

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.8 Amendment of a Tuition Reciprocity Agreement between Washington State Community College and West Virginia University-Parkersburg

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a Tuition Reciprocity Agreement between Washington State Community College and West Virginia University-Parkersburg was established in 1987, and subsequently renewed in 1991, 1996, was amended in 1999, 2002, and renewed in 2003, 2005, and;

WHEREAS, the current Agreement expires on June 30, 2007, and;

WHEREAS, Washington State Community College and West Virginia University-Parkersburg have proposed an amendment to the current Agreement to include Washington State Community College's American Sign Language Interpretation program and West Virginia University-Parkersburg's Technical Studies program to the current Agreement, and;

WHEREAS, under the proposed Agreement any resident of Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt, and Wood Counties of West Virginia has the opportunity to attend Washington State Community College at Ohio resident tuition rates, if enrolled in designated reciprocity programs, and;

WHEREAS, residents of Athens, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties of Ohio may enroll at West Virginia University-Parkersburg at West Virginia resident tuition rates, if enrolled in designated reciprocity eligible programs, and;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the amended Tuition Reciprocity Agreement attached is approved, for the term of August 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

Preface to Agenda Item 1

This agenda item covers the amendment to an existing tuition reciprocity agreement between Ohio and West Virginia. This tuition reciprocity agreement is entered into by and between the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, the West Virginia University Board of Governors, the Ohio Board of Regents, Washington State Community College, and West Virginia University at Parkersburg (WVUP), pursuant to provision of Section 3333.17 of the Ohio Revised Code and in compliance with rules and procedures of the aforementioned parties.

The purposes of the tuition reciprocity agreement are to continue to improve the educational opportunities available in the greater Marietta-Parkersburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and to minimize the cost of such improvements for the taxpayers and legislative bodies of both states by cooperative planning and joint educational effort. In addition to increasing student choice and enhancing the academic quality of the participating institutions, the agreement aims to minimize costly duplication of education programs, promote the maximum use of existing educational facilities, and address the increasing problems of enrollment fluctuation and fiscal constraints in the greater Marietta-Parkersburg area.

The agreement was created using a standard contract template and is institution, county, and program specific. The agreement shall be effective beginning August 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 and may be amended or renewed prior to June 30, 2007 by mutual consent of all of the parties. As the agreement must coincide with the biennial budgets of the State of Ohio, the next renewal shall be for the term of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009.

County and program eligibility changes have been made in the agreement as a means toward achieving more parity in terms of the student exchange. When last renewed in June 2005, four Ohio counties were added to the agreement, and an additional baccalaureate degree program offered by WVUP was made reciprocity eligible.

The institutions are proposing to expand the list of eligible programs by each adding an additional program to the current agreement. Washington State is proposing to add its American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation program and WVUP is proposing to add its associate and certificate level Technical Studies program to the agreement. Both parties feel that this amendment is aligned with the intent of the agreement in that the addition of these programs will expand the number of educational opportunities to residents of the Marietta-Parkersburg area while minimizing duplication of educational programs and resources.

Currently, there are sixteen Ohio students enrolled in the Technical Studies program at WVUP, with another sixteen students enrolled to begin in the fall. In addition, there are fifty students on a list waiting to enter the program. The addition of this program to the tuition reciprocity agreement will help achieve

more parity in terms of the student exchange, as the ratio of West Virginia/Ohio students will decrease from nearly 5:1 to 3:1. In addition, adding this program will serve a great access need, as WVUP is currently collaborating with the Washington County Career Center. Upon completion of their coursework at the career center, students will have the opportunity to transition into WVUP's program.

It is also important to note that both institutions and Regents' staff will meet this fall to discuss further ways to bring the agreement into parity. Proposed changes may include expanding the number of eligible Ohio counties and adding more eligible programs from WVUP. Staff anticipates that any amendment to the agreement will occur prior the June 30, 2007 renewal date.