



DIRECTIVE 2020-007

January 16, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES DUE TO A NATURAL DISASTER.

§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. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for this biennium.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 and Directive 2009-011, Cuyahoga Community College (“Tri-C”) has requested that for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 the standard tuition rates continue to be waived for students who are displaced from their homes due to a natural disaster.

Tri-C has demonstrated the following:

- Tri-C’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on March 21, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- Tri-C has submitted a specific request to waive standard tuition rates for students who are displaced from their home due to a natural disaster.
- Tri-C’s current tuition rates are:
 - Instructional Fee (per credit hour): \$95.04
General and Technology Fee: \$19.50
Total (per credit hour) Fee: \$114.54
 - OUT-OF-COUNTY SURCHARGE (per credit hour): \$29.54
 - Combined per credit hour rate of \$144.08
 - OUT-OF-STATE SURCHARGE (per credit hour): \$156.65
 - Combined per credit hour rate of \$271.19

- After Tri-C determines a student is eligible for the waiver (see the attached policy document), the following tuition reductions would apply:
 - For displaced Ohio residents, the out-of-county surcharge would be reduced to \$1. Out-of-county tuition is \$144.08/credit hour. These students would pay \$115.54/credit hour. This is a waiver of \$28.54/credit hour.
 - For displaced nonresidents, the out-of-county surcharge and the out-of-state surcharge would each be reduced to \$1. Out-of-state tuition is \$271.19/credit hour. These students would pay \$116.54/credit hour. This is a waiver of \$154.65/credit hour.
- Tri-C agrees to notify the Chancellor of any substantive changes to the policy document so that the Chancellor can determine if the change requires an amendment to this directive.
- Tri-C proposes that the duration of the waiver be academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 including any summer term that begins prior to June 30, 2021.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will affect approximately 40 students. However, this number could change depending on what natural disasters occur.
- The goal of this waiver is to make a college education as accessible as possible for students who may relocate to the area due to displacement by a natural disaster.
- Tri-C will assess the outcome of this waiver by monitoring the participation in the program.

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

Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby approve the continuation of the tuition waiver request from Cuyahoga Community College to waive standard tuition rates to students displaced from their homes due to a natural disaster as set forth above.

This directive will take immediate effect.

Randy Gardner
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

mk



May 8, 2019

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Mr. Randy Gardner
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Gardner:

Cuyahoga Community College proposes the continuation of our tuition waiver to aid students who have been displaced from their homes due to a natural disaster and who wish to continue their pursuit of higher education at Tri-C. This program began in fall of 2018 and we request continuation for the FY20-21 biennium. We anticipate this program to be ongoing, subject to the continued authority and approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Our formal request for the continuation of the tuition waiver, including an explanation of student eligibility, is outlined below:

Specific tuition waiver request:

The College's FY19 tuition and fee structure for Out of County students is \$144.08 per credit hour, broken out as follows:

- Instructional Fee: \$95.04
- General & Technology Fee: \$19.50
- Out of County Surcharge: \$29.54

The College's FY19 tuition and fee structure for Out of State students is \$271.19 per credit hour, broken out as follows:

- Instructional Fee: \$95.04
- General & Technology Fee: \$19.50
- Out of State Surcharge: \$156.65

The tuition waiver that the College is requesting will reduce the out-of-County and out-of-State surcharges to \$1 each, lowering