DIRECTIVE 2015-011

April 21, 2015

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO ESTABLISH A TUITION GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Cuyahoga Community College ("TRI-C") has requested approval to establish a tuition guarantee program pursuant to §3333.33 of the Ohio Revised Code which authorizes two-year institutions to establish tuition guarantee programs subject to the approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents (the "Chancellor"). Also pursuant to Section 3333.33 the Chancellor established guidelines, set forth in directive 2014-018 issued on September 16, 2014, for the boards of trustees to follow when developing tuition guarantee programs.

The directive states that the program must include the following details:

a. The definition of the cohort to which the program will apply;

b. A guarantee that the general and instructional fees for each student in the cohort shall remain constant so long as the student complies with the requirements of the program (the institution should also specify any additional fees that will remain constant, if applicable);

c. Assurances that the guaranteed amount for general and instructional fees will always comply with the limitations and restrictions on increases that is or may be set by the Ohio General Assembly;

d. The duration of the guarantee, which shall be at least two academic years;

e. Eligibility requirements for students to participate in the program;

f. The number of credit hours required to earn an associate’s degree in each major;

g. Consequences to the institution for students unable to complete a degree program within time period set for the guarantee in the event the student could not complete the program due to a lack of available classes or space in classes provided by the institution;

h. Assurances that if a student does not complete the degree program due to military service or other circumstances beyond a student’s control, as determined by the board of trustees, the institution will provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student at the student’s initial cohort rate.

i. Guidelines for adjusting a student’s annual charges if the student, due to circumstances under the student’s control is unable to complete a degree program in the time period set for the guarantee;

j. A requirement that the details of the tuition guarantee program be published or posted in the institutional handbook, course catalog and website;
TRI-C submitted a proposal, which is attached to this directive, and covers all the details addressed above.

The directive further requires that the board of trustees must pass a resolution adopting the tuition guarantee program. TRI-C’s board passed this resolution on January 30, 2014.

TRI-C had previously obtained approval, on March 26, 2014 from the Chancellor for a program that operated as a tuition guarantee but was established via the tuition waiver procedures set forth in Directive 2009-011. Upon approval of this directive, all students at TRI-C, including those that began under the tuition waiver, who are participating in a tuition guarantee plan, will be operating under this directive.

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

Based upon my review of staff recommendations, I hereby approve the tuition guarantee plan from Cuyahoga Community College.

This Directive will take immediate effect.

[Signature]
John Carey
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents
February 16, 2015

Mr. John Carey
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents
25 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Carey,

Cuyahoga Community College proposes the establishment of a Tuition Guarantee Program under Section 3333.33 of the Ohio Revised Code. This Program is the continuation of the program previously approved by the Chancellor under Directive 2009-11.

Our formal request is outlined below:

a. New, first-time, full-time students who enroll in a Fall or Spring term beginning in Fall of 2014 will be eligible to participate in the Tuition Guarantee Program. First-time students enrolling during a Summer term will be eligible for the Program beginning with their full-time enrollment in the Fall or Spring Semester provided they meet the requirements outlined below;

b. Cuyahoga Community College guarantees that the general and instructional fees, including out of county and out of state fees, for each student in the above mentioned cohort will remain constant so long as the student complies with the outlined requirements of the Program;

c. Cuyahoga Community College guarantees that the amount for general and instructional fees, including out of county and out of state fees, will always comply with the limitations and restrictions on increases that are or may be set by the Ohio General Assembly;

d. The duration of the guarantee shall be three consecutive academic years from the start of enrollment;

e. The eligibility requirements for the students to participate in the Program are as follows:
   a. Maintain enrollment in at least twelve credit hours per semester;
   b. Continue to enroll each Fall and Spring semester during the entire period of the Tuition Guarantee Program, which is three consecutive years from the start of the Program;
      i. Summer term enrollment is optional and is not considered a break from the Program. Students who choose to enroll in a Summer term will pay the frozen rate.
   c. Complete an academic plan by the second semester of enrollment at Cuyahoga Community College;
d. Sign an agreement with the College which commits the student to following and meeting the Program’s criteria;

f. As stated in our College Catalog, the required number of credit hours required to earn an associate’s degree in each major are as follows:
   a. Associate of Arts: 60 semester credit hours
   b. Associate of Science: 60 semester credit hours
   c. Associate of Applied Business Degree: 60 semester credit hours
   d. Associate of Applied Science Degree: 60 semester credit hours
   e. Associate of Technical Studies: 60 semester credit hours

g. On occasion, students may not be able to register for a required course due to institutional factors beyond students’ control. The College will make every effort to assist students with enrollment in an alternate required course to ensure students are enrolled full-time. Students who demonstrate that reasonable efforts have been made to maintain a full-time status but who have been unable to do so will not be penalized for cancelled classes for which they have previously enrolled. These situations will be handled on an exception basis and will be documented by the Deans of Student Affairs. This includes situations when a required course is not offered during a given term or if a required course is full;

h. Students who have withdrawn from school due to military call-up will not be impacted by the consecutive year requirements of the Program. Upon returning to Cuyahoga Community College, these students will be afforded the opportunity to re-engage in the Program and to complete remaining semesters (up to 9 semesters in total) of the Tuition Guarantee Program. Students who withdraw from all courses or take an approved leave of absence due to other extenuating circumstances beyond the students’ control may be afforded a one-time separation from the Program and will regain eligibility to participate upon their return. The student will be provided no more than the equivalence of three years (up to 9 semesters) of enrollment under the Tuition Guarantee Program.

i. If a student becomes ineligible for the Program due to circumstances which are under the student’s control or fails to comply with Program requirements, the student will be not be required to repay the College any difference in tuition rates but will be required to begin paying the tuition and fee rate that is current at the time the student becomes ineligible;

j. Cuyahoga Community College requires and guarantees that the details of the Tuition Guarantee Program are made available to students on the College’s website, in the institutional handbook and in the course catalog.

We appreciate you taking the time to review our request. If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alex Johnson
President
TUITION GUARANTEE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

The following request has been posted for a 2-week public comment period and is recommended for approval. No public comments were received.

Recommender: Amy Shaffer 4.21.15

Cuyahoga Community College:

- Cuyahoga Community College ("TRI-C") has requested approval to establish a tuition guarantee program pursuant to §3333.33 of the Ohio Revised Code which authorizes two-year institutions to establish tuition guarantee programs subject to the approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. TRI-C submitted the plan which was posted for public comments.

Summary of public comments:

None