

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Budget and Finance

**AGENDA ITEM: 7 – AA
DATE: March 27-29, 2018**

SUBJECT

Active Duty Military Distance Rate

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding – Section 4(A) - One Single Tuition Rate. All Service members attending the same educational institution, at the same location, enrolled in the same course, will be charged the same tuition rate without regard to their Service component. This single tuition rate includes active duty Service members and the National Guard and Reservists who are activated under Title10 and using Title10 Military Tuition.

[SDCL 13-53-6](#) Tuition rates and fees

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

We currently have an active duty military rate at the Centers of \$250.00. This is a significant reduction from the current \$335.00 per undergraduate credit offered at the Centers. The reduced rate was adopted to be in-line with the federal tuition assistance benefit rate offered by other institutions. For internet courses, the rate is \$335.00, but the federal tuition assistance benefit is capped at \$250.00.

At the December 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved a pilot program to be offered by Dakota State University for active duty military taking online courses. The proposed tuition rate of \$250.00 per credit hour equals the federal tuition assistance benefit for active duty military. DSU also requested that active duty military students not be charged the distance delivery fee of \$125.60 per credit hour for undergraduate computer science, cyber operations, and network and security administration courses. The approval provided in December was necessary to address contractual agreements that were in play at that time.

The finance vice presidents discussed the \$250 Active Duty Military rate at their January 2018 meeting and agreed that our current rate is not competitive and that we should adopt the internet rate for active duty military across the system.

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20180327_7-AA:

I move to approve a system-wide reduced tuition rate of \$250.00 per credit hour for active duty military taking distance (online) courses effective summer of 2018 term.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is very difficult to project the impact of lowering the Active Duty Military rate to \$250.00 from the current \$335.00 because we do not track the active duty military classification for off-campus courses and we do not know how many additional students we are likely to attract. BAC believed that because other non-regental institutions were already offering the \$250.00 rate, that we were likely losing enrollments in this area. BAC felt that we should be consistent state-wide with the reduced tuition rate for active duty military students taking distance courses and requested the \$250.00 rate at all South Dakota public universities.

The Board staff concurs with the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

None