



RESOLUTION

authorizing

TRUSTEES' SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

June 13, 1997

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System has established the goal of increasing enrollment at each of the universities, and

WHEREAS, The four universities are facing increasing competitive pressures in the recruitment and retention of talented freshman and transfer students, and

WHEREAS, The universities have the goal of attracting students with exceptional talent whose attendance can contribute to the institution, and

WHEREAS, There are non-state, non-tuition and non-student fee revenues available, until a restricted endowment for this purpose is established, to support a pilot program of merit-based scholarships, now, therefore be it

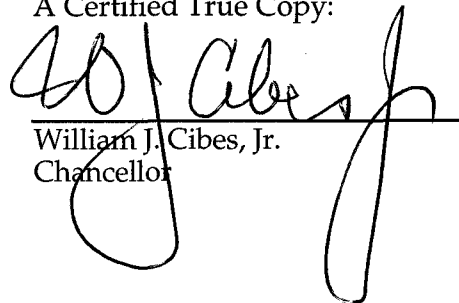
RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System authorizes each university to award Connecticut State University Trustees Scholarships to a limited number of students in an amount not to exceed the amount of tuition charged an in-state student per year, for the specific purpose of recruiting and retaining full-time entering freshmen and full-time entering transfer students of exceptional talent who might not otherwise consider attending a CSU university. The scholarships shall be awarded under the following conditions:

- (a) Such awards shall be in addition to other grants-in-aid provided to students on the basis of financial need and/or enrollment in the university's honors program.
- (b) The source of the revenue shall not be state appropriations nor student tuition and fee revenue, but shall be derived from other sources.
- (c) Under the direction of the university president, the admissions office at the university in coordination with its financial aid office shall administer the awarding of these scholarships under a process which by the amount of the award and the timing of the award maximizes the recruitment or retention potential of the scholarship.

- (d) If the recipient's full financial need is not met by the merit scholarship, the scholarship shall be attributed to the "self-help" portion of unmet need as calculated by the financial aid office.
- (e) The cumulative funding allocated to this program at each university for each class of entering students shall not exceed an amount equivalent to 0.5% of tuition revenue based on the amount generated by the campus' full-time undergraduate enrollment of the previous fall semester.
- (f) Such scholarships may be in any amount not to exceed the amount of tuition charged to in-state students per year.
- (g) Under the direction of the president, the university shall establish and publish the criteria on the basis for which such scholarships will be awarded. Such criteria may include, but shall not be limited to, need, rank-in-class, scores on standardized tests, measures of leadership, or grade point average for first time freshmen or transfer applicants.
- (h) Under the direction of the president, the university shall identify criteria for continuing eligibility for the scholarships, provided that no student shall receive such scholarships for more than eight semesters. Such criteria shall include the completion of a minimum of 24 credit hours annually with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0.
- (i) Each university president shall annually evaluate the success of this program in achieving measurable outcomes with respect to the recruitment and retention of talented students, and report such outcomes to the Board of Trustees, and be it

RESOLVED, That this program shall terminate on June 30, 2001, unless each university develops an endowment fund for the specific purpose of these awards in an amount sufficient to continue adequate funding, and the program is reauthorized by the Board of Trustees.

A Certified True Copy:


William J. Cibes, Jr.
Chancellor

ITEM

Establishment of CSU Trustees Scholarships

BACKGROUND

In addition to grants-in-aid to students based on financial need, the Board of Trustees has authorized the CSU universities to award merit-based scholarships for the purpose of recruiting and retaining academically outstanding students (BR # 92-14 and BR # 93-71). These merit-based scholarships are supported by operating fund sources, including tuition and fees, and have come to be associated almost entirely with enrollment in the honors program at each university.

Since the current merit-based scholarship program was authorized, the competition for students has increased, and the Board of Trustees has established the goal of increasing enrollment at the universities. At the same time, the Board of Trustees has requested that the academic profile of the student body be raised. Under these circumstances, the university presidents have requested an expansion of the merit scholarship program as an additional recruitment and retention tool for academically outstanding students who might not otherwise attend our universities.

ANALYSIS

Because selection of students for the honors program is a lengthy process, the award of the present merit-based scholarships frequently does not occur on a timely enough basis to affect enrollment. Moreover, the merit-based scholarship program does not provide much flexibility in the amount of the award, as it is limited to either the full or half the amount of the total of in-state tuition and fees.

Some members of the Academic Affairs Committee felt that merit scholarships should not be offered at all until all need-based scholarships have been fully funded. Other Committee members have indicated that they do not believe that non-need based scholarships should be funded from student tuition and fee revenue or from state appropriations, unless and until need-based financial aid is fully funded. Specifically, Committee members have stated that they believe the proper source for such a program should be from private funds from an endowment created for this purpose. Such an endowment, of course, does not currently exist.

However, funds are available at each university from such sources as vending machine revenue, parking fines, and interest from the fund balance, as well as other miscellaneous sources. Each university has expressed a willingness to use such funding sources for a temporary pilot program, until an endowment is properly funded.

Committee members also expressed differing views on the criteria for such an award, some feeling that the grade point average (GPA) requirement should be as high as 3.5 while others felt this would reduce the pool of applicants and potentially defeat the purpose of the scholarship. There was agreement that criteria for continuing eligibility include the completion of at least 24 semester hours annually. The Committee sought to resolve these differences and agreed that the awarding of the scholarship should be based on need as well as other stated criteria. They also agreed that the eligibility criteria include a GPA of 3.0 and 24 credits annually.

The proposed policy authorizes a more flexible pilot program of merit-based scholarships--the Trustees Scholarship Program--separate and apart from the current "Presidential Merit Scholarship," to be funded from non-state, non-tuition and non-student fee revenues.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the pilot Trustees Scholarship Program with a sunset date of June 30, 2001, with continuation after 2001 to be based on the program's success in enrolling outstanding students who might not otherwise enroll.