

**Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
June 17, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Policy on Sponsored International Student and Scholar Tuition
Waivers**

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the proposed policy

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This policy is being proposed in an effort to formalize existing practices in which FGCU has provided tuition waivers for certain international students and scholars participating in an international education or cultural exchange. FGCU's sponsorship of these exchange students and scholars often includes a requirement for the university to provide tuition waived courses for the participants.

A number of international partnerships and agreements have been in use to support opportunities for FGCU students and faculty to participate in reciprocal academic exchanges. Such agreements, commonly found at universities, provide for tuition waivers at the host institution. Historically FGCU has granted tuition waivers to students from partner institutions abroad. FGCU students who have studied abroad at the partner institutions are also granted a waiver of tuition from those schools.

More recently FGCU expanded its international initiatives through participation in Fulbright and IREX (International Research and Exchange programs. These programs provide opportunities for FGCU to develop or broaden the international component of the educational experience benefitting students, faculty, and administrators. We have hosted a Fulbright scholar and several Language Teaching Assistants who have served as classroom instructors, guest lecturers and active participants in campus programs and activities. Both students and scholars are often engaged in the community as an extension of their university involvement, giving presentations and meeting with community members and organizations.

Supporting Documentation Included: “Policy on Sponsored International Student and Scholar Tuition Waivers”

Prepared by: Director of Global Initiatives and International Service Elaine Hozdik, and Associate Provost for Planning and Institutional Performance Paul Snyder

Legal Review by: General Counsel Vee Leonard (June 3, 2008)

Submitted by: Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Peg Gray-Vickrey

POLICY ON SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR TUITION WAIVERS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to enhance campus diversity and academic quality through enrollment of international students and scholars selected for specialized academic and cultural exchange programs that support international initiatives related to the university's mission.

POLICY: This policy provides authority to grant in state or out of state tuition and fee waivers for certain sponsored international students and scholars under various international academic and cultural exchange programs and agreements.

The policy will grant out of state tuition waivers in accordance with written agreements or as determined to support the development of particular initiatives that benefit FGCU. Waivers are awarded based on the University's established international partnership agreements, or participation in specific sponsored programs of international education and exchange.

APPLICATION: The Office of Global Initiatives and International Services will coordinate the granting of tuition waiver applications under this policy.

Eligibility for these waivers will be based on the following criteria.

1. Recipient can be defined as a foreign national- (a person who is neither a US citizen nor permanent resident and holds citizenship of a nation other than the United States) and must be either an:
 - a. International Student- enrolling at FGCU on a student visa, as defined by US immigration or an
 - b. International Scholar- sponsored by FGCU on an exchange visitor visa, as defined by US immigration.
2. Recipient is sponsored at FGCU under a specific academic or cultural exchange program initiated by a US or foreign government, an agency coordinating one of these programs, under an international grant program, or under written agreement of international academic exchange between FGCU and a foreign institution, and that this sponsorship is in effect through the duration of the student's or scholar's academic enrollment
3. Recipient maintains eligibility for participation in the exchange or sponsored program (including maintaining immigration status and good academic standing) in order to receive and maintain the tuition waiver. This eligibility will be reviewed on a semester basis.
4. Recipient is admitted to study at FGCU through submission of required application and support documents.
5. Recipient is enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies on a degree or non-degree-seeking basis, as full-time or part-time students, pursuant to requirements of the sponsored program in which they participate.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for awarding these tuition waivers will be maintained in the Global Initiatives and International Services (GIIS) Office. Allotment of waivers will be determined annually in consultation with the Provost's Office and Academic Deans and coordinated through GIIS. As necessary, a committee of appropriate representatives may be formed for this purpose. The amount of tuition waivers will be determined by the sponsorship agreement and academic level (graduate/ undergraduate).

ANNUAL REPORT: The Office of Global Initiatives and International Services will be responsible for submitting an annual report to the President's Executive Cabinet by June 30 of each year. The office will monitor and maintain records of waiver utilization and report on the use of such waivers to the Executive Cabinet.

Reason for Policy:

This policy is being proposed in an effort to formalize existing practices in which FGCU has provided tuition waivers for certain international students and scholars participating in an international education or cultural exchange. FGCU's sponsorship of these exchange students and scholars often includes a requirement for the university to provide tuition waived courses for the participants.

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