

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Budget and Finance

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – E (2)

DATE: August 7-8, 2019

SUBJECT

BOR Policy 5:22 – Graduate Assistants and Fellows (First Reading)

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[SDCL 13-53-6](#)

[SDCL 13-55-1](#)

[BOR Policy 5-5-1 Tuition and Fees: On-Campus Tuition](#)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The policy has been updated to include the purpose of the policy, definitions, and language to reflect current practices.

There are substantive changes to the policy. In section 2 of the policy, the previous language related to “waiving” tuition and fees has been replaced with an incentive tuition rate equivalent to zero percent of the on-campus tuition rate. This will require the Board to set a tuition rate of \$0 for the GA program at SDSU. Currently SDSU does not charge tuition or any discipline fees to its graduate assistants, where the other schools charge the reduced tuition rate established by the Board and discipline fees. The \$0 tuition is factored into the GA stipend paid at SDSU. The difference between the resident or non-resident special tuition rate and the incentive tuition rate for graduate assistants shall be part of the minimum stipends calculations.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This policy draft has been reviewed by the Business Affairs Council. The changes made to the SDSU incentive tuition rate were added by the Board’s General Counsel.

The Board needs to approve the SDSU GA Incentive Tuition rate to be \$0 for this current academic year. For future years, the rate will be included in the tuition and fees cycle.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – BOR Policy 5:22 – Graduate Assistants and Fellows

DRAFT MOTION 20190807_6-E(2):

I move to approve the first reading of the revisions to BOR Policy 5:22 – Graduate Assistants and Fellows as shown in Attachment I and to set the SDSU GA Incentive Tuition rate at \$0 for this academic year.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Graduate Assistants and Fellows

NUMBER: 5:22

A. PURPOSE

To provide the universities tools to compete effectively when recruiting highly qualified prospective graduate students. The primary purpose of a graduate assistantship or graduate student fellowship are is to provide students with professional experience and the necessary financial resources to attend a graduate program.

This policy To allow provides the universities tools to compete effectively when recruiting highly qualified prospective graduate students, the Board has adopted a special tuition rate for graduate assistants and graduate fellows for both on-campus and off-campus courses or provides the ability to waive tuition and some fees.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. ~~Fellow: Teaching Assistant or Associate or Research Assistant (includes Laboratory Assistant):~~ A student enrolled in a graduate program assigned responsibilities in teaching, research, and/or laboratory supervision on a limited or part time basis. A student awarded a grant that is treated as a scholarship and has no work requirement.
2. **Graduate Assistant:** A student enrolled in a graduate program assigned responsibilities in administration, teaching, research, and/or laboratory supervision on a limited or part-time basis. Graduate assistants are often called Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, or Laboratory Assistants.

C. POLICY

1. Special Tuition Rates for Graduate Assistants and Fellows

Resident graduate assistants and ~~resident graduate student~~ fellows shall be assessed the resident special tuition rate of fifty-three percent (53%) of the resident graduate tuition rate for all on-campus courses, in addition to 100% of the general activity fee and discipline fees. Nonresident graduate assistants and ~~nonresident graduate student fellows~~ fellows shall be assessed the nonresident special tuition rate of sixty-three percent (63%) of the resident graduate tuition rate for all on-campus courses, in addition to 100% of the general activity fee and discipline fees. Any graduate assistants or fellow taking distance, off-campus, or Center courses will receive an tuition reduction off-campus special tuition rate for those courses equal to the reduction applied to the resident graduate ~~assistant~~ on-campus tuition rate. The ~~waived special~~ tuition rates is are part of the compensation for graduate assistant work.

~~1.1.A.~~ Eligibility for this special tuition rate is limited to graduate assistants and fellows ~~and fellows~~ who are e:

- ~~1)~~ Unconditionally admitted to a graduate degree program and are registered at the university for ~~its~~ the required minimum number of credit hours. Additionally, graduate assistants must be awarded ; and,
- ~~2)~~ ~~Awarded~~ an assistantship ~~or fellowship~~ at or above the minimum stipend rate established annually by the Board.

~~1.2.~~ ~~Eligibility for this special tuition rate is limited to fellows who are:~~

- ~~— Unconditionally admitted to a graduate degree program and are registered at the university for the required minimum number of credit hours.~~

~~1.23.~~ All graduate assistants and fellows not meeting these eligibility requirements shall be charged the appropriate regular tuition and fee rates established by the Board.

