



BOARD OF REGENTS

SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION, INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

TOPIC: Clarification of the Definition of "Spouse" in BOR Policies

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: September 17, 2010

SUMMARY: Questions have arisen at several USM institutions concerning the definition of "spouse" in the tuition remission policy, and by necessary implication, in other BOR policies. Spouse is currently defined as, "a person in a legally contracted marriage as recognized by the State of Maryland..." To provide clarification of BOR policies that address "spouses", the new definition of "spouse" will include spouses in valid marriages contracted in Maryland and other jurisdictions. This clarification will apply to all USM BOR policies that address "spouses" except for those for which there is a federal definition of "spouse".

This action is consistent with advice given by the Office of the Attorney General and is in alignment with the definition of spouses used by other state agencies.

ALTERNATIVE(S): The BOR could decide not to clarify the definition of spouse in BOR Policies.

FISCAL IMPACT: Expanding the definition will likely have only a minimal fiscal cost.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: The Chancellor recommends that the BOR clarify BOR policies that provide benefits to spouses by defining "spouses" as including spouses in valid marriages contracted in Maryland and other jurisdictions.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

DATE:

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