



Enclosure 8e

April 14, 2014

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To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Clark Greene, Authorized Officer 

Date: April 11, 2014

RE: Approval of amended Tuition Policy for Employer Sponsored Learning Programs

David Dooley, President of the University of Rhode Island, Nancy Carriuolo, President of Rhode Island College, and Ray Di Pasquale, President of the Community College of Rhode Island have requested that the Board of Education make changes to the Policy F-15.0, "Tuition Policy for Employer Sponsored Learning Programs," in order that they may better serve the needs of businesses in Rhode Island seeking to improve the skills of their workers. The amended policy would be renamed, "Tuition Policy for Employer Sponsored and Selected Special Learning Programs Targeting Adult Students at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island."

I recommend --

THAT the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the amended Tuition Policy for Employer Sponsored Learning Programs as presented.

The language below (**in bold**) is proposed as an amendment to Board of Governors for Higher Education policy F – 15.0, currently entitled “Tuition Policy for Employer Sponsored Learning Programs.” The need for this amendment is to provide flexibility for establishing tuition for market-based online and selected special learning programs aimed at college educated adult students who seek further academic credentials.

**TUITION POLICY FOR EMPLOYER SPONSORED AND SELECTED SPECIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS
TARGETING ADULT STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE, AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Board of Governors for Higher Education
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Adopted: 02/20/92 (BG)
Amended: 01/23/06

Legal Citation:

PRINCIPLES

A healthy economy creates new job opportunities for individuals as well as increased tax revenues for the state. ~~To a large extent, Rhode Island's economic health depends on the increased productivity of its workers. One of the most significant ways to increase human productivity is the acquisition of new skills. The Rhode Island public higher education system offers businesses an ideal way to invest in human potential through employer sponsored learning.~~ **Many adults with college degrees are under-skilled and under-employed in today's knowledge economy that offers career pathways requiring advanced technical, technological, critical thinking, and professional skills. In order to effectively contribute to workforce development in the knowledge economy, the public higher education institutions in Rhode Island must be able to offer online and other selected special learning programs in targeted areas of economic development to expand learning opportunities for adult populations, primarily through employer-sponsored programs.**

~~Due to the small size of our state, many Rhode Island businesses employ residents of neighboring states. Under the Board's current regulations, these in-state employers have to pay out-of-state tuition for such individuals, which is roughly three times the cost of the in-state rate. This could be a disincentive for some firms to use our public institutions for their employer sponsored learning programs.~~

To contribute to economic and workforce development through online and other selected special programs and to ensure that URI, RIC, and CCRI can remain both nimble and competitive in adult education program development and delivery (including certificate and degree programs), URI, RIC, and CCRI need flexibility to develop market-based tuition and fee structures that will increase access to these largely adult non-matriculating student populations, while also covering costs associated with developing, administering, and delivering such programs.

POLICY

~~An employee of a Rhode Island business who is attending a Rhode Island public institution of higher education under an employer sponsored learning program shall be charged at in-state tuition rates regardless of the employee's state of residence. In order to attain the in-state rate, an employee must present verification at the time of registration that the course(s) being taken is covered by an employer sponsored learning program. Further, employers with such programs are required to register in advance with the public institution of higher education.~~

URI, RIC, and CCRI shall have the flexibility to establish appropriate and competitive tuition and fees for online and other selected special certificate and degree programs targeted primarily to non-matriculating adult populations, largely through employer sponsorship or contractual arrangements. The establishment of any new certificates or other program changes of 18 or fewer credits shall be subject to Board policy for approval of academic programs (Section I B 8) and would require a "Notice of Change" to be reported to the Board of Education. The tuition and fees for each program will be set considering the competitive market and demand for the program as well as the costs of developing, administering, and delivering the program, while also ensuring accessibility for potential students. All such alternative tuition and fee structures will be subject to final approval by the President of the institution following review of pertinent agreements by legal counsel.