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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2006

To: Chief Academic Officers
Chief Financial Officers

From: Laura M. King *LMK*
Vice Chancellor of Finance, Chief Financial Officer

Subject: Changes to the Senior Citizen Fee Statutory Language

This memorandum provides institutions with clarification of the current statute concerning the senior citizen fee and alerts institutions to changes that greatly impact current practice.

As the statute (MS 135A.52) now reads, Minnesota resident senior citizens are not charged the senior citizen fee when auditing a credit course or taking a noncredit course. It is imperative that institutions adjust current practice to align their processes with the current statutory language.

Questions have been raised concerning when seniors may enroll in courses. Senior may enroll "when space is available after all tuition-paying students have been accommodated". For the purpose of maintaining consistency across the system, the Office of the Chancellor defines "space availability" as the second day of class. Seniors should be informed that they may register during the add/drop period the day after the first day of class.

What to Charge Senior Citizens? Senior Citizen Fee vs. Tuition

| Type of Course | Resident | Non-Resident |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Courses taken for credit (open to general public) | Senior Fee | Tuition |
| Courses audited but offered for credit | No charge | Tuition |
| Noncredit courses (open to general public) | No charge | Tuition |
| Noncredit courses designed and offered specifically and exclusively to senior citizens | Tuition | Tuition |
| Courses designed and offered as closed enrollment | Tuition | Tuition |

Additional Allowable Resident Senior Citizen Charges

Please review Board Policy 5.11 Tuition and Fees and Board Policy 5.12 Tuition and Fee Due Dates, Refunds, Withdrawals and Waivers. All fees authorized by the Board of Trustees within those policies are applicable to senior citizens except for the student life/activity and athletic fees.

MS 135A.52:

"Subdivision 1. [FEES AND TUITION.] Except for an administration fee established by the governing board at a level to recover costs, to be collected only when a course is taken for credit, a senior citizen who is a legal resident of Minnesota is entitled without payment of tuition or activity fees to attend courses offered for credit, audit any courses offered for credit, or enroll in any noncredit courses in any state supported institution of higher education in Minnesota when space is available after all tuition-paying students have been accommodated. A senior citizen enrolled under this section must pay any materials, personal property, or service charges for the course. In addition, a senior citizen who is enrolled in a course for credit must pay an administrative fee in an amount established by the governing board of the institution to recover the course costs. There shall be no administrative fee charges to a senior citizen auditing a course. For the purposes of this section and section 135A.51, the term "noncredit courses" shall not include those courses designed and offered specifically and exclusively for senior citizens.

The provisions of this section and section 135A.51 do not apply to noncredit courses designed and offered by the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities specifically and exclusively for senior citizens. Senior citizens enrolled under the provisions of this section and section 135A.51 shall not be included by such institutions in their computation of full-time equivalent students when requesting staff or appropriations.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 135A.52, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. [TERM; INCOME OF SENIOR CITIZENS.] (a) Except under paragraph (b), there shall be no limit to the number of terms, quarters or semesters a senior citizen may attend courses, nor income limitation imposed in determining eligibility.

(b) A senior citizen enrolled in a closed enrollment contract training or professional continuing education program is not eligible for benefits under subdivision 1."

c: Presidents