

# COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, January, 16, 2009

## DECISION ITEM C:

### Resolution on Student Fees Eligible for Fee Remission

#### Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education adopt a resolution formally stating its intention to jointly determine student fees eligible for fee remission with the State Student Commission of Indiana, as required under Indiana law.

#### Background

By law, the State of Indiana offers college tuition and fee remission at Indiana's public universities for: a) resident children of disabled veterans; b) resident children and spouses of public safety officers killed in the line-of-duty; and c) children and spouses of Indiana National Guard Members killed in the line-of-duty.

These three (3) narrowly-targeted, specialty tuition and fee remission programs are administered by the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI). In managing these specialty student aid programs, SSACI integrates this aid with both the broader-based Frank O'Bannon Award and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Award programs when applicable. In other words, if a student who is eligible for any of these specialty student aid programs is also eligible for aid via the Frank O'Bannon Award and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Award, this specialty award is structured to wrap-around the other SSACI-administered aid. Thus, the specialty aid award covers just the eligible tuition and fees costs not offset by the student's Frank O'Bannon Award and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Award.

To administer this integration or wrap-around efficiently, the student fees eligible for remission under these specialty aid programs must match those eligible under the other SSACI-administered aid programs.

Indiana law places the authority to determine which student fees are eligible for fee remission jointly with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) and SSACI.

The purpose of this resolution is to officially state the Commission's intention to perform this task cooperatively with SSACI and to define the criteria to be applied and process to be followed in determining which student fees will be eligible for fee remission.

The SSACI board has recently adopted a similar resolution publicly stating their intention to work cooperatively with ICHE on this matter.

#### Supporting Document

*Resolution on Student Fees Eligible for Fee Remission*, January 16, 2009

**Indiana Commission for Higher Education**  
**Resolution on Student Fees Eligible for Fee Remission**  
*January 16, 2009*

**WHEREAS**, the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) is charged with administering certain tuition and fee remission programs under IC 21-14.

**WHEREAS**, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) shall define mandatory fees, under IC 21-14-4-3 and IN 21-14-7-5, that qualify as educational costs eligible for student assistance in consultation with SSACI.

**WHEREAS**, fees eligible for student aid provided through the Frank O'Bannon and Twenty-first Century Scholars programs are limited to fees charged by a university uniformly to all students (i.e. mandatory fees).

**WHEREAS**, consistency in how mandatory fees are defined is vital to the efficient integration of all student financial aid programs administered by SSACI.

**WHEREAS**, some fees not determined as mandatory fees under IC 21-14-4-3 and IC 21-14-7-5 may warrant fee remission eligibility, on a case-by-case basis, as determined jointly by SSACI and ICHE.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) recommends that fees eligible for remission or assistance through all student financial aid programs administered by the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) be limited to fees charged by a university uniformly to all students (i.e. mandatory fees), unless otherwise determined jointly by SSACI and ICHE, as prescribed above.