MEMORANDUM

November 20, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Amendments to 8 NYCRR Part 302: Waiver of Application Fees for Veterans and Spouses

Action Requested

This resolution authorizes the filing of a Notice of Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rulemaking to revise 8 NYCRR Part 302 to waive application fees for military veterans and their spouses at SUNY State-operated campuses. This resolution also strongly encourages the Boards of the 30 Community Colleges operating under the program of the State University of New York, and the independent Boards of Trustees of Statutory Colleges at Cornell and Alfred Ceramics, to adopt similar waivers.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, in recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of all those who serve our nation, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo engaged with SUNY leadership to determine that immediate action be taken to waive application fees for military veterans and their spouses; and

Whereas NYS Education Law section 355 gives the Board of Trustees authority to regulate all tuition and fees at the State-operated campuses of the SUNY System; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Chancellor, or designee, be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to prepare, in accordance with the provisions of the State Administrative Procedure Act, a Notice of Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rulemaking, as well as any re-issuance of such Notice of Emergency Adoption as may be necessary during the pendency of the Proposed Rulemaking, with
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respect to amendments to Part 302 of Title 8 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, to read as follows:

8 NYCRR Part 302 is amended by adding a new section 302.18 to read as follows:

§ 302.18. Waiver of application fees for military veterans and spouses. The admissions application fee shall be waived for all eligible military veterans and spouses of military veterans, as defined by the Chancellor or designee, who apply for admission to a SUNY State-operated campus.; and, be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor, or designee, be, and hereby is, authorized to adopt or amend policies, procedures, and/or guidelines not inconsistent with these regulations, as adopted; and, be it further

Resolved that the Boards of Trustees of the 30 Community Colleges operating under the program of the State University of New York, as well as the independent Boards of Trustees of the Statutory Colleges at Cornell and Alfred Ceramics are strongly encouraged to adopt similar waivers of their application fee for military veterans and their spouses.

Background

This resolution would authorize emergency rulemaking to waive application fees for military veterans and their spouses at SUNY State-operated campuses. This resolution would also encourage all SUNY Community Colleges and Statutory Colleges to adopt similar waivers.

Veterans and their families make unending personal and professional sacrifices as they serve our nation. In recognition of these sacrifices, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo engaged with SUNY leadership to determine that the Board of Trustees take action to waive application fees for military veterans and spouses applying for admission to SUNY campuses. By waiving these fees, the State University of New York can remove this initial financial barrier to accessing higher education, and can help to ease the transition back to civilian life by encouraging educational advancement and opportunity.

Corresponding action is also scheduled to be taken by the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees at its December 2019 meeting, moving
closer to making the application free for military veterans and their spouses at all public colleges in New York State.