



Beverly J. Warren
President

October 15, 2015

The Honorable John Carey
Chancellor
Ohio Department of Higher Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Carey:

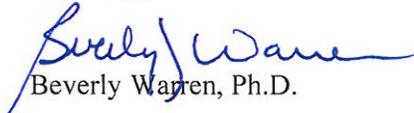
On behalf of the Kent State University Board of Trustees, I am submitting Kent State University's plan for providing in-state, undergraduate students the opportunity to reduce the student cost of earning a degree by five percent. We are pleased to share these opportunities with you and are in the process of publicizing them with our students and families as well.

As required by House Bill 64 Section 369.600, the Board of Trustees approved this plan on September 9, 2015, as reflected in Resolution 2015-57. A copy of the Board's resolution also is attached for your information.

Kent State University is deeply committed to advancing student success while keeping true to our mission of providing an accessible education for the citizens of Ohio and beyond. Toward this end, Kent State long has offered multiple pathways to degree including attainment of the bachelor's degree on regional campuses. Further, the university board and administration over the years have limited growth in student tuition and fees, as evidenced by our ranking of sixth of the state universities in annualized tuition and fees.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of Ohio's universities and for your service to students and families.

Sincerely,


Beverly Warren, Ph.D.

Office of the President

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**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 9, 2015**

Resolution 2015-57

**ENDORSEMENT OF PLAN TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE
COLLEGE COSTS BY FIVE PERCENT**

WHEREAS, Kent State University is committed to advancing student success while keeping true to its mission of providing an accessible education for the citizens of Ohio and beyond; and

WHEREAS, toward this end, Kent State long has offered multiple pathways to degree including attainment of the bachelor's degree on regional campuses, which saves approximately 40 percent of total college costs compared to attending the Kent Campus for four years; and

WHEREAS, throughout the State of Ohio budget deliberations for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, policymakers and university leaders alike have been committed to assisting Ohio students and families in accessing a college education; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly ultimately passed Amended Substitute House Bill 64 that requires the boards of trustees of public universities to develop and implement a plan that provides in-state, undergraduate students the opportunity to reduce the student cost of earning a college degree by five percent; and

WHEREAS, under Section 369.600, the approved plan must be submitted to the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education (Ohio Board of Regents) by October 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, consistent with that requirement, the university administration has recommended a broad-based plan that includes a series of opportunities with the greatest potential for a Kent State undergraduate student to reduce by five percent the cost of earning a degree; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby endorses the plan and its submission to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education by the required deadline of October 15, 2015.



Charlene K. Reed
Vice President & University Secretary

Name of Institution: KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Legislative Requirements

House Bill 64 Section 369.600 requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to develop and implement a plan to provide all in-state, undergraduate students the opportunity to reduce the student cost of earning a degree by five per cent.

Plans are due to the Chancellor by **October 15, 2015**.

This template is intended to provide guidance for institutions' reports to the chancellor, based on the legislation – please modify and add additional detail as necessary.

Total Cost of Attendance at Institution

Please provide a breakdown of average tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks, etc, for a full-time student, living on campus. (Add explanation as necessary)

KENT CAMPUS

Type of Cost	Average Cost (Dollar Amount)	For 4 years
Tuition/fees	\$10,012	\$40,088
Books	\$ 1,290	\$ 5,160
Room/Board	\$10,334	\$41,336
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,144	\$ 8,576
Transportation	\$ 1,752	\$ 7,008
Loan fees	\$ 118	\$ 472
	Total: \$25,650	\$102,600

Based on published cost of education at Kent State (<http://www.kent.edu/financialaid/coa>)

Outline Options for reducing 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
Limit all majors to 120 credits unless a higher amount is required by state licensure and/or national accreditation standards	Between \$1,368 and \$5,006 in tuition and fees, plus one semester of room and board in some cases	Up to 12.5% if student in program requiring 11 or 12 credits more than 120, which is then reduced to 120 credits. Reduces time to degree by one semester (tuition and fees avoided; housing avoided)

(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

(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
Expand the number of hybrid degree programs	Our estimate is that students in the fully online Insurance Studies program save nearly \$37,000, which is a 35% reduction in the COA. In addition, this fall we will begin our hybrid General Business degree, in which students take classes face to face during the first two years, and have the option to complete the final two years entirely online. This hybrid degree will save students \$9,188/year in cost of attendance (lower housing and transportation costs)	Up to 35%

(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

(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
See Item #14 below		

(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
Eliminate tuition overload fee and allow students to take two more credits for the same amount of tuition cost (expand full-time tuition plateau to 18 credits; implemented in Fall 2015)	Up to \$912 each semester; \$7,296 over four years. Plus residential housing costs for one semester if student graduates a semester early as a result	Up to 12.5% if student avoids 12 credits of tuition and fees, and graduates one semester earlier, thus avoiding residential housing fees

(8) Offering fast-track degree completion programs

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Expand the number of academic majors that feature a three-year degree completion curricula	\$25,650; currently Kent State offers fast track, 3-year pathways to completion for 54 academic majors; Kent State will expand by 20% the number of majors offering three-year pathways to the degree.	25%

(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
Earn college credits while in high school	Average of \$5,006; currently students entering the Kent campus as full-time, first-time freshmen bringing college credit earned with them average 15.5 credit hours earned upon enrollment	Up to 12.5% if student avoids 12 credits of tuition and fees, and graduates one semester earlier, thus avoiding residential housing fees

(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
See item #14 above		

(12) Other options offered by the institution

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Attend at least one year on a Kent State University regional campus	Up to \$11,000 per year. \$4,348 in tuition per year plus \$6,652 per year in accommodation, transportation and personal expenses. Students can begin on a regional campus and finish at the Kent campus, saving 43% in tuition for each semester spent on a regional before transferring to Kent campus	43% in tuition and fees alone; 10.75% for one year on a regional campus and 3 on Kent Campus; 43% reduction per year based on 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
Implemented three year degree tracks for 53 majors.	Up to \$25,650, the total cost of attendance for one year.	Up to 25% if student finishes in three years instead of four thus avoiding 1 year of tuition and residential housing fees

(14) Academic Year 2014-2015

Option offered by the institution	Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
Eliminated remediation coursework on the Kent campus by creating new degree-bearing options in freshman composition and in the General Education math sequence (implemented beginning Fall 2014)	Between \$1,368 and \$5,006 depending on number of remedial courses needed	Up to 12.5% if student avoids 12 credits of tuition and fees, and graduates one semester earlier, thus avoiding residential housing fees
Created 2+2 hybrid General Business degree	Up to \$18,500 saved on room and board when two years are taken via distance learning	Up to 17.5%

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

Our major efforts focus on creating options to reduce the time to degree completion. Several of the options above describe different pathways to reducing that time by one or two semesters. The total below reflects the costs saved if a student spends one year on a regional campus and engages in any of the efforts above to reduce their completion time to 3 years.

Cost savings to student (Dollar Amount)	Percentage of total cost of attendance
\$36,650	35.75%