



DIRECTIVE 2014-012

June 4, 2014

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES TO STUDENTS QUALIFYING FOR THE ZIPSTART ENROLLMENT INITIATIVE.

§375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly required any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §363.230 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly continues the authority of the Chancellor until June 30, 2015.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §363.230 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 and Directive 2009-011, The University of Akron has requested that beginning in Summer 2014 and continuing through academic year 2014-2015 standard tuition rates be waived for students participating in the ZipStart Enrollment Initiative, who will then be charged a reduced flat rate determined by credit hour or achievement. The University has demonstrated the following:

- The University's Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on April 23, 2014. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- The University has submitted a specific request to waive standard tuition rates for undergraduate students admitted to begin studies in the Summer for the first-time at The University of Akron, including high school students previously participating in a dual enrollment or post-secondary enrollment option program, first-time transfer students, and transient students. High School students will pay \$125 to register to begin their first term of enrollment in the Summer term of the academic year. Additionally, students earning a minimum ACT composite score of 25 and a minimum high-school cumulative grade point average of 3.0 will be eligible to take three courses for total flat-rate tuition of \$1,000. This reduced tuition will be available for any of the University's general education and developmental courses to complete through on-campus or asynchronous online courses.

The following chart compares the standard tuition and fees and the reduced flat rates:

Credit Hours	Original Cost	ZipStart Rate (\$500 for 1 course, \$1,000 for 2 courses), or \$1,000 for High Achieving Students taking 3 courses	Tuition Waived
	<i>(includes tuition, general service fee, facility fee, administrative fee, transportation fee)</i>		
3 resident	\$1,321.06	\$500	\$821.06
3 non-resident	\$2,346.16	\$500	\$1,846.16
6 resident	\$2,515.12	\$1,000	\$1,515.12
6 non-resident	\$4,565.32	\$1,000	\$3,565.32
High-achieving resident (assuming 9 credits on avg.)	\$3,800	\$1,000	\$2,800
High-achieving Non-resident (assuming 9 credits on avg.)	\$6,936.90	\$1,000	\$5,936.90

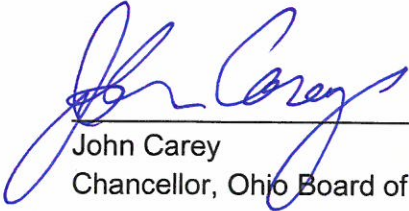
- The University proposes that the tuition waiver become effective for academic year 2014-2015 (starting Summer 2014) ending June 30, 2015, and will be evaluated each year and included with tuition and fee approvals.
- The proposed waiver is anticipated to affect approximately 300 to 500 students each term the waiver is in effect.

- The University's goal is to expedite on-time graduation and ease financial debt for students enhancing their ability to enter the job market sooner. Online asynchronous courses will be available which will not require students to move to campus this summer and secure financial aid for living expenses.
- Measurements will include, but not be limited to, comparisons among ZipStart and non-ZipStart students which measure: persistency (by semester/year), length of time to graduation, academic performance, financial aid debt upon graduation, and student feedback.

Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the Regents' website for purposes of providing a period of public comment before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

Based on my review of staff recommendations, I hereby approve the request to waive standard tuition rates for students participating in the ZipStart Enrollment Initiative, who will then be charged a reduced flat rate determined by credit hour or achievement, as demonstrated above.

This Directive will take immediate effect.



John Carey
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents

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