Ohio | Department of Higher Education

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

DIRECTIVE 2017-064

July 11, 2017

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE THE CAMPUS LIFE GENERAL FEE TO DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM STUDENTS ENROLLING IN ONLINE COURSES.

§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 Higher Education (the "Chancellor"). On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for the biennium.

Pursuant to §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 as well as Directive 2009-011, the University of Cincinnati ("UC") has requested to continue the previous waiver that authorized the Campus Life general fee to be waived for distance learning program students enrolling in on-line courses.

UC has demonstrated the following:

- UC's Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing this tuition waiver at its meeting on June 20, 2017. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- UC has submitted a specific request to continue to waive the Campus Life general fee for distance learning program students enrolling in online courses.
- UC proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be for academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will affect approximately 5,500 students each term.
- The goal of this tuition waiver is to maintain and increase distance learning enrollment in line with institutional priorities.
    - The goal of the previous waiver was the same. UC provided data that the goal was met as distance learning enrollment has increased by 24% over the 4 years the waiver has been in effect.
- UC will measure the attainment of this goal by tracking student enrollment in the program.

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

Based upon my review and staff recommendations, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from University of Cincinnati as set forth above for academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

This directive will take immediate effect.

John Carey
Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education

University of Cincinnati
Recommendation to the Board of Trustees
For Action

Date: June 20, 2017

Title: **CONTINUATION OF TUITION WAIVER REQUEST OF CAMPUS LIFE FEE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS**

Synopsis: This recommendation seeks the authorization to request continuation of a tuition waiver from the Ohio Board of Regents of the Campus Life Fee for distance learning program students.

It is recommended that the University of Cincinnati's Board of Trustees approve that the current Campus Life Fee be waived for students enrolled in the university's distance learning programs pursuant to Section 371.20.80 of House Bill 153 and OBR Directive 2009-011 contingent on similar authorizing language in the next biennium budget bill. In Academic Year 2016-17, the Campus Life fee is $257 per semester for a full-time student and prorated per credit hour for a part-time student. *Upon approval of this recommendation, a similar approval request will be submitted to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.*

- Rationale for request:

  The Campus Life Fee was initiated in 2001 to cover the debt service associated with the building and renovation of two on-campus recreational and student centered facilities, the Tangeman University Center and the Campus Recreation Center, for the purpose of enhancing the campus environment and increasing student engagement. Distance learners are not physically present on campus, and most (54%) reside outside Ohio and are unable to visit campus to utilize the on-campus facilities for which the current Campus Life Fee is charged. Prior to waiving the campus life fee, distance learners often objected to having to pay this fee when they do not receive any benefit from the campus life fees paid.

- Time period during which the waiver would be in effect:

  Continuing in Fall Semester 2017 the Campus Life Fee would not be charged to distance learning program students. This action is limited by statute to a 2-year period through June 30, 2019. However, renewal may be sought for additional years.

- Number of students that are anticipated to be served under the request:

  The proposed request will affect students enrolled in distance learning programs each term that the waiver is in effect. Approximately 5,500 students are currently enrolled in the university's distance learning programs. These students are taking exclusively online courses and are not taking on-campus courses.

- Goals to be realized by virtue of the implementation of the tuition waiver and the methods that will be used to gather data and make determinations about whether such goals are accomplished:

  Goals:

- In renewing the previously approved waiver, the continued goal is to maintain and increase distance learning enrollment in alignment with institutional priorities.

How goals will be assessed:

- Enrollment targets and goals will continue to be measured through the university's strategic enrollment management structure and review process annually.

Have goals been accomplished:

- Consistent with the University's academic and strategic enrollment priorities, distance learning enrollment has increased by over 1,000 students (24%) over the four years that this waiver has been in effect.

Prepared by: _____
Patrick A. Kowalski
Vice President for Finance

Prepared by: _____
Kathy R. Qualls
Senior Vice Provost

Reviewed by: _____
Robert F. Ambach
Senior Vice President for Administration & Finance

APPROVED
JUN 20 2017
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reviewed by: _____
Peter Landgren
Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

FOR BOARD OFFICE USE ONLY:

Recommendation Number: 17.06.20.05

Date of Board Approval: 6/20/17 Submitted by: _____
President

Ohio | Department of Higher Education

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

TUITION WAIVER 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 July 11, 2017

University of Cincinnati

- UC has submitted a specific request to continue to waive the Campus Life general fee for distance learning program students enrolling in online courses.

Comments received:
None

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