



August 19, 2022

Technical Education Tuition Related Policy Revisions

Background

Technical colleges are in the process of transitioning technical education from clock-hours to credit hours. As part of this transition, the calculation of tuition will also need to be transitioned to a credit-based tuition calculation. In order to complete this process, several Board finance and facilities policies related to tuition and fees need to be modified to accommodate technical colleges and provide policies which are consistent with degree-granting institutions.

This work on policies relates to the Board's strategic plan priority of system unification. One of the Board's strategies for system unification is to merge system policies. The related tactic is to review policies to ensure alignment between technical colleges and degree-granting institutions. Another Board strategy for system unification is to increase stackability of credentials from technical colleges to degree-granting institutions. The tactic relates to transitioning technical education from clock-hours to credit hours.

In upcoming Board meetings, technical colleges will bring forward proposals for credit-based tuition as they begin to offer courses based on credit hours.

Policies to Revise to Ensure Applicability to Technical Colleges

The following policy actions are being proposed to ensure policy alignment between technical colleges and degree-granting institutions, and to prepare for technical colleges to offer courses based on credit hours in accordance with the Board of Higher Education's strategic objective of system unification.

Below is a summary of the proposed policy changes being recommended at this time:

R510, Tuition: Addresses tuition at technical colleges. Incorporates policy provisions from tech policy 204 related to the statutory requirement for no tuition for secondary students and low-cost tuition for post-secondary students.

R511, Tuition Disclosures and Consultation: Provides for tuition disclosures for short enrollment periods of less than a semester as are found in technical education. Provides that general student fees should not be charged to students at technical colleges.

R512, Determination of Resident Status: Extends the provision that technical colleges are not required to determine residency status to credit-based courses at technical colleges.

R514, Refunds of Tuition, Fees and Other Student Charges: Addresses refunds for short enrollment periods as are found in technical education.

R516, General Student Fees: Provides that general student fees should not be charged to students at technical colleges.

R517, Course and Program Fees: Eliminates policy exceptions for technical colleges. With this revision, the policy provisions related to course and program fees will be fully applicable to technical colleges. The policy clause stating that course fees shall not be used to pay instructional services rendered by faculty and staff will be applicable to technical colleges as well as degree-granting institutions. Additionally, a provision which was formerly found in tech policy 204, has been added to R517. This provision allows technical colleges to waive fees for secondary students who qualify for fee waivers at the high school.

Technical College Policy to Rescind

204, Tuition and Fees, With the proposed revisions to policy R510, Tuition, a separate tuition policy for technical colleges is no longer necessary.

Commissioner's Recommendation

These proposed policy actions have been reviewed by finance officers of both degree-granting institutions and technical colleges. These policy revisions will go to the Finance and Facilities Committee for a recommendation to the Committee of the Whole at a later date. They are being presented to this committee as an information item only; no action is required.