [SDCL § 13-55-11](#) – Free Tuition and Fees for Visually Impaired Persons
- [SDCL § 13-55-22](#) – Free Tuition for Survivors of Certain Firefighters, Certified Law Enforcement Officers, and Emergency Medical Technicians
- [SDCL § 13-55-24](#) – Reduced Tuition for Elementary or Secondary Teachers or Vocational Instructors

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Board Policy 5.5.1 outlines the tuition reduction programs available to students. The tuition reduction programs included in this report cover both Board approved and legislatively mandated programs and relate to on-campus courses for the 2024 academic school year (summer 2023, fall 2023, and spring 2024).

BOARD APPROVED PROGRAMS

- Persons 65 Years of Age or Older (SC): The tuition for resident students sixty-five (65) years of age or older during the calendar year enrolled shall be one-fourth (1/4) of the cost of resident tuition.
- Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets (ROT): South Dakota residents who are junior and senior students and who are contracted senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets shall be charged fifty percent (50%) of the undergraduate resident tuition rate established by the Board of Regents for not more than four semesters.

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- Western Regional Graduate Program (WRG): Students from the WICHE states can participate in the Western Regional Graduate Program. The graduate programs that have been approved by the Board for South Dakota allow students to pay in-state tuition rates.
- Western Undergraduate Exchange Tuition Rate for Residents of WICHE States (MWUE – SDSMT): Undergraduate residents of WICHE states are eligible to attend any of the SD universities at 150% of the resident on-campus tuition rate. Students attending SDSM&T who are new freshmen and first-time transfers starting the summer of 2016 shall be charged the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) tuition rate for undergraduate courses. The states included are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- Active-Duty Military Personnel (MIL): The undergraduate on-campus tuition rate assessed to active-duty military personnel may not exceed the federal tuition assistance benefit for active-duty military. In addition, active-duty military personnel will not be charged mandatory or discipline fees.
- Spouse and Dependent of Active Military (MILDS): The reduced rate is offered to spouse or dependent of and activity military, undergraduate and graduate students attending courses at Ellsworth Air Force Base and online courses through BHSU. Rate was approved June 2021.
- Department of Defense Civilians (DODCV): The reduced rate is offered to DOD Civilians, undergraduate and graduate students attending courses at Ellsworth Air Force Base, online courses through BHSU and at the BHSU Rapid City Center. Rate was approved June 2021
- Children of Alumni (COAB/COAD/COAN/COAM/COAS/COAU): Effective summer 2015, first-time freshmen and new transfer students who attend the same university where their parent or legal guardian received a degree, provided the student meets eligibility criteria established by the home institution, shall be assessed the resident tuition rate. The Board expanded this program to certain graduate students beginning in FY24, if they received an undergraduate degree from an SDBOR institution.
- South Dakota Advantage (ISR/PHARI/LAWIS). Beginning in summer of 2019, first-time freshmen and new transfer students from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming shall be assessed the resident tuition rate. Beginning in FY24, the Board expanded this program to the states of Kansas, Missouri, and Minnesota. They also expanded the program to graduate students from those same states, provided they received an undergraduate degree from an SDBOR institution.

LEGISLATIVE APPROVED PROGRAMS

- **Child of Deceased Veteran (SDCL § 13-55-6) (CDV)**: Any person under the age of twenty-five years, a resident of this state, and is a child of a deceased parent, mother or father who was a veteran as defined in § 33-17-2, is entitled to free tuition to pursue any course of study in any state educational institution under the control and management of the Board of Regents.
- **Dependents of National Guardsmen Disabled or Deceased in Line of Duty (SDCL § 13-55-10) (DDD)**: South Dakota residents under the age of 25 years whose father, mother, or spouse died or sustained a total permanent disability resulting from duty as a South Dakota National Guard member, while on state active duty or any authorized training duty, shall be entitled to tuition without cost and be entitled to attend any course or courses of study.
- **Employees of the State of South Dakota (SDCL § 3-20-1) (SDE/LAWSE)**: Employees of the state who meet eligibility requirements and are admitted to the university may be eligible for a fifty percent (50%) tuition reduction for undergraduate and graduate courses up to a maximum of six credit hours per semester.
- **Survivors of Fire Fighters, Certified Law Enforcement Offices and Emergency Medical Technicians (SDCL § 13-55-22) (SFP)**: If a firefighter or certified law enforcement officer or an emergency medical technician dies as a direct result of injuries received in performance of official duties, the survivor, upon being duly accepted for enrollment into any state-supported university of higher education or state-supported technical or vocational school, shall be allowed to obtain a bachelor's degree or vocational degree for so long as the survivor is eligible, free of any tuition. However, the bachelor's degree or vocational degree shall be earned within a thirty-six month or eight semester period or its equivalent.
- **Certain Elementary and Secondary Teachers and Vocational Instructors (SDCL § 13-55-24) (TC/TCHST/TCSC)**: Certain elementary and secondary school teachers and vocational instructors may pursue any undergraduate or graduate course on campus upon payment of fifty percent (50%) of tuition and 100% of required fees.
- **Veterans and Others Who Performed War Service (SDCL § 13-55-2 through 13-55-4) (QV)**: Veterans and others who performed active war service may pursue any undergraduate course or courses without payment of charges for tuition for each month of qualified service or major fraction thereof a month in academic time. No eligible person shall be entitled to less than one or more than four academic years of free tuition.
- **Dependents of Prisoner of War or Missing in Action (SDCL § 13-55-9.2) (DPM)**: Any dependent of a prisoner of war or a person missing in action, upon his being duly accepted for enrollment into any state-supported institution of higher education or state-supported technical or vocational school, shall be entitled to eight semesters or twelve quarters, free of tuition and mandatory fees other than subsistence expenses, for either

full or part-time study, for so long as he is eligible.

- Visually Impaired Persons (SDCL §§ 13-55-11 through 13-55-13) (VH): Residents of South Dakota who are visually impaired and are eligible for admission may pursue any course of study without payment of tuition and fees that other students are required to pay directly to the university until they have received two hundred twenty-five (225) semester hours of credit or its equivalent.
- National Guard Members (SDCL § 33-6-5) (NGS/NGF/PHNGF/PHNGS): National Guard students are entitled to a benefit of fifty percent (50%) of the in-state resident tuition to be paid or otherwise credited by the Board of Regents. Beginning in FY24, this benefit will be expanded to one hundred percent (100%) of the in-state resident tuition. National Guard students that receive partial FTA will also receive STA if eligible.
- Resident Tuition for Rehabilitation Services Clients (VR): All nonresidents who are receiving tuition support from the South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services are entitled to pay tuition at resident rates.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For the academic year of 2023-2024, total tuition waived was \$17,032,745, which includes National Guard waived tuition of \$1,479,670. Fees totaling \$107,239 were waived for qualifying students. Total revenue collected from students receiving some type of reduced tuition amounted to \$75,630,477.

Attachment I provides the amount of tuition dollars waived for each of the programs including the National Guard program explained above.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – All Campus Tuition Reduced Tuition Programs for Academic Year 2023 – 2024 Estimate of System Tuition Waived

