

**National Guard College Assistance Program (NG CAP)
Review/Evaluation Committee Meeting
Main Conference Room
January 21, 2014
3:00 p.m.**

SC Army National Guard

LTC Clarence Bowser

SC Air National Guard

MSgt. Ceomara Timmons

CHE Staff

Mr. Michael Brown

Ms. Lorinda Copeland

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Institutional Representatives

Ms. Cindy Peachey

Ms. Michelle Upchurch

Mr. Michael Brown stated the minutes from the September 4, 2013 meeting did not need approval and asked the committee to communicate revisions if needed. The purpose of the meeting was to give the advisory committee the opportunity to review the proposed language changes for the NG CAP regulations.

1. Synopsis:

Mr. Brown reported this section was revised to state that revisions were being made to the regulations.

2. 62-251. Program Definitions

- A. "Academic Year" – Mr. Brown reported "academic Year" was further defined. Dr. Woodfaulk wanted to insure the committee was clear with the definition. After a brief discussion it was determined the proposed language was fine.
- G. "Degree-seeking student" – Military members are not eligible for the NG CAP beyond the bachelor's degree level. The following verbiage was removed: The program of study that does not require a bachelor's degree for acceptance and leads to a graduate degree.
- P. "Attempted hours" - Mr. Brown stated the definition was added because attempted hours will be added to the regulations. Dr. Woodfaulk asked if hours taken should be changed to hours enrolled. After a brief discussion, attempted hours shall be defined as all the hours/classes enrolled, whether passed or not.

3. 62.252. Program benefits and Maximum Assistance.

- A. Correction was made to correct the section that references eligible institutions.
 - (1) Additional language was added to this section to further reiterate that the maximum award will be determined each year based on available funds.
- B. This section was revised to define semester hours as attempted semester hours and to state the award may be prorated so CAP funded hours will not exceed 130 attempted semester hours or

attempted related quarter hours. Mr. Brown stated the verbiage regarding 130 attempted hours is currently a procedure which will become regulation. Dr. Woodfaulk asked if it was possible to use equivalent quarter hours versus related quarter hours and asked if the translation/conversion for quarter hours was related or equivalent. After a brief discussion it was decided related quarter hours would be replaced with equivalent quarter hours. Ms. Cindy Peachey suggested the wording "may" be prorated be changed to "will or must" be prorated because may indicates an option. The committee agreed to use "will" be prorated.

- E. Mr. Brown stated language is being added to the regulations regarding the CAP application which currently is a procedure. Language will also be added regarding the application for members who intend to enroll only for the spring or summer semester.

4. 62-253 National Guard College Assistance Program Terms of Eligibility (Student Eligibility)

- C. Mr. Brown stated the procedure regarding defaults on federal student loans will now become regulation.
- D. Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible upon completion of Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) versus eligibility on the day of enlistment. MSgt. Timmons of the Air National Guard stated their training is not called combat or AIT. Basic Military Training (BMT) and Technical Training will be added.

5. 62-254 Continued Eligibility and Transfer Students

- A. Grammar change.

(1) No discussion.

(2) Mr. Brown stated the language regarding the CAP application for students who plan to enroll for the spring or summer term only is repeated.

6. 62-259 Benefits Disbursement and Reimbursements

- B.No discussion.

7. 62-263 Funding

Mr. Brown reported the SC National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program is officially closed and the language regarding the program will be deleted.

Mr. Brown asked the committee what is considered a full ROTC scholarship because the question was asked. Ms. Peachey responded she has never had ROTC students eligible for CAP but to her full would be tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Ms. Lorinda Copeland stated the question had also been asked if the database could be updated to reflect ineligibility due to an ROTC Scholarship. MSgt. Timmons responded the member would have to be asked and Lt. Colonel Bowser responded it would have to be an inquiry on the CAP application. Mr. Brown stated going forward a full ROTC scholarship would be defined.

Ms. Peachey stated she would like to see things sure because there was too much back and forth. Students were awarded funds, became ineligible and eligible again. When they became ineligible,

institutional funds were expended because the students had done what they were asked to do. Ms. Peachey would like to know institutions can stand on something that is firm because there was too much time spent. Ms. Peachey stated speaking for her institution, if the back and forth continues they will take the stand not to award funds until the last day of class until they know what the award will be which will make the student pay out of pocket. Mr. Brown stated this is one reason the regulations are being fine tuned. Ms. Peachey stated if there are going to be changes they need to be made the next semester, not the current semester. Ms. Michelle Upchurch of Limestone stated their students don't know who or what to believe because every time they talk to the students they are told something different. Mr. Brown agreed changes should take place the next semester and Ms. Peachey responded this is not what we have been doing. Ms. Peachey stated she has discussed with her director that they can't keep looking like they don't know what they are talking about because it undermines the institution and it feeds. These students can be high profile because they will go to the president's office or their representative and will get attention.

Dr. Woodfaulk asked if the problem was due to the deadline. Ms. Peachey responded it was the back and forth with the 130 credit hours and the prorating which was never done before. Mr. Brown stated as a result of conversation with staff it was concluded the procedures would be weak to stand on and the back and forth was to eliminate students going to their legislators. Ms. Peachey would like for everyone to be on the same page by August 1st because commitments are made. Ms. Peachey doesn't have a problem telling students if they become ineligible due to something they did. It's the taking away of money already received. Ms. Lorinda Copeland asked Ms. Peachey if the 130 hours from the time of initial eligibility helped students, why they expended institutional money. Ms. Peachey responded they had already made commitments and their director was not going to go back and take the funds away. Ms. Copeland responded USC Columbia could have gotten the money from CHE. Ms. Peachey stated she is not talking a lot of money or students and as an institution they want to know what they are talking about and not back and forth. Mr. Brown stated one issue is also the National Guard auditors.

Ms. Peachey stated a better job needs to be done regarding the initial date of eligibility. The new applications overrode the initial date of eligibility and this date is what the schools will rely on. Ms. Ceomara Timmons stated there may be discrepancies because she uses the reenlistment date because she has no way of going back to the initial date of eligibility. Mr. Brown responded when members reenlist, the initial eligibility date should not change.

Mr. Brown stated that a NG CAP presentation will occur at the next statewide financial aid meeting (SCASFAA)

The meeting was adjourned.