

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – E

DATE: May 8-10, 2018

SUBJECT

Selective Service Statement of Registration Compliance

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[SDCL § 13-53-1.1](#)

No male person born after December 31, 1959, may enroll at any state-supported college or university until such person has filed with the institution a statement of registration compliance. In such a statement of registration compliance, the person shall certify, under oath, either that he is registered with the selective service pursuant to the Military Selective Service Act, 50 U.S.C. § 453, as amended and in effect on January 1, 1988, or that, for any reason specified in 50 U.S.C. § 453, he is not required to be registered.

[SDCL § 13-53-1.2](#)

The Board of Regents shall prescribe the form for the statement of registration compliance provided by § 13-53-1.1 and shall insure that the statement of registration compliance be included in applications for all new and transfer students.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

SDCL § 13-53-1.1 prohibits any male person born after December 31, 1959, from enrolling at any state-supported college or university until such person files with the institution a statement of compliance with the Military Selective Service Act.

SDCL § 13-53-1.2 requires the Board to create the statement of registration compliance and ensure that such statement is included in the applications for all new and transfer students.

In the spring of 2017, through the process of responding to questions raised by a state legislator, Board staff discovered that the then-current applications for admission did not

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20180508_6-E:

I move to approve the proposed language contained in the matrix included in this Board item to the admissions and enrollment process for new and transfer students to obtain the statement of registration compliance from students prior to enrollment within the Regental system.

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contain the statement of registration compliance. Board staff addressed that oversight by adding a statement of registration compliance to the applications for admission, which language tracked the language in SDCL § 13-53-1.1.

When SDCL §§ 13-53-1.1 and 13-53-1.2 became law in 1988, the individual admission applications at the six Regental institutions required students to indicate their compliance with the Military Selective Service Act. However, when the common application was developed (around the year 2000), the question was subsequently removed. Board staff was not able to find any documentation that would indicate why it was removed.

Additionally, a review of Board minutes from 1988, 1989, 1999, 2000, and 2001 did not turn up any information at the Board level regarding selective service, likely indicating that this topic was addressed through Academic Affairs using the statutory language.

Rather than continuing to utilize the statutory language in the application, which a number of campus constituencies believe to be confusing to applicants, Board staff and campus representatives believe that a more user-friendly statement and process is desirable and would fulfill the legal requirements contained in state law. The proposed language below has been vetted with representatives from admissions and the Academic Affairs Council.

Proposed Language for Statement of Registration Compliance

Prior to the point of registration, all students will be required to electronically respond to the following prompt outlined in the matrix below. The system will use stored data (previously provided as part of an earlier step in the admissions process) to determine whether the student is male or female, and whether the student is born before or after December 31, 1959.

MALE born after Dec 31, 1959	MALE born before Dec 31, 1959	FEMALE
Get Question: “Do you certify that you are registered with the Selective Service? (For a list of who has to register, see link)” -YES – I am registered -NO – But I am required to register -NO – I am exempt from the registration requirement	Behind the scenes, the system enters a YES for compliance with Selective Service registration requirements	Behind the scenes, the system enters a YES for compliance with Selective Service registration requirements

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IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

With the Board's approval, the admissions and enrollment process will be revised as described, such that it will continue to comply with state law but that will also provide applicants with a more user-friendly statement of registration compliance and process.

Board staff recommend approval.

ATTACHMENTS

None