**FY2020-21 KENTUCKY EDUCATOR GRADUATE**

**TUITION DISCOUNT**

**REQUEST:**

Approval of the FY2020-21 Kentucky Educator Graduate Tuition Discount of $350/credit hour. Application of the Kentucky Educator Tuition Discount to all Kentucky residents who hold a current Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) educator certificate.

**FACTS:**

The Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE) allows institutions to set tuition rates for special populations.

In Fall 2018, the EPSB revised its interpretation and processing of Kentucky Statute 161.1211, Rank System and Change, emphasizing continuing education as a professional option for teachers seeking professional advancement and recognition. Prior interpretation and processing of this statute emphasized Master’s degrees as the most viable path for professional advancement. To date, WKU’s educator graduate tuition discount has been restricted to certified educators enrolled in educator programs (primarily master’s and rank programs). This practice serves as an access barrier for certified educators wishing to take individual courses for continuing education as allowable by Statute 161.1211.

The WKU 2019-2020 Kentucky Educator graduate tuition discount of $415/credit hour is among the highest of Kentucky peer institutions (3rd highest n~9). $350/credit hour reflects a competitive tuition discount amongst peer institutions (3rd lowest n~9).

The Tuition and Mandatory Student Fee Schedule for FY2020-21 will be submitted for KY CPE approval on May 28, 2020 following an approval by the Board of Regents.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

Reducing tuition per credit will immediately reduce the tuition received per student. Revising the application of the tuition discount from the program level to the student level increases the quantity of eligible students seeking continuing education through WKU graduate courses. This revision also increases the number of graduate courses available to eligible students. Graduate education enrollment and net tuition is expected to rise as a result of increased access to courses and increases in the eligible student population.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends that the Board of Regents approve the FY 2020-21 Kentucky Educator Graduate Tuition Discount as described herein.

**MOTION: Approve the FY2020-21 Kentucky Educator Graduate Tuition Discount.**