ITEM 143-108-R0509 **Board of Regents Policy and Procedures Manual: Financial Affairs; Policy 940.13 – Fee Waivers – 50% Waiver of Non-resident Tuition for Qualified Veterans**

THAT: Effective July 1, 2009, the Board of Regents authorizes institutions in the Montana University System to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' "Yellow Ribbon Program," and thereby award the waiver of up to 50% of the non-resident portion of tuition and fees for veterans who are 100% eligible under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

EXPLANATION: Currently, the Montana University System Policy 940.13 permits under-graduate tuition waivers for combat veterans who have exhausted their GI Bill benefits.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has recently enacted the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, which provides for the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Federal Yellow Ribbon Program).

The Federal Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement under which the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will fund in-state tuition and fees at a value equivalent to the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition and fee rate in each state; and up to 50% of the non-resident portion of tuition and fees, if matched by the institution.

The Federal Yellow Ribbon Program may be tailored by each campus, in terms of the number of students that are allowed to receive the waiver and the time period for participation in the program. However, once enrolled, a student must be awarded the benefits for four years, provided they continue to meet the criteria in accordance with the general eligibility guidelines as defined in Policy 940.13.

(The Federal Yellow Ribbon Program is not related to a new program offered by the Montana National Guard, called the "Montana Yellow Ribbon Program," which enhances deployment support for guard members and their families.)