



Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

DIRECTIVE

February____, 2009

Re: DIFFERENTIATED TUITION FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Affordability in higher education has been a priority in Ohio as evidenced by Section 375.30.25 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly prohibiting universities from increasing tuition for two years. On March 31, 2008, the Chancellor delivered to the General Assembly and the Governor his recommendations, known as the Strategic Plan for Higher Education that identifies making college more affordable and accessible for all Ohioans as one of its key goals. The plan recognizes the need to lower costs at public colleges and universities.

Given our current economic state it is even more critical than before to make college affordable and move away from current practices such as a single tuition policy applied to all students regardless of circumstances. However, Section 375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly prohibits boards of trustees from authorizing waivers or nonpayment of instructional fees or general fees for any particular student or any class of students other than waivers specifically authorized by law or approved by the Chancellor.

A flexible tuition policy designed properly will lead to both affordability and quality. For example, establishing a flexible tuition policy designed around student patterns and needs is cost-efficient and offers students low-cost educational options.

To implement the strategic plan and realize the benefits associated with affordability, I hereby establish the following guidelines for a board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to adopt by resolution a flexible tuition policy. Upon adopting a resolution the board of trustees may submit a request for tuition waivers to the Chancellor in the following manner:

Submission of the request in writing (electronic submission acceptable) to the Chancellor's staff as provided on the regents' web site. The request must include the specific tuition waiver request, the rationale for the request, the time period during which the waiver would be in effect, and the number of students that are anticipated to be served under the request. The request must also include a statement of the goals to be realized by virtue of the implementation of the waiver and the methods that will be used to gather data and make determinations about whether such goals are accomplished.

Once the submission is complete, the Chancellor's staff will make a recommendation within two business days. Following the required two week public comment period, the Chancellor may approve the request.

This directive will take immediate effect.

Eric D. Fingerhut
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents