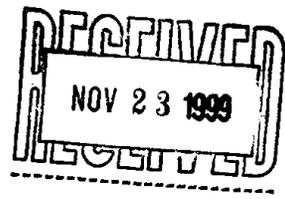


VCJ



November 23, 1999

Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu, Chancellor
 Ohio Board of Regents
 30 East Broad Street
 Columbus, OH 43266

Dear Chancellor Chu:

As you know, I am deeply interested in the success of Ohio's colleges and university students. I am equally troubled by reports showing that graduation rates for some students in our universities are significantly below those of similar institutions.

I believe it is important that Ohio policymakers, taxpayers and potential college students have accurate and timely information on overall student achievement at Ohio's state colleges and universities. For this reason, I would like to call upon the Ohio Board of Regents to review the feasibility of publishing, on an annual basis, a report that outlines college and university performance measures, including graduation, transfer and retention rates, and average time and credits to degree, and other appropriate measures of student success.

In making this request, I fully appreciate the differing missions served by Ohio's colleges and universities. I also recognize that some factors, such as the socio-economic background of students, student transfers, availability of financial aid and the location of the institution, will impact the results of the report. However, I am confident that the Ohio Board of Regents could develop an annual report that captures and disaggregates this information to offer a comprehensive review of relevant college and university performance indicators.

Since any such report must recognize the factors unique to each institution, I would encourage you to call upon the governing trustees of each institution to ensure that reported results are explained in the context of particular missions, student population and other factors established by the trustees.
 Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu, Chancellor

Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu, Chancellor
November 23, 1999
Page 2

I believe an annual report of this nature could be beneficial in a number of ways. First and foremost, this report would provide to Ohio taxpayers a justification for the State's continued financial commitment to higher education. Secondly, potential students could use this report to help determine which state college or university is best suited for their academic, social and career needs. Finally, this report could serve as a benchmark for colleges and universities to help identify areas of strength or weakness.

Thank you for considering this issue. I look forward to hearing from you about this matter and how the Ohio Board of Regents can develop a meaningful performance report of Ohio's institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Taft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bob Taft
Governor