Committee: Academic and Student Affairs  
Date of Meeting: May 21, 2008

Agenda Item: Proposed Amendment to Policy 2.2 State Residency Requirements (First Reading)

- Proposed Policy Action
- Approvals Required by Policy
- Other Approvals
- Monitoring
- Information

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Mike López, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The current policy relies on a statute that has been repealed. The proposed amendment establishes a limited set of criteria for classification as a state resident. Conditions under which non-residents may pay the resident tuition rate are also established.

Background Information:

See the following page for the background information on the development of this policy.

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

This proposed amendment requires Board approval.
INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Chancellor is submitting an amendment to Policy 2.2 State Residency Requirements.

BACKGROUND

The current Board policy was approved by the Board in 1995 and has been amended only once, in 1999, to reflect a statutory change. The policy establishes the basic requirements for determination of state residency by referring to Minnesota Statutes 135A.031, Subd. 2. However, this provision of state statutes was repealed by the legislature in 2007. While it would be possible to continue referring to this statute by accessing archives on the Revisor of Statutes website, it was decided to revise the policy so that determination of residency status can be made without reference to external documents.

Historically, state residency status has determined the tuition rate that is paid by students, with non-residents paying a higher rate than Minnesota residents. Recently, many Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have adopted a policy of charging only one tuition rate, making no differentiation between residents and non-residents. Even at these colleges and universities, however, determining the state of residence of individual students is still necessary due to various federal and state reporting requirements and for institutional research purposes.

The revised policy includes language relating to the initial determination of residency at the time a student applies for admission to a college or university, and language stating that a student’s state of residency may be changed under certain conditions. The policy also includes language relating to tuition rates charged to Minnesota state residents and non-residents, and conditions under which non-residents of Minnesota may qualify for resident tuition rates. A related System Procedure, 2.2.1, describes the process to be used in determining whether a student qualifies for a change in residency status.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred as follows:

- Reviewed at Academic and Student Affairs Policy Council in February 2008.
- Planned for review and comment from faculty, students, administrators, staff, statewide student associations, statewide faculty associations and other groups through system-wide constituent mailing during April and May, 2008.
- Reviewed at MSCF Meet and Confer March 6, 2008.
- Reviewed with Leadership Council, April 1, 2008.
- Reviewed at IFO Meet and Confer April 11, 2008.
- Reviewed at MSUAASF Meet and Confer April 25, 2008.
2.2 State Residency Requirements

Part 1. Purpose. Determination of the state of residency of students is necessary for a variety of federal and state reporting requirements, for institutional research purposes, and in some cases, determination of the tuition to be charged to individual students. This policy provides standards for the initial classification of students as state residents or non-residents, determination of appropriate tuition charges, and the procedures to be followed in order to change the state residency status of students. Definition of Domicile. A person’s true, fixed and permanent living place. Domicile is the place to which a person intends to return after temporary absences. A person may have only one domicile at a time.

Part 2. Classification as State Residents. Students who meet one or more of the following conditions on the date they apply for admission to a state college or university shall be classified as residents of Minnesota.

A. Students who resided in the state for at least one calendar year immediately prior to applying for admission, or dependent students who have a parent or legal guardian residing in Minnesota on the date the students apply.

B. Minnesota residents who can demonstrate that they were temporarily absent from the state without establishing residency elsewhere.

C. Persons who moved to the state for employment purposes and, before moving and before applying for admission to a public postsecondary institution, accepted a full-time job in the state, or students who are spouses or dependents of such persons.

Part 2. Determination of In-State Tuition.

Subpart A. Statute. Students shall be eligible to pay in-state tuition if they meet the criteria of Minnesota State Statute 135A.031, subd. 2.

Subpart B. Demonstrating domicile. Students may establish eligibility for in-state tuition by demonstrating domicile in Minnesota before the beginning of any semester or quarter. Students have the burden of proving domicile for purposes of in-state tuition.

1. Students who seek to qualify for in-state tuition must first meet the following threshold requirements:
   a. Students must have resided in Minnesota for at least one calendar year immediately prior to applying for in-state tuition.
   b. Residence in Minnesota must not be merely for the purpose of attending a college or university.

2. Each of the following additional facts and circumstances will be considered when responding to a petition for in-state tuition. No one of these factors is either necessary or sufficient to support a claim for in-state tuition.
   a. Continuous presence in Minnesota during period when not enrolled as a student.
   b. Sources for financial support are generated within Minnesota.
3. The following circumstances, standing alone, shall not constitute sufficient evidence of domicile to affect eligibility for instate tuition under these regulations, but may be considered as part of the demonstration of the facts and circumstances listed above.
   a. Voting or registration for voting.
   b. The lease of living quarters.
   c. A statement of intention to acquire a domicile in Minnesota.
   d. Domicile of student's spouse in Minnesota.
   e. Automobile registration.
   f. Other public records, e.g., birth and marriage records.

