

TUITION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

In 1999, a tuition reciprocity agreement was signed by officials in West Virginia and Maryland to provide in-state tuition rates to students attending particular institutions within those two states. Shepherd University is one of the institutions included in this agreement. The conclusion has been reached that participation in this agreement is no longer in Shepherd's best interests, and Board approval is being sought to exercise Shepherd's option to terminate the agreement.

In addition to Shepherd University, institutions covered by this agreement are West Virginia University, Potomac State College, and Garrett Community College in Maryland. WVU and Potomac State accept at in-state rates residents of Garrett County, Maryland; Garrett Community College accepts at in-state rates residents of the counties surrounding Potomac State College; Shepherd accepts at in-state rates residents of Washington and Frederick Counties in Maryland. However, residents of Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan Counties are not offered in-state rates in Maryland.

By adhering to this agreement, Shepherd loses the tuition differential between the out-of-state rate and the in-state rate. While the cooperative program may encourage Maryland students to attend Shepherd, it is expected that many of those students will attend even without this special rate because of the high quality of Shepherd's academic programs and the reasonable out-of-state tuition rate that Shepherd charges.

Because of current discussions with specific community colleges in the region, Shepherd University administrators anticipate entering into reciprocity agreements with one or more schools on an individual institutional basis. Being released from the current statewide agreement would allow more flexibility in developing these specific arrangements.

A copy of the *Tuition Reciprocity Agreement between Maryland and West Virginia* is contained on the following pages of the agenda book. It states, "This agreement may be terminated at the request of any of the parties after notice of at least one academic year."

The following resolution is recommended for approval by the Board:

RESOLVED, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors authorizes the President to terminate the *Tuition Reciprocity Agreement between Maryland and West Virginia*, modified on June 11, 1999, and signed by officials in those two states; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President is authorized to give notice to the other parties involved that Shepherd's withdrawal from the agreement will be effective as of January 1, 2006.