

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

September 20, 2005

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Board held a Special teleconference meeting on September 20, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. from its offices in Hamilton.

PRESENT: Michael Angulo, Esq.; Mr. James Avery; Dr. Harold Deutschman; Dr. Phyllis Della Vecchia; Ms. Dana Downer; Ms. Caroline Ehrlich, Treasurer's Designee; Mr. Keith Green; Ms. Wilma Harris; Dr. Harvey Kesselman; Dr. William Rogers; Warren Smith, Esq. and Ms. Maria I. Torres, members.

Ms. Melissa Hager, Deputy Attorney General; Ms. Victoria Pratt, Esq., Governor's Authority Unit and HESAA staff.

ABSENT: Ms. Rossy Matos; Mr. Frank Mertz; Ms. Jean McDonald Rash; Christian Samay, Esq. and Mr. Mubarak Guy.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and stated that the meeting had been noticed in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Smith welcomed the Board members. He advised members of the public who wished to speak to register with Ms. Mercedes Powell.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Powell to call the roll.

RESOLUTION 15:05 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TUITION AID GRANT AND GARDEN STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS REGULATION, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, RESIDENCY.

Sudha Tiwari Kantor, Esq., presented this item to the Board.

Board approval is requested for Resolution 15:05, Adopting Proposed Amendments to the General Provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs regulation, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, Residency.

N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-20.1, which was enacted and made effective as of March 28, 2005, waives residency requirements for children of transferred military personnel. These dependent children will be considered residents of New Jersey for the purposes of qualifying for a Tuition Aid Grant (TAG). If adopted, this amendment will bring the

regulations in conformance with this new legislation, and will add other clarifying language.

Ms. Kantor stated that the clarifying language addresses the eligibility of dependent students whose parents are not domiciled in New Jersey. This clarifying language would not impact program administration or student eligibility, but would reinforce the legislative intent that state grants and scholarships be provided only to dependent students whose parent(s) is a New Jersey resident.

On May 11, 2005, the HESAA Board approved a resolution to publish the proposed amendments to the General Provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarships Programs regulation, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, Residency. This resolution appeared in the July 18, 2005 New Jersey Register at 37 N.J.R. 2602. The legislative review period and public comment period expired on September 16, 2005. Ms. Kantor informed the Board that no comments were received to this rule proposal.

Ms. Kantor recommended that the Board approve Resolution 15:05 which adopts the amendments to the N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, Residency as proposed and published in the New Jersey Register at 37 N.J.R. 2602.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by M. Wilma Harris and seconded by Maria Torres. Ms. Powell took a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 16:05 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE GARDEN STATE SCHOLARSHIPS REGULATIONS, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-4.2, ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS – CLASS RANK)

Ms. Sherry Fox presented this item to the Board.

Board approval is requested of Resolution 16:05, adopting amendments to the Garden State Scholarship regulation, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-4.2, Academic Requirements.

Historically, only students who rank in the top 10% of their class at the end of the junior year and who meet other academic criteria have received Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar award offers. Recently, HESAA has noted an increase in the number of charter, magnet, small religious, and other private schools submitting nominees for the Garden State Scholarship Program. As a result, some students at schools with very small class sizes who rank first, second, or third in the class at the end of the junior year receive a Distinguished Scholar award offer, even though they do not rank in the top 10% of the class. If approved, this amendment will ensure that all students who receive recognition as Distinguished Scholars rank in the top 10% of the class.

On May 11, 2005, the HESAA Board approved a resolution to publish the proposed amendments to the General Provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State

Scholarships Programs regulation, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-4.2, Academic Requirements (Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars – Class Rank). This resolution appeared in the July 18, 2005 New Jersey Register at 37 N.J.R. 2602. The legislative review period and public comment period expired on September 16, 2005. Ms. Fox informed the Board that no comments were received.

It was recommended that the Board approve Resolution 16:05, which adopts the amendments to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-4.2 as published in the New Jersey Register on July 18, 2005.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by James Avery and seconded by Maria Torres. Ms. Powell took a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 17:05 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE GARDEN STATE SCHOLARSHIPS REGULATION, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-4.2, ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST (SAT) SCORES).

Ms. Sherry Fox presented this item to the Board.

Board approval is requested of Resolution 17:05, adopting amendments to the Garden State Scholarship regulation, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-4.2, Academic Requirements (Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores).

This amendment is required as a result of modifications to the SAT implemented by The College Board in March 2005 and will permit HESAA to continue to select GSS recipients using the same eligibility requirements currently in place.

That is, HESAA will continue to select Distinguished Scholars based on a combined minimum score of 1260 or higher on the math and critical reading sections of the SAT. The new writing component will not be considered in the Distinguished Scholar selection process at this time. This will also apply to the Outstanding Scholar Recruitment Program.

On May 11, 2005, the HESAA Board approved a resolution to publish the proposed amendments to the General Provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarships Programs regulation, N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2, Academic Requirements (Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores). This resolution appeared in the July 18, 2005 New Jersey Register at 37 N.J.R. 2602. The legislative review period and public comment period expired on September 16, 2005. Ms. Fox informed the Board that the Authority received no comments regarding this rule proposal.

It was recommended that the Board approve Resolution 17:05, which adopts the amendments to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2 as proposed and published in the New Jersey Register on July 18, 2005.

Ms. Torres asked whether the ACT score is used in lieu of the SAT score. Ms. Fox replied that the SAT is the priority score but they will accept the ACT if the student did not take the SAT. DAG Melissa Hager stated that this provision is in the regulations. Ms. Torres asked what score of the ACT is used? Ms. Fox will provide that information to the Board at a later time.

Dr. Kesselman questioned if the colleges are aware of the ACT score option. He asked if the ACT scores appear on the lists that are forwarded to the schools? Ms. Fox informed Dr. Kesselman that the ACT scores are included on the list.

Dana Downer asked wither the financial aid personnel in the schools are aware of the ACT option. Ms. Fox replied that they are advised of the ACT scores.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Dr. Harvey Kesselman and seconded by Keith Green. Ms. Powell took a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith said the next meeting would be on October 19, 2005 at 10:00 am.

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Green. James Avery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.