~~1.34.~~ Students who have received a qualifying graduate assistantship or fellowship for the preceding fall and spring are automatically eligible for the special ~~graduate assistant~~ tuition rate for the following summer.

~~1.45.B.~~ Graduate assistants and fellows who are eligible for this special tuition rate at ~~one~~ their home institution will receive the same benefit for courses taken ~~are eligible~~ at other system institution(s).

~~C.~~ ~~All graduate assistants and fellows not meeting these eligibility requirements shall be charged the appropriate regular tuition rate established by the Board.~~

2. ~~Waived~~ Incentive Tuition and Fees Rates for Graduate Assistants and Fellows

~~Schools~~ As part of the compensation for the required graduate assistant work and to enhance competitiveness for graduate assistants and fellows, universities may waive request the Board approve an incentive tuition rate of zero percent (0%) of the on-campus graduate tuition rate, and zero percent (0%) of all program fees, and one-hundred percent (100%) of the General Activity Fee. ~~as part of the compensation for the required graduate work. The General Activity Fee will not be waived. If they decide to waive tuition they shall also waive the~~ If the incentive tuition rate is approved, the incentive tuition rate shall be also applied for all distance, off-campus, and Center courses taken.

~~2.1.A.~~ Eligibility for ~~waived tuition and fees~~ the incentive tuition rate is limited to graduate assistants and fellows who are: u

~~1) Unconditionally admitted to a graduate degree program and are registered at the university for its required minimum number of credit hours. Additionally, graduate assistants must be awarded an assistantship at or above the minimum stipend rate established annually by the Board.~~

~~2.2 ; and,~~

~~2) Awarded an assistantship or fellowship at or above the minimum rate established annually by the Board.~~

~~All graduate assistants and fellows not meeting these eligibility requirements shall be charged the appropriate tuition and fee rates established by the Board.~~

~~2.32. Students who have received a qualifying graduate assistantship or fellowship for the preceding fall and spring are automatically eligible for the incentive tuition rate the following summer.~~

~~2.43.B. Graduate assistants and fellows who are eligible for this incentive tuition rate at their home institution will receive the same benefit for courses taken other system institutions. Courses taken from other universities qualify for the waiver.~~

~~C. All graduate assistants and fellows not meeting these eligibility requirements shall be charged the appropriate tuition and fee rates established by the Board.~~

~~2.54.D. Universities that waive tuition and fees will — Once a university has received approval to assess the incentive tuition rate it shall need to reimburse other universities for the waived the tuition and fees revenue loss resulting from the difference between the incentive tuition rate and the special tuition rate for related to courses taken by graduate assistants and fellows from other universities.~~

~~2.6 Universities are required to remit the appropriate HEFF amount to the system fund for all tuition credit hours billed the incentive tuition rate under this program.~~

~~3.—~~

3. Implementation

~~2.5.E. Universities will still be required to HEFF and contribute to system funds for all tuition credit hours waived under this program.~~

~~3.1 —~~

~~3.2 —~~

~~3.1 2.6.F. — A university must select one of the above compensation methods for all graduate assistants and fellows in any given academic year. If an institution decides to change its~~their~~ method, it~~they~~ must notify the Board office of the request by October 1 and the change will be acted upon during the next annual tuition and fee setting process and become effective the following summer.~~

43. Compensation

The Board annually establishes a minimum stipend to be paid to graduate assistants. Graduate assistants are expected to work a full semester to receive the full semester compensation. Graduate assistants are expected to work the full four-week session to receive the full four-week session compensation. The minimum compensation may be prorated accordingly if the graduate student does not work the full semester or four-week session (as applicable).

~~The difference between the resident or non-resident special tuition rate for graduate assistants and fellows and the incentive tuition and fee rates for graduate assistants shall be part of the minimum stipends calculation.~~

54. Non-Faculty Exempt Classification

Graduate assistants ~~and graduate student fellows~~ are considered staff members, but they are not employed in a permanent classification. Any grievance arising from this employment shall be brought under the non-faculty exempt procedures (BOR Policy 4:8). ~~The primary purposes of a graduate assistantship or graduate student fellowship are to provide students with professional experience and the necessary financial resources to attend a graduate program.~~

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR, March 1993; June 1994; December 1995; October 2002; October 2004; December 2010; December 2015, May 2016; _____.