

## REVISION TO BOG STATUTE ON MILITARY SERVICE TUITION POLICY

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the following revision to the Military Service tuition policy, statutes 2.34.03.091 and 2.34.03.094, effective Fall Term 2018:

From:

- 2.34.03.091 Individuals on active duty in the U.S. Military who are stationed in Michigan and their dependents are eligible for Michigan in-state tuition. Stationing orders and proof of relationship (for dependents) must be provided with the application.
- 2.34.03.094 Individuals who are members of the National Guard of any state, or who were separated from the National Guard of any state under conditions other than dishonorable, and their dependents are eligible for Michigan in-state tuition.

To:

- 2.34.03.091 Individuals in any state on active duty in any component of the U.S. Armed Forces, including Reserves and National Guard, on or before the first day of classes, are eligible for a special tuition rate of 50 percent of the then-current in-state tuition rates, except for those enrolled in the Law School or the School of Medicine. Students in the Law School or the School of Medicine are eligible for the then-current in-state tuition rates. Proof of eligibility demonstrating the service member is actively serving must be provided.
- 2.34.03.094 Individuals who were separated from the National Guard of any state under any conditions other than dishonorable, and their dependents are eligible for Michigan in-state tuition.

### Background

This new rate is recommended to make it more affordable, and therefore appealing, for active military members to enroll at Wayne State University, allowing the university to better serve those who serve our country. It is expected that this tuition discount will increase enrollment and make WSU more competitive with other institutions.

Active-duty military members who choose to use their federal benefit (currently at \$250 per credit hour) could enroll at WSU under this new tuition rate with very little out-of-pocket expense. Upon completion of active service, they become veterans enrolled at WSU at the traditional in-state tuition rate.

Currently, all individuals on active duty who are stationed in Michigan are eligible for Michigan in-state tuition, as are veterans and members of any state's National Guard. Enrollment and

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application fees are waived for all active duty military, veterans, reservists and guard who pay tuition at the in-state resident rate.

The reduced tuition rate for active-duty military members will:

- Create a tuition rate at a level substantially less than just in-state tuition, allowing more active military personnel-students to concurrently enroll while serving (rather than delaying higher education until they have completed their military commitment);
- Decrease the number of service members who leave WSU because of educational cost; and
- Enable service members to attend WSU from anywhere in the world through online academic programming.

The revised tuition plan would be a strong recruiting tool for the ROTC program. While WSU offers an ROTC program for qualified students, the university loses many potential ROTC students to other programs with more expansive tuition incentives.

At the beginning of every semester, active military members would submit a request form and provide a current Leave and Earnings Statement when registering for classes the following semester.

Many students join the military for the educational benefits. This revised tuition policy would encourage active members to put those benefits to use immediately.