

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: January 22, 2014

Title: Proposed Policy 3.40 Recognition of Veteran Status (First Reading)

Purpose (check one):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed
New Policy or
Amendment to
Existing Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Approvals
Required by
Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Approvals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring /
Compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | |

Brief Description:

The proposed new policy establishes a requirement that state universities establish local policies to recognize veteran status as a positive factor in the admission decisions made by graduate and professional programs. The policy also requires that universities maintain records on the number of veterans who apply and the number accepted to graduate and professional programs so that this information may be reported to the legislature.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Planning and Policy

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD INFORMATION ITEM

**PROPOSED POLICY 3.40 RECOGNITION
OF VETERAN STATUS (FIRST READING)**

BACKGROUND

Legislation passed during the 2013 session requires that an applicant's veteran status be recognized as a positive factor in making admission decisions for graduate and professional degree programs at MnSCU state universities. The proposed new policy meets the requirements of the legislation by requiring that the state universities develop policies recognizing veteran status as a positive factor in admissions decisions made by individual graduate and professional programs. In addition the proposed new policy requires that state universities maintain appropriate records so that the number of veterans who apply for admission and the number accepted may be reported to the legislature.

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 197.775, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. **Recognition of veteran status.** (a) With the policy in this subdivision, the state recognizes veterans' selfless sacrifices in service to our nation, and their varied and specialized military education and training, as well as the need for their timely and meaningful reintegration into civilian society. The state also recognizes the special value of veterans in furthering the goal of creating a diverse student population in the state's postsecondary institutions.

(b) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities must adopt a policy recognizing, for applicants who are veterans, the applicant's veteran status as a positive factor in determining whether to grant admission to a graduate or professional academic degree program. The Board of Trustees must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over higher education policy and finance annually by February 15 on the number of veterans who apply for a graduate or professional academic degree program and the number accepted.

(c) The University of Minnesota, and private colleges and universities in Minnesota, are encouraged to adopt a policy recognizing, for applicants who are veterans, the applicant's veteran status as a positive factor in determining whether to grant admission to an undergraduate, graduate, or professional academic degree program.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

This is a first reading, no action is required.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

NA

Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: January 22, 2014

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD POLICY
Chapter #3 Educational Policies
Section #40 Recognition of Veteran Status

1 **3.40 RECOGNITION OF VETERAN STATUS**
2

3 **Part 1. Purpose.** This policy establishes veteran status as a factor to be recognized in evaluating
4 applicants for admission to graduate and professional programs, in accordance with Minnesota
5 Statutes 197.775.
6

7 **Part 2. Definitions.**
8

9 **Subpart A. Graduate or Professional Programs.** Graduate or professional programs
10 means post-baccalaureate educational programs leading to master’s, specialist, or doctoral
11 degrees offered by Minnesota state universities.
12

13 **Subpart B. Veteran.** Veteran means a person who is currently serving or has ever served in
14 the United State armed forces and has been discharged under honorable conditions.
15

16 **Part 3. Policy.** Each Minnesota state university shall adopt a policy recognizing, for applicants
17 who are veterans, an applicant's veteran status as a positive factor in determining whether to
18 grant admission to a graduate or professional academic degree program.
19

20 **Part 4. Report.** By January 15 of every year, each Minnesota state university shall submit a
21 report to the system office on the number of veterans who applied for a graduate or professional
22 academic degree program and the number accepted during the previous fiscal year.