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TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President

FROM: Dr. Paul Carlsen
LCTCS Chief Content Officer

SUBJECT: Fee Assessment for Corrections Education and Training

DATE: March 2, 2017

FOR BOARD ACTION:

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board authorize the System President to provide for the assessment of a Correction Education and Training Services Fee to all inmate students from correction facilities, up to \$250 per student credit hour, beginning in the spring 2017 semester. The fee will be in place of all student fees not directly applicable to inmate students from correctional facilities and will not be capped at 12 student credit hours. Staff further recommends that five percent of any revenue realized from this fee go toward need-based financial aid.

Background: Educating students from correctional facilities (inmates) increases opportunities for meaningful post-release employment and helps reduce Louisiana's overall recidivism rate. While there are certain current student fees that do not directly benefit inmates and are proposed to be eliminated under this proposal (such as the Building Use Fee, Parking Fees, etc.), the costs associated with educating inmates exceeds the costs of educating traditional students. This fee will serve a cost recovery mechanism to ensure colleges are not losing resources educating inmates.

Act 377 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature empowers the Board, within the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, the authority to impose additional mandatory fees and mandates that five percent from additional revenue realized go toward need-based financial assistance to students. In this circumstance, the five percent will be used to fund the Five for Six Scholarship. This scholarship was established in fall 2015 and funds the first six credit hours for adult students who do not have a high school degree. Upon successful completion of those six credit hours the student becomes eligible for federal financial aid.

History of Prior Action: The Board used its authority under Act 377 of 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature to approve the assessment of the Excess Credit Hour fee at the June 24, 2016 by the Executive Committee later ratified by the full board at the September 14, 2016 meeting.

Fiscal Impact: It is not anticipated that the full fee of \$250 per student credit will be assessed. Inmates have completed 26,959 student credit hours in the 2016-17 academic year. If each inmate was charged the full amount of \$250 per credit hour, \$6.7 million would be collected.

APPROVED

Signature and date: slk 3/8/17
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Benefits to the System: If approved, this fee will assist in the budget stabilization of LCTCS colleges and ensure that inmates receive quality re-entry and rehabilitation services.



Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Dr. Monty Sullivan

3-8-17

Date