Subpart C. Exceptions. Individuals in the following categories shall qualify for instate tuition rates:

1. Graduate students appointed to graduate assistant positions.
2. Students who qualify under a Board-approved agreement between a governmental subdivision and a college or university.
3. Colleges and universities may adopt a policy to exempt high ability students who are in the top 15 percent of their high school class or who score above the 85th percentile on a nationally-normed, standardized achievement test and who reside in states that do not have reciprocity agreements with Minnesota.
4. Students who qualify under a college or university affirmative action program consistent with law and approved by the Chancellor or designee.
5. Nonimmigrant Japanese students who have completed a program of study of at least one academic year at Akita campus and have been recommended by the provost for transfer to a Minnesota state college or university and who retain their legal visa status.
6. Students who are recognized as refugees by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
7. Colleges and universities may adopt a policy to exempt nonimmigrant international students classified under 8., U.S.C. 1101 (a) (15) (B), (C), (D), (F), (H), (J), and (M).
8. U.S. military personnel serving on active duty assignment in Minnesota, and their spouses and dependent children.

Part 3. Tuition. Students who are classified as Minnesota state residents shall be charged the resident tuition rate. Students who are residents of states with which the state of Minnesota has a reciprocity agreement shall be charged the appropriate reciprocity tuition rate. All other students shall be charged the non-resident tuition rate, unless they qualify under one of the exceptions provided in Part 4, below.

Part 4. Non-Resident Students Allowed to Pay the Resident Tuition Rate.

Subpart A. Required Exceptions. Non-residents of Minnesota who meet one or more of the following conditions shall be charged the resident tuition rate.

1. **Active Duty Military.** U.S. military personnel serving on active duty assignment in Minnesota, veterans, and their spouses and dependent children.
2. **Migrant Farmworkers.** Students who have been in Minnesota as migrant farmworkers, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 20, section 633.104, over a period of at least two years immediately before admission or readmission to a Minnesota public postsecondary institution, or students who are dependents of such migrant farmworkers.
3. **Minnesota High School Graduates.** A student who graduated from a Minnesota high school, if the student was a resident of Minnesota during the student's period of attendance at
the Minnesota high school and the student physically attends a Minnesota State College or University.

4. **Employment-related Relocation.** Persons who were employed and were relocated to the state by the person's current employer.

5. **Refugees and Asylees.** Students who are recognized as refugees or asylees by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

**Subpart B. Discretionary Exceptions.** Non-residents of Minnesota may be charged the resident tuition rate under one or more of the following exceptions.

1. **Single Tuition Rate.** With Board of Trustees approval, a college or university may adopt a policy to charge one tuition rate to all students.

2. **International Students.** Colleges and universities may charge resident tuition to nonimmigrant international students classified under 8, U.S.C. 1101 (a) (15) (B), (F), (H), (J), and (M).

3. **Graduate Assistants.** Universities may charge resident tuition to graduate students appointed to graduate assistant positions.

4. **Intergovernmental Agreements.** A college or university may have an agreement with a governmental subdivision of another state to charge certain students resident tuition approved by the Board of Trustees.

5. **High Ability Students.** Colleges and universities may adopt a policy to charge resident tuition to high ability students who are in the top 15 percent of their high school class or who score above the 85th percentile on a nationally-normed, standardized achievement test and who reside in states that do not have reciprocity agreements with Minnesota.

6. **Other Categories.** With Board of Trustees approval, colleges and universities may charge resident tuition to other specific categories of students.

**Part 5. Appeal of Initial Residency Classification.** Each college and university policy and procedure shall provide for an appeal to an appropriate college or university administrator of a decision not to classify a student as a Minnesota resident as described in this policy. The administrator’s decision shall be final. A student whose appeal is successful shall be charged the resident tuition rate retroactive to the beginning of the first term of enrollment.

**Part 6. Change of Residency Status.** Under certain conditions, students who are initially classified as not being Minnesota state residents may have their status changed to that of resident. The Chancellor shall develop a system procedure that describes the conditions under which residency status may be changed.

_Date of Implementation:_ 8/15/97;  
_Date of Adoption:_ 7/18/95,  
_Date of Subject of Revisions:_  
- 7/21/99, Subpart C, added number 8, regarding military personnel serving on active duty assignment in Minnesota  