

November 17-18, 2022

INFORMATION ITEM

Proposed revisions to policies 940.3 “Mandatory Fees”, 940.20 “Annual Tuition and Fees for eLearning”, and 303.7 “Online Learning”.

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OCHE notifies the BOR and campuses of proposed revisions to policies 940.3, 940.20, and 303.7. The proposed policy changes will undergo further review and comment prior to formal board review and a vote at a future meeting, likely January or March 2023.

EXPLANATION

These proposed policy changes were developed by the Montana University System eLearning Advisory Committee, which is composed of eLearning leaders from each standalone MUS and Community College campus.

Policy 303.7 “Online Learning” defines program and course-level learning modalities, which are used to clearly communicate course modality expectations to students and staff and to ensure consistent tracking of modalities in the MUS student data warehouse. The proposed changes would bring the MUS definitions in-line with emerging national best practice.

Policy 940.20 contains two main provisions. The first allows campuses flexibility to discount non-resident student tuition in certain online programs and coursework. This flexibility will be maintained, with only minor alterations to align key definitions.

The second provision of policy 940.20 requires campuses to waive certain mandatory fees for fully online students the campus judges to live too far away to make use of the services funded by the fee. The proposed changes would incorporate this language into policy 940.3 “Mandatory Fees” and make a few key revisions, including:

- Allowing campus discretion regarding which fees to waive;
 - Setting an objective metric (“reside 100 or more miles away”) rather than the current language, which allows for a variety of measures across campuses to determine who may be eligible for a waiver; and,
 - Allowing campuses to waive fees for students “due to special circumstances, such as incarceration”. This is in support of the expanding second chance Pell program, which is providing educational pathways for incarcerated students who cannot make use of many campus services supported by these fees.
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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment #1: Proposed revisions to Policy 303.7
- Attachment #2: Proposed revisions to Policy 940.3
- Attachment #3: Proposed revisions to Policy 940.20