February 27, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Craig H. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Updated 2017 Veterans Choice Act (In accordance with Public Law No. 115-251)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the Updated 2017 Veterans Choice Act in accordance with the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act ("Choice Act"), Public Law No. 115-251, and Section 10a-105 of the Connecticut State Statutes.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the Choice Act, The Board of Trustees' approved the 2017 Choice Act Resolution ("Resolution") in December 2017. The Resolution authorizes certain veterans and veteran family members who are using benefits under Chapter 30, Chapter 33, or Fry Scholarship, of Title 38, United States Code to be charged tuition at the in-state rate. Section 301 of Pub. L. No. 115-251 recently expanded the scope of the Choice Act to include benefits being used under 38 U.S.C. Ch. 31.

Veterans using educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. Ch. 31 and live in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut are now eligible to be charged tuition at the in-state rate.

UPDATED BASIC COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW

The following University of Connecticut students will be charged tuition at the in-state rate:

- A veteran using educational assistance under either Chapter 30 or Chapter 33 of 38 U.S.C., who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge or release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone using transferred Chapter 33 benefits who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the
school within three years of the transferor’s discharge or release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the service member’s death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

- Anyone described above while he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at the same school. The person so described must have enrolled in the school prior to the expiration of the three year period following discharge, release, or death described above and must be using educational benefits under Chapter 30, Chapter 33, or Fry Scholarship, of Title 38, United States Code.

- A veteran using educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. Ch. 31 who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).

**UPDATED OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MILITARY PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

The following University of Connecticut students will be charged tuition at the in-state rate:

- A veteran using educational assistance under either Chapter 30 or Chapter 33 of 38 U.S.C., who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school after release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

- Anyone using transferred Chapter 33 benefits who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).

- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).

- A veteran using educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. Ch. 31 who lives in Connecticut while attending the University of Connecticut (regardless of his/her formal state of residence).

**RATIONALE**

- This change is being made in order to comply with an update to Federal Law.