

Motion re Military Withdrawal

Approved by Admissions & Standards, September 9, 2014

Approved by Senate Executive Committee, October 2014

Motion:

Section 1332.45 of the Undergraduate Catalog is modified as follows: **Additions** ~~Deletions~~

Military Withdrawal

A student who is on active duty or is a military reservist (including members of the National Guard and United States Army Reserve) may withdraw from the University if called for active duty or reassignment.

Withdrawal for Military Service: Refunds and Grades

Full refunds of tuition and mandatory fees and pro rata refunds of elective fees may be considered for students who are:

- 1. Military reservists (including members of the National Guard) who, after having enrolled in courses and paid tuition and fees, receive orders without prior notice to active duty, reassigned for temporary duty, or mandatory training and the orders prevent completion of the term;**
- 2. Commissioned officers of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSC) who receive deployment orders in response to a public health crisis or national emergency after having enrolled in courses and paid tuition and fees and the orders prevent completion of the term;**
- 3. Active duty military personnel who, after having enrolled in courses and paid tuition and fees, receive reassignment, a temporary duty assignment, or a training assignment without prior notice and the orders prevent completion of the term; or,**
- 4. Otherwise unusually and detrimentally affected by the activation of members of the reserve components or the deployment of active duty personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States who demonstrate a need for exceptional equitable relief.**

This policy does not apply to a student enlisting in the Armed Forces prior to or during a semester, unless the student presents documentation showing his/her date to report to initial training was changed without the student's prior knowledge and the new reporting date prevents completion of the term.

Students must officially withdraw and submit official orders to the Office of the Registrar, Military Outreach Center. The student is not eligible for a military withdrawal in any course in which the student has completed the course requirements (for example, taking the final exam or submitting the final paper) and/or a grade has been assigned. Elective fees are to be prorated according to the date on which the student officially withdraws. Students who withdraw and receive a full tuition refund will receive a grade of "WM" (military withdrawal) for all courses from which the student has withdrawn.

Withdrawal for Military Service: Refunds and Grades

Appeals Committee

Per the BOR's policy on Military Service Refunds, 7.3.5.3, requests for exceptional relief are made directly to the president of the institution and the president will make a determination on each request expeditiously.

Requests for course withdrawals due to military service will first be considered by the certifying officials in the Office of the Registrar, Military Outreach Center. If a student's request is denied and the student feels his/her case requires exceptional relief due to an unusual or detrimental activation, then the request will be considered by the Military Outreach Committee.

The Military Outreach Committee consists of academic advisors, VA benefit certifying officials, ROTC representatives, associate deans and university representatives from the Counseling Center and Affirmative Action. This committee will make recommendations to approve or deny students' requests to the Vice President for Enrollment and Provost/VP for Academic Affairs.

Appeals of the decision of the Vice President for Enrollment and Provost/VP for Academic Affairs may be initiated by the student within 5 business days of notification of the Vice President for Enrollment's decision and will be considered by the Provost.

Appeals of the decision of the Provost may be initiated by the student within 5 business days of notification of the Provost's decision and will be considered by the President.

Rationale:

The policy on Withdrawal for Military Service is intended for students who receive military orders unexpectedly and the orders prevent the students from completing the semester.

When the current policy was implemented, activation and deployment of the reserve component of the U.S. Military was deemed a response to "emergency" situations, supplementing active duty forces. The nature of military deployment has since evolved and now requires temporary duty (TDY) of both active duty and reserve personnel as part of normal unit rotation in war and/or in threat of war. While TDY plays a crucial role in relocating military personnel to meet the needs of the services, a service member's orders may not indicate the temporary assignment is an emergency even if it is to a combat zone. These temporary assignments can last up to 179 days. A move of 180 days or more is considered a permanent change of station (PCS). Orders to go TDY are not optional.

The state of Georgia currently has 62,714 active duty and 42,910 Reservist and National Guard members, a number expected to increase substantially over the next few years. Each of these federalized service members has access to \$4,500 per year in tuition assistance for higher education. A large percentage of these service members are within the age cohort of the under-served, non-traditional student. Enlisted

personnel must actively work toward obtaining an Associate's or Bachelor's degree to be eligible for promotion or to receive advanced military training. Officers must work toward a Master's degree or higher to be considered for promotion and to receive highly rated Officer Effectiveness Reports. It is in the best interest of the University to support a policy that enables service members to attend and return from TDY without academic penalty and financial hardship.