



Cleveland State University

Office of the President

October 13, 2015

TO: Chancellor John Carey, Ohio Department of Higher Education
Senator Keith Faber, Ohio Senate

FROM: President Ronald Berkman 
Board of Trustees Chair Robert Rawson 

SUBJECT: Cleveland State University's Report on Reducing the Cost of Degree Attainment

Attached is the report from Cleveland State University, to be presented to the CSU Board of Trustees at its next meeting on November 20, 2015, which outlines opportunities for undergraduate students to reduce the cost of attaining a degree by 5%, as required by Amended Substitute House Bill No. 64. Over the last several years, we have been focused on developing and implementing opportunities to assist our students in reducing the cost and time to earning a degree. In fact, most of the initiatives will be familiar to you as several were listed in the legislation as alternatives for helping reduce the cost of a degree for Ohio's public universities.

We applaud your leadership in looking for ways to reduce costs to students. We are particularly sensitive to student affordability due to the non-traditional nature of our student body. Many students are employed with family obligations or depend upon income from part-time employment to help finance their education.

CSU's initiatives provide opportunities for an undergraduate to realize savings of \$3,352.92. On the base cost of attendance of \$25,654, this represents a savings of 13.09%, exceeding the benchmark of 5%. We do offer developmental coursework for credit-bearing courses, particularly developmental English for first-year students. This initiative, if successfully completed, would allow a student to forgo two credit hours of instruction for an additional savings of \$803.00 or 3.13%. This opportunity was not included in our report.

We hope you continue to visit Cleveland State, as you have done recently, to witness the progress we are making.

Enclosure

Outline Options for reducing student costs:

(1) Reducing the credit hours required to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree offered by the institution

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
See below: "Options offered in previous academic years" - Academic Years 2014-2015 – Establishment of a 120 credit hour benchmark for the attainment of a baccalaureate degree.		

(2) Offering a tuition discount or rebate to any student that completes a full load of coursework, as determined by the board of trustees. ("Tuition" means the instructional and general fees charged by a state institution of higher education.)

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
See below: "Options offered in previous academic years" Academic Year 2013-14 - CSU's Graduation Incentive Program.		

(3) Offering a tuition discount or rebate or reduced tuition option to students enrolling in a summer semester or quarter ("Tuition" means the instructional and general fees charged by a state institution of higher education.)

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

(4) Offering online courses or degrees

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

(5) Reducing the cost of textbooks using cost-saving measures identified and implemented by the board of trustees

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Beginning in Fall 2015, Cleveland State adopted an open access textbook for its freshman orientation to college course, ASC 101, at no cost to the student. Previously, students purchased a textbook for \$15.00.	\$15.00	.06%

(6) Incorporation of remediation in the coursework and curriculum of credit-bearing courses

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

(7) Offering a fixed rate of instructional and general fees for any additional credits taken by students above a full course load, as determined by the board of trustees

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Cleveland State considers an undergraduate student enrolled for 12 credit hours as having full-time status (IPEDS definition). The undergraduate tuition credit hour band approved by the Board of Trustees is 12-18 credit hours per semester which means students taking additional credits up through 18 credits per semester are charged only for 12 credit hours. The "optimal" number of credit hours per semester is 15 in order to keep an undergraduate student on track to graduate in four years (8 semesters x 15 credits = 120 credits). 15 credit hours are priced as 12 credit hours, a savings of the cost of 3 credit hours.	\$1,204.50	4.70%

(8) Offering fast-track degree completion programs

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
See below: "Options offered in previous academic years" Academic Year 2013-14 - CSU's Three-Year Degree Paths		

(9) Eliminating, reducing or freezing auxiliary fees ("Auxiliary fees" mean charges assessed by a state institution of higher education to a student for various educational expenses including, but not limited to, course-related fees, laboratory fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, enrollment application fees, and other miscellaneous charges. "Auxiliary fees" do not *include* instructional or general fees uniformly assessed to all students.)

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

(10) Increased participation in the college credit plus program

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

(11) Offering programs to reduce or eliminate the need for remediation coursework

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

(12) Other options offered by the institution (any other option that does not fall into the categories above can be captured here or on additional pages)

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance

Options offered in previous academic years:

Please be sure to quantify savings as they roll forward into the current academic year. (For instance, a tuition freeze last year would result in \$X and Y% cost avoidance to students in this academic year). Add additional fields and details as necessary.

(13) Academic Year 2013-2014

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
CSU Graduation Incentive Program – a 2% tuition credit and a \$200 textbook stipend for qualifying undergraduate students who successfully complete 30 credit hours in an academic year, thereby staying on track for attaining a degree. For the current academic year 2015-2016, the savings to a qualified student is based upon the undergraduate tuition rates effective for Fall 2015.	\$393.92	1.54%

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
<p>Three-year degree Paths - Cleveland State offers three-year degree pathways in over thirty areas according to the guidelines established by the Department of Higher Education per House Bill 153 Sec. 101.01. These programs can be used to allow a student to complete a bachelor's degree in three years and typically requires that students start the first year at Cleveland State with credits from one or more of the following programs: Advanced Placement (AP) credits; International Baccalaureate program credits; College Credit Plus credits; waivers of foreign language or other program requirements based on proficiency exams. CSU's programs require a higher emphasis on attending summer sessions once a student is enrolled at CSU, vs. earning pre-enrollment credits. The combination of requirements and preparatory work varies with the specific degree program and the advising plan. It is estimated that students taking advantage of a three year pathway have earned a minimum of 3 credit hours of college credit before starting work on a bachelor's degree.</p>	<p>\$1,204.50</p>	<p>4.70%</p>

(14) Academic Year 2014-2015

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Establish a 120 credit hours benchmark for the attainment of an undergraduate degree. On average, this reduction from the previous standard is 8 credit hours. (Assume this reduction occurs over a six year enrollment period for the attainment of a baccalaureate degree.)	\$535.00	2.09%

Total Possible Cost Savings for Students – Please add the previous columns and capture total possible student cost savings here.

Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
\$3,352.92	13.09%