

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5.B**

**DATE: June 11, 2014**

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**SUBJECT: AAC Course Guidelines – Internships & Practicum**

During the May 2014 meeting, AAC discussed recommendations from the Tuition Structure Review Committee to begin assessing a different tuition rate for Internships/Practicums offered throughout the Regental system. The intent of the TSRC was to address issues raised by those students who are registered in a fulltime experience that has them off-campus for the entire semester. However, data presented to AAC established that the majority of students enrolled in practica or field experiences tend to be enrolled for only 3-6 hours and they are on campus the rest of the time. Of the total 1,204 internship and 1,677 practicum registrations for Fall 2013 and Spring 2014, only 165 (14%) and 44 (3%) of these registrations resulting from students who were only enrolled in internship/practicum. Since the size of this student pool is relatively small at each campus, and the fact that the self-support rate in general is higher than state-support with tuition and fees, AAC recommended that the proposed tuition change not move forward.

Additionally, while the TSRC was collecting data for their review, it was discovered that clinical practicums and other course types were being coded as internships and practicums. In addition to internships and practicum, students also enroll in field experience and cooperative education offerings which are guided by the AAC [Common Course Guidelines](#). These guidelines specify that all course types are to use instructional method type "S" which is "internships and practicums" in Datatel, and the "S" instructional method code was used to evaluate the pool of students for the purpose of the TSRC review. The data collected for the committee's review noted some level of inaccuracy for how some campuses were coding each of the four instructional types noted below. AAC supported a refinement to the Common Course Guidelines to provide greater clarity for campus personnel when making coding distinctions for each of these course types. A proposed set of modifications have been made to the AAC guidelines, and representatives are asked to evaluate the revised definitions and be prepared to discuss whether they aid in helping campus personnel make the appropriate distinctions between these course types.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Discussion & Recommendation.

### ***Internship***

Applied, monitored and supervised, field-based learning experience that offers a broad training experience which allows for hands-on training experience in the students field of study. Students apply theory acquired through program coursework to real-world settings to assist them in furthering their practical and professional skills in the field. Students may or may not be paid for the experience, but must follow a negotiated/directed plan of study developed along with their advisor. Instructional method type is “S”.

### ***Practicum***

Applied, monitored and supervised, field-based learning experience completed in the student’s field of interest under the supervision of faculty and/or onsite supervisor. These experiences are designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply and integrate knowledge acquired through their academic program, mentoring from faculty and experts in their field of study, and/or proficiency with necessary skills for professional practice. Students may or may not be paid for their experience but must follow a negotiated plan of study. A higher level of supervision is provided by the instructor in these courses than is the case with Field Experience courses. Instructional method type is “S”.

### ***Field Experience***

Applied, monitored and supervised, field-based learning experience that allows students an opportunity to observe the practical application of knowledge gained in their academic program through supervised practice in the field. Students are not paid for their experience, and they are expected to follow a negotiated/directed plan of study developed in collaboration between the student, instructor, and field experience supervisor. Instructional method type is “S”.

### ***Cooperative Education***

Applied, monitored and supervised, field-based learning experience which is more extensive than internships/practicum and traditionally spans two or more semesters of work. Students are paid for their professional work experience which is tied directly to their degree program. Students receive ongoing supervision from an established co-op supervisor with limited supervision from a campus advisor when compared to internships/practicum courses. Students follow a negotiated/directed plan of study throughout the experience. Instructional method type is “S”.