

## MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Student and Campus Community

From: Steering Committee

Date: October 2, 2024

Re: Student Travel policy

**Background:** TCNJ strives to review policies every five years. The [Student Travel policy](#) was last reviewed in 2019 and requires review.

**Charge:** Steering asks CSCC to continue the review the Student Travel policy in general, and in particular, consider whether the policy (and associated forms) can be streamlined since it is quite lengthy and cumbersome. As with all five-year reviews, CSCC may review the policy and decide that no substantive updates are necessary. If CSCC finds that no significant changes to the policy are required and makes changes solely to bring the policies in line with current practice, no additional testimony is required.

The testimony tier and timeline are outlined below. In particular, at Step 2, in considering the need for changes to the Student Travel Policy, CSCC should consult with the Deans Council, Academic Leaders, Student Affairs - Dean of Students, Student Life, Athletics, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, General Counsel, Global Engagement, and other relevant stakeholders to create the preliminary recommendation.

**Testimony Tier: Tier II:** If CSCC determines that substantive changes are needed and testimony is deemed necessary, then **Tier II:**

- The issue requires moderate testimony from the campus community.
- The assigned council or committee should consult with relevant stakeholder individuals and groups in developing a preliminary recommendation.

If CSCC determines that a high degree of testimony and feedback is deemed necessary, then **Tier III:**

- The issue requires a high degree of testimony from the campus community. The assigned council or committee should consult with relevant individuals and groups in developing a preliminary recommendation. The completed preliminary recommendation should then be made available to the relevant stakeholder groups. Testimony should be solicited in the form of both written and oral feedback, as well as approval by the appropriate representative bodies.
- Written feedback should take the form of a survey and/or email feedback. Oral feedback should take the form of public testimony at a meeting of the appropriate representative body or bodies (as identified by Steering). These meetings should be open to the general public, and publicized so that individuals not represented by that group but interested in the issue may attend. Following that meeting, the representative body may, at its discretion, issue a formal response to the preliminary recommendation, which should be

sent to the relevant council or committee as well as Steering. On the completion of a final recommendation, this response should accompany the final recommendation to Steering, and it should be considered as part of Steering's final review.

The completed preliminary recommendation should then be made available to the relevant stakeholder groups, and testimony should be solicited in the form of written feedback (through a survey and or e-mail).

**Timeline:** CSCC should make a Final Recommendation to Steering by **December 1, 2024**. If testimony is sought, in the submission of the final recommendation CSCC should note the stakeholder groups, number of persons responding, and summary of testimony collected.

## **TCNJ Governance Processes**

### *Step 1–Steering issues a charge*

#### *Step 2–Governance prepares a Preliminary Recommendation*

Once the appropriate standing committee or council has received the charge, it should start by collecting data needed to make a preliminary recommendation. It should receive input from affected individuals and all relevant stakeholder groups prior to making a preliminary recommendation. For issues that have broad implications or that affect a large number of individuals, initial testimony should be solicited from the campus community at large. For some issues, sufficient initial testimony may come from input through committee membership or solicitation from targeted constituent groups. When, in the best judgment of the committee, adequate clarity of the principles contributing to the problem are known, a preliminary recommendation should be drafted and disseminated to the campus community.

#### *Step 3–The Relevant Stakeholders provide Testimony*

Once a preliminary recommendation has been completed, the standing committee or council should seek testimony from the campus community. The testimony should be gathered in accordance with the Testimony Tier (see below) assigned to the issue by Steering.

For issues that require public testimony from the campus community, the chair of the standing committee or council should approach the president of the appropriate representative bodies to schedule the next available time slot at a meeting of that body.

Testimony should be gathered in a way that allows stakeholders to weigh in fully on the issue. Members of the standing committee or council that wrote the preliminary recommendation should be present to hear and record the testimony.

#### *Step 4–Governance prepares a Final Recommendation*

Once the standing committee or council has received appropriate testimony, it should revise the preliminary recommendation into a final recommendation. Once the final recommendation is

complete, the standing committee or council should use sound judgment to determine whether or not more public testimony is required. If, in its feedback to the original preliminary recommendation, a stakeholder representative body requests to review an issue again, the committee or council is bound to bring it back to that body. If a full calendar year has passed since the formal announcement of the preliminary recommendation, the committee must re-submit a preliminary recommendation to the campus community. When the committee or council has completed the final recommendation, it should forward it to the Steering Committee. The final recommendation should be accompanied by a cover memo that summarizes the initial charge, how testimony was gathered and the nature of that testimony, and how the committee responded to that testimony, including a description of how the preliminary recommendation evolved as a result of testimony.

*Step 5–Steering considers the Final Recommendation*

*Step 6–The Provost and/or President and Board consider the Final Recommendation*

*Step 7–Steering notifies the Campus Community Testimony*

*For a complete description of all steps and of the testimony tiers, see [Governance Structures and Processes, 2019 Revision](#), pages 23–27.*