Student Association Resolution [RES.53.06]
“Veteran Status”

WHEREAS, according to the Veteran’s Authority, a veteran is “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable”\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, currently, according to State University of New York Board of Trustees Policy, all applicants that submit an application to a SUNY University through the University Common Application program are charged a $50 application fee for each university an applicant applies for,\(^2\); and

WHEREAS, “the fee is a charge for the processing services of the Application Services Center” and “the revenue generated from these admissions application activities” are used to “support university-wide marketing and enrollment services activities,”\(^2\); and

WHEREAS, the applications not submitted through the University Common Application program are still subject to an application fee, however, the “application fee of $50 will be assessed by the campus receiving the application,”\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, there are only four ways an applicant can be exempt from the application fee when submitting applications through the University Common Application program: (i) Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) applicants are eligible for four free choices, (ii) New York State residents transferring to a four-year institution from a community college with an Associate’s Degree are eligible for four free choices, (iii) “applicants applying for their last year or last two years of study in a cooperative program,”(iv) applicants that are not EOP eligible, but are still “economically needy as defined by EOP economic guidelines are eligible for four free choices,”\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, it should be SUNY policy that the application fee for veterans, who apply to state-operated universities through the University Common Application program, is waived entirely; and

WHEREAS, veterans are eligible for financial aid and in-state assistance, however, financial aid is limited; and

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WHEREAS, veterans receive limited benefits from the federal government in the form of financial assistance through the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, the GI Bill has multiple programs, however, veterans that have served on or after September 10, 2001 use only the post 9/11 GI Bill program when they choose to go to college in order to attain an education; and

WHEREAS, the post 9/11 GI Bill provides financial assistance for up to 100% of tuition and fee coverage, a monthly housing allowance, and up to $1000 a year for books and Supplies; and

WHEREAS, these benefits are limited and can vary for each veteran because the benefits have an eligibility criterion that is determined based on the number of days served after September 10, 2001, for example if a veteran served “24 months active duty” after September 10, 2001, they are eligible for 80% of the cost to go to the college (e.g. $10,000 tuition cost: $8,000 will be paid by GI Bill benefits); and

WHEREAS, according to the “detailed SUNY Enrolment Demographics” there were 1,833 veteran students enrolled in state-operated institutions in the fall of 2016, however, this number does not take into account the number of veterans that applied through the University Common Application or to a state-operated institution directly and did not get accepted into a state-operated institution, therefore, it is safe to say that the number of veteran applicants is far higher; and

WHEREAS, veteran’s already have difficulty when job seeking because, according to Ava Collins, there are ten main reasons why veterans have difficulty which include: a skills mismatch (lacking the necessary skills), skills translation (insufficient projection of experience gained from combat), education (lacking advanced degrees), new skills (difficulty acquiring work place skills), post-traumatic stress disorder, discipline (military disciplining can lead to workplace issues), Rigidity (being used to following orders lessens creativity that is needed in the workplace), culture shock (difficulty transitioning from military lifestyle to cooperate lifestyle), co-worker interactions (difficulty working with co-workers), and future deployments (veterans can be recalled); and

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3 Ibid


WHEREAS, Lisa Nagorny and Dan Pick reflect similar issues for veterans when they are looking for jobs which include: skills translation, skills mismatch, negative stereotypes (“see veterans as to rigid or formal” and have “problems with anger management or post-traumatic stress”), concern for future deployments, and Acclimation (concern that “veterans don’t completely fit into corporate culture”); and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the employment rate of veterans has fallen from 4.3% last September 2016 to 3.0% in September of 2017; now it is time that we do our part in helping this trend to continue; and

WHEREAS, student debt is rising and veterans are included in this problem; and

WHEREAS, the application fee should not be an added financial barrier for veterans that want to apply to state-operated institutions in order to better their education and better themselves so that once they graduate they have started to transition from military to civilian life and they have a fighting chance in the very competitive job market; and

WHEREAS, these brave service members have done a lot for this country through their service and the United States Government is doing their part to assist veterans through the transition into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, if it is truly SUNY’s mission to welcome veterans into a “culture of acceptance, understanding, and success” where they can use their skills “as an asset to take on new challenges going forward” and continue to be a part of something bigger, it’s time for SUNY to do its part by waiving the application fee for veteran applicants in order to reduce the financial barriers for veterans, so that they can use the money that would have been spent on application fees on items that will help to further their education, lessen debt, and give them a well-deserved leg up in the job market; and

WHEREAS, the transition from military life to civilian life is often difficult for most service members and helping our servicemembers to attain an education will mitigate the issues associated with transition and finding a job after service; it’s time to aid our service members through their transition.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Association at State University of New York at Oswego call for the application fee to be waived for veteran applicants entirely, so the financial barriers to education can be reduced for veteran applicants, therefore, making it easier for veterans to gain an education and have a leg up in the job market; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Association at the State University of New York at Oswego add its endorsement to this resolution and to urge the faculty on the Faculty Assembly to endorse this resolution as well; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Association at the State University of New York at Oswego urge members of the administration and faculty and the students at the State University of New York at Oswego to sponsor this resolution; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chancellor of SUNY, Dr. Kristina Johnson, the President of SUNY Oswego, Deborah Stanley, the President of SUNYSA, Mark Cohen, the President of the United University Professionals, Frederick Kowal, the Dean of Students at SUNY Oswego, Dr. Jerry Howland, the Associate Dean of students, Daniel Roberts, the Deans of the schools at SUNY Oswego, Pamela Michel (Education), Adrienne McCormick (Liberal Arts and Sciences), Julie Pretzat (Communication, Media, and the Arts), and Richard Skolnik (Business), the Chair of the Faculty Assembly at SUNY Oswego, Dr. Lisa Glidden, the Veteran and Military Services Coordinator, Benjamin Parker.

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