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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 2, 2014

TO: Chief Academic Officers

FROM: John O'Brien, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

SUBJECT:  ASA-2014-01: College Source Transfer Evaluation System (TES): Service Assessment for FY15 and Beyond

As we all close the calendar year with a range of budget planning concerns for the coming fiscal year, I'm writing to ensure that you and your chief financial officers are reminded of the assessment that we discussed in our July 11, 2013 CAO/CSAO WebEx. In FY15 and in FY16, each institution's use of College Source Inc.'s Transfer Evaluation System will be assessed at approximately \$0.77 per student FYE.

Since 2008, all system institutions have used the Transfer Evaluation System license purchased by the system office. In an April 5, 2013 memo to CAOs, CSAOs, registrars, and deans, system director Louise DiCesare advised that "funding for this license is no longer available, but we are exploring systemwide licensing options to make the best possible pricing available to our colleges and universities."

A subsequent survey of administrators, transfer specialists, DARS encoders, counselors and advisors indicated that 93% of our campuses use TES, which is the leading database of course data from institutions of higher education. Eighty-three percent strongly agreed that it enables them to provide better service to transfer students. The majority of staff and administrators surveyed also indicated that TES "is worth the cost to our campus as part of a system license based on campus usage."

As we reported to you in July 2013, we asked the Campus Services Cooperative, using the survey results and usage data as background, to conduct a market analysis and later to negotiate a new three-year license with College Source. CSC obtained a renewal of the system's licensing at FY13 rates. As you can see in the attachment, the system license represents an average 56% savings over individual campus license fees quoted by College Source in April 2013.

To reduce the impact of an abrupt change, the Academic and Student Affairs division absorbed the cost of the FY14 license. In case of individual campus financial exigency, ASA may be able to again absorb some costs in FY15, on an as-needed basis. If you will need such assistance, or have other concerns or questions, please contact Lynda.Milne@so.mnscu.edu, 651-201-1887.

Attachment

cc: Presidents
Chief Financial Officers
Laura King, Vice Chancellor