

Meeting of the
OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
May 29, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #:

Policy.

SUBJECT: Approval of revisions to the Tuition and Fees Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the State Regents approve a two-year pilot for an exception the Tuition and Fees Policy.

BACKGROUND:

Title 70 O. S. Section 3218.12 authorizes the State Regents to establish a system of student scholarships. Each institution is authorized to award scholarships to residents of the state of Oklahoma from Educational and General Budget – Part I funding in the form of resident tuition waivers each year not to exceed three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of their total E&G - Part I budget. In addition, the State Regents and/or the legislature have authorized tuition waiver scholarships for specific purposes such as auditing of classes by senior citizens; former prisoners of war, Academic Scholars, and others which are not subject to the 3.5 percent requirement.

POLICY ISSUES:

This item is consistent with Regents' practice on adoption of policy exceptions.

ANALYSIS:

In response to the concerns for possible enrollment declines due to the displacement of students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, institutions have requested the ability to consider additional ways in which they can recruit and retain students for the fall 2020 semester. The institutions are seeking approval to extend resident waiver opportunities that may exceed the current maximum cap of 3.5 percent. Rather than a request-by-request exception to policy the recommendation is to allow, as a pilot program applicable for all institutions within the State System, an exception to policy allowing for resident waivers to be granted up to a maximum dollar threshold of 5 percent of their total E&G – Part I budget for the two academic years covering 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. After this time period, further consideration for permanent adoption of policy will be presented to the State Regents.

This pilot program will provide some flexibility for our institutions to use the waiver as a tool for retention and recruitment purposes in this particularly uncertain time while allowing for a reasonable and thoughtful impact analysis to be conducted before a permanent policy recommendation is requested.