

Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees

SUBJECT: Student-Athlete Out-Of-State Waivers

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve FGCU policy on student-athlete out-of-state tuition waivers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Intercollegiate athletics provides a number of benefits to an institution of higher education – including the opportunity to significantly contribute to greater student diversity on campus, and the opportunity to bring national and international recognition to the institution. Gifted student-athletes from throughout the United States and around the world bring an important dimension to not only an intercollegiate athletics program, but also to an entire university. At Florida Gulf Coast University, student-athletes represent 15 countries and 19 states – which makes a positive contribution to FGCU’s profile of diversity in students.

Currently, FGCU Athletics is limited to awarding only 12 out-of-state waivers that are provided by Enrollment Services. These out-of-state waivers have enabled us to bring to FGCU student-athletes like Brian Crislip, Ryan Hopkins and Roman Brown for the men’s basketball team; Trish Flemming, Robyn Swain and Candi Myers for the women’s basketball team; Adam Gary for the men’s golf team; Franco Mata and Brian Gill for the men’s tennis team, and Juliana Garcia, Diana Murillo and Izabela Ciesinska for the women’s tennis team. They are among our best and brightest student-athletes at FGCU, and their successes in the classroom and in the competitive arena are bringing FGCU national and international recognition.

Through state budget proviso language, the state universities’ boards of trustees – including the FGCU Board of Trustees – are authorized to waive tuition and matriculation fees for purposes that support and enhance the mission of the university. In June 2002, the FGCU Board of Trustees approved a policy on student tuition waivers, and is in the position of being able to approve a similar policy on out-of-state tuition waivers for student-athletes at FGCU with no impact on the University’s financial bottom line.

If the proposal is approved it would currently amount to 32 undergraduate out-of-state tuition waivers. With these out-of-state waivers, FGCU Athletics or the student-athlete would still pay for the in-state portion of the student-athlete's tuition, plus housing, food and books. A full scholarship, for example, would cost slightly over \$10,000, vs. \$20,000. Currently all out-of-state student-athletes who are receiving any scholarship money also receive one of the 12 athletic waivers from the Office of Enrollment Management, a Latin Caribbean Waiver, an academic waiver from the OEM. These students would not be at FGCU if it were not for these waivers and would probably be replaced by less talented in-state students.

To summarize, providing the FGCU Athletics Department with these out-of-state tuition waivers would enable our coaches to recruit the best student-athletes worldwide who would contribute significantly to student diversity at FGCU *and* raise FGCU's visibility around the nation and world – while not affecting the University's bottom line when it comes to tuition revenues.

Supporting Documentation Included: Policy on Student-Athlete Out-Of-State Waivers

Prepared by: Carl McAloose, Director of Athletics

Legal Review by: Wendy Morris, General Counsel (March 23, 2004)

Submitted by: Provost Brad Bartel

POLICY ON STUDENT-ATHLETE TUITION WAIVERS

Purpose: Florida Gulf Coast University uses state-granted budget authority for the purpose of waiving the out-of-state portion of tuition for certain types of students to enhance campus diversity and academic quality in an ever-increasing competitive student market.

Policy: Waivers are awarded based on the University's established key selection criteria of recruitment, retention, diversity and service to students who meet certain initial requirements.

Application: The Office of Enrollment Management (OEM) is the central receiving and processing location for all undergraduate and graduate student waiver applications. With the assistance of a student-athlete waiver committee (consisting of the NCAA Compliance Director and Faculty Athletics Representative) the Director of Athletics may authorize out-of-state undergraduate tuition waivers that amount to half of the NCAA maximum award limits. These waivers may be awarded or renewed each year to selective undergraduate students meeting the below criteria. Undergraduate waivers are awarded in conjunction with the admission process. At the discretion of the Director of Athletics, and with assistance of a waiver committee, up to five annual out-of-state graduate waivers may be awarded or renewed each year to selective graduate students. Graduate students may receive in-state or out-of-state graduate assistant waivers or in-state or out-of-state graduate assistant matriculation fee waivers. Graduate waivers accompany graduate assistantships and may include a stipend and work requirement.

Procedure: Parameters for award and renewal eligibility differ from undergraduate and graduate students.

Undergraduate Student Waivers

Initial eligibility requirements:

√ Approval for admission to Florida Gulf Coast University as a full-time degree-seeking first time in college (12 or fewer semester hours completed at a time of entry) or transfer (more than 12 semester hours completed at time of entry) student; out-of-state residency status; and a minimum 3.0 grade point average, or a 1050 on the SAT, or a 22 on the ACT, or an outstanding record of athletic and leadership achievements determined by a student-athlete waiver committee.

Renewal requirements:

Waiver awards are guaranteed for one year only and are contingent upon continued legislative authorization. To renew, undergraduate students must continue to meet the established NCAA II eligibility criteria.

Graduate Student Waivers

Initial eligibility requirements:

√ Be approved for admission to Florida Gulf Coast University as a degree-seeking student; submit supplemental application forms; and meet any additional criteria required by the awarding College or Department.

Renewal requirements:

Waiver awards are guaranteed for one year only and are contingent upon continued legislative authorization.. To renew, graduate students must meet the conditions for renewal stipulated by the Department of Athletics and graduate program requirements.

ANNUAL REPORT: Each unit making awards is responsible for submitting an annual report to the OEM verifying compliance with all requirements by August 1 of each year. OEM will ensure that all awards are disbursed to the students and to ensure compliance with federal, state and institutions regulations and will forward all reports to the Dean of Enrollment Management. Budgetary issues and NCAA regulations will be ensured by the Director of Athletics in collaboration with the Dean of Enrollment Management.