

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY:¹

ACTION ITEM

For Meeting of March 19, 2015

AMENDMENT OF REGENTS POLICY 3106: POLICY ON WAIVER OF TUITION AND FEES TO COMPLY WITH THE VETERANS ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

RECOMMENDATION

The President of the University recommends that the Committee on Educational Policy recommend to the Regents that Regents Policy 3106: Policy on Waiver of Tuition and Fees be amended as shown in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

This item proposes to amend Regents Policy 3106: Policy on Waiver of Tuition and Fees to align the policy with provisions of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (the “Act”) so that veterans and other eligible beneficiaries may continue to receive federal veterans educational benefits while they are enrolled at UC.

The Act includes a provision, effective July 1, 2015, that prohibits veterans or their eligible beneficiaries from receiving financial assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill at any public university that charges nonresident tuition to recently discharged veterans or their eligible beneficiaries, as specified in the Act. Although Regents Policy 3105: Policy on Residence and Policy 3106: Policy on Waiver of Tuition and Fees contain certain provisions that acknowledge the special circumstances faced by members of the armed forces, veterans, and their dependents, University policy does not currently comply with this provision of the Act.

UC estimates that in 2013-14 a minimum of 1,400 UC students received at least \$30 million from the federal veterans educational benefit programs affected by this Act. The actual number of recipients and the value of their benefits are likely higher, since these figures exclude students enrolled in University Extension as well as some benefits paid directly from the Veterans Administration to students for housing and other expenses.

This item proposes an amendment to Regents Policy 3106: Policy on Waiver of Tuition and Fees in order to allow future cohorts of UC students to receive federal veterans benefits. Consistent

¹ Of interest to the Committee on Finance

with the provisions of the Act, the amendment would provide an exemption from Nonresident Supplemental Tuition for any student who qualifies as a “covered individual,” defined in the Act as the following:

- a veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more;
- a spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the transferor’s discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more; or
- a spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the service member’s death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

The text of the proposed amendment references the applicable portion of the Act. A complete definition of “covered individual” would be incorporated into the University of California Residence Policy and Guidelines, which are published on University websites and used by campuses to implement Regents policy in this area.

The Act addresses the fact that active duty members of the Armed Forces and their families are often transferred from one location to another, which can make it difficult for these individuals to satisfy a public university’s residency requirements immediately upon a veteran’s discharge.

The amendment, if adopted, would cause the University for forego Nonresident Supplemental Tuition that an eligible GI Bill recipient might otherwise pay. Although the precise financial impact is not known, it is expected to be modest because the exemption only applies to veterans and their eligible beneficiaries during the first three years after the veteran is discharged. The impact will be much less than the aggregate amount of veterans benefits that UC students would otherwise lose if the University did not align its policies with the Act (estimated to be at least \$30 million as noted above).

The attachment shows only the relevant portion of the Policy being amended.

[\(Attachment\)](#)