



Directive 2009-035  
October 13, 2009

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO MODIFY THE LIMITATIONS APPLYING TO INCREASES IN IN-STATE UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTIONAL AND GENERAL FEES DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

Section 371.20.90 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly restrained boards of trustees at state-assisted institutions of higher education from increases in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees over 3.5% of the amount charged the previous academic year, except the limitation may be modified by the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, with the approval of the Controlling Board, to respond to exceptional circumstances as identified by the Chancellor. On August 14, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-029 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting a modification due to exceptional circumstances on the limitation on increases to in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees.

Pursuant to Section 371.20.90 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Directive 2009-029, Owens Community College has requested that the limitation set forth in Section 371.20.90 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly be modified beginning Spring term 2010 to permit Owens to extend the per credit hour rate for instructional and general fees to apply to credit hours 1 through 14, with no additional charge for credit hours 15 through 18. The college has demonstrated the following:

- The College's Board of Trustees adopted a resolution at its meeting on September 8, 2009 setting forth the need for the increase in fees. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- The College provided a detailed explanation of the proposed increase. Currently, the College charges a per credit hour tuition rate up to 12 hours and no additional charge for credit hours 13 through 18. The proposed increase would result in the College charging the per credit hour rate to credit hours 1 through 14 and no additional charge for credit hours 15 through 18.
- The College provided a table comparing its current tuition rate and its tuition rate if the requested increase is approved to similar Ohio public institutions. The table demonstrates the College currently has the lowest tuition rate of two-year institutions without a local levy as it applies a per credit hour tuition rate up to 12 credit hours with no additional charge to credit hours 13 through 18. The table also demonstrates that the College will still have the lowest rate of the two-year institutions without a local levy in extending the per credit rate to the 13<sup>th</sup> credit hour and will have the third lowest tuition rate in extending the per credit rate to the 14<sup>th</sup> credit hour. A copy of the table is attached.
- The College anticipates less than twenty percent of the student population will be impacted due to application of per credit hour rate for hours 1 through 14, and no additional charge for credit hours 15 through 18.
- The proposed modification to the tuition structure is expected to generate \$1.6 million annually in tuition revenue.

- Owens Community College has made a significant commitment to at-risk students. This is in response to the goals articulated in the Strategic Plan for Higher Education relative to enrolling more adult students, increasing the number of degrees awarded to first generation college students, and increasing the percent of degrees awarded to black and Hispanic students. Additionally, the College has partnered with its Foundation to offer scholarships to graduates of the Toledo Public School District, Washington School District, and Findlay School District. The revenue generated by this change in tuition will be used to support such at-risk students in their first year experience, specifically in additional student service support such as Bridges Out of Poverty model advising, developmental education, tutoring, learning laboratories, mentoring and technology.
- It is anticipated the student growth will be 12 to 15 percent for FY 2010 and FY 2011. The State Share of Instruction for Owens Community College is projected to decrease by \$700,000 for FY 2010 and FY 2011 in comparison to FY 2009. Without the additional funding raised by the proposed modification to the tuition structure, the College's capability to meet the growth, instructional and student service needs for this at-risk population would be severely affected because funding from other sources would not be available to address these instructional needs. In addition, retention and graduation rates would suffer because the at-risk students that Owens' serves need these support services to be academically successful.
- The College has demonstrated a commitment to efficiency. The implemented efficiency efforts of the College have exceeded mandated efficiency goals for two fiscal years. The combined efficiencies achieved totaled to \$2.5 million for FY 2008 and FY 2009.
- The College has demonstrated that the combination of the lack of tuition increases during the previous three years, a low tuition rate applying to a wide range of credit hours, the decrease in state support, the significant increase in enrollment, and the need to increase for student support services for academic success for at-risk students is an exceptional circumstance permitting a modification to the limitation on increases to in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees.

The request meets the Chancellor's standards, and the Chancellor identifies that the low tuition rate for a wide range of credits combined with a significant increase in overall enrollment and the need to increase funding for student support services for enrollment of at-risk students in programs such as Bridges out of Poverty at Owens Community College as an exceptional circumstance and recommends to the Controlling Board for approval the limitation imposed by Section 371.20.90 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly be modified to permit Owens to extend the per credit hour rate for instructional and general fees to apply to credit hours 1 through 14, and apply the 14<sup>th</sup> hour calculation of tuition for credit hours 15 through 18, beginning Spring Term 2010.

The request was posted for a public comment period and submitted to the Controlling Board for approval. No public comments were received and the Controlling Board approved this request at its September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting. Therefore, this directive will take effect immediately upon execution.



Eric D. Fingerhut  
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents

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