

AGENDA ITEM 10d.

SDSU Students Outstanding Tuition for Masters and Bachelors Programs

Recommended Directive:

The Board of Regent hereby approves \$315,347 dollars from the college fund balance to pay for the outstanding tuition for students taking the SDSU online Masters and the Bachelors Degrees.

Discussion:

Twenty-six (26) students enrolled in the Inter-Disciplinary BA Program with an emphasis in Criminal Justice to help support the FSM Judicial system. Twenty-six (26) students enrolled in the Masters of Arts Program in Curriculum Instructions. Prior to these two programs, three cohorts were successful in getting their Masters Degree online using this model of delivery from SDSU. This time the State Scholarships especially from Pohnpei state where most of the enrollees came stopped awarding students in the graduate programs due to decreased in funding. The FSM National Scholarship Program gave out awards but limited, therefore, students were not kept up to date with their tuition payment in both programs.

Students asked the college to seek funding from FSM to assist them with their outstanding debts with SDSU. The college submitted on behalf of the students to the FSM President and later on had hearing with Congress to justify on behalf of the students their request. FSM Congress appropriated \$316,000 earlier this year to assist the students with the payment in keeping them current so they will continue with their programs.

The college worked with President's office to process the payment based on the appropriation but since February, it has not clear from the FSM President's office. Numerous follow-up and meetings took place with different offices at FSM to seek help in securing the payment of the fund but to no avail. At this juncture, the President requested for our two MOUs to be reviewed by FSM DOJ to advise him on the matter.

The MOU with SDSU are both terminated and so students will continue in the programs by working directly with SDSU on payment and other arrangements to finish the programs. The College can help them with scholarship applications so they can keep their attendance and finish in the programs.

We recommend that we make the payment to SDSU and continue to work with the FSM to secure the already appropriated fund to replenish our account later.

ACTION TAKEN:

- _____ Approved as presented
- _____ Approved with Modifications
- _____ Deferred to a later meeting
- _____ Disapproved

VOTE:

___ aye ___ nay ___ abstain

Date: _____