

**CESSATION OF PARTICIPATION IN
THE STUDENT TO STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize the administration to cease participation in the Student to Student Grant Program and discontinue charging students a \$.50 per credit hour grant fee.

Dr. David A. Sam, President

Background

In November 1996, the Board approved an action to participate in the State of Illinois Student to Student (STS) Grant Program. Funding for this program comes from voluntary student contributions and matching dollars provided by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. ECC students make voluntary contributions of \$.50 per credit hour enrolled. Monetary awards of up to \$1,000 are awarded to qualifying students on an annual basis.

At the inception of the STS Grant Program, funds were available to students who showed financial need with virtually no other requirements. As the Program has matured, additional eligibility requirements have been added by the agency. The most notable change in requirements is that the STS Grant is only available to students who have maximized their eligibility units under the Monetary Assistance Program (MAP). This change significantly reduced the number of students eligible for STS funds. While we are collecting the STS fee from almost 17,000 credit students, only eight students are STS eligible and will receive STS funds in fiscal year 2008. The matching funds received from the State must be awarded within one year from receipt. At the current award rate, we will be returning almost all funds received from the State in fiscal 2008.

It is recommended that ECC no longer participate in the Student to Student Grant Program, effective in fiscal year 2009, based on the extremely small number of students eligible for the program. Students will not be charged the \$.50 per credit hour fee (beginning in the Summer 2008 semester), thus reducing all credit students' cost of attendance at ECC.

Pending approval from the State, ECC plans to retain funds collected from the students in previous years and continue to award eligible students until these funds are exhausted.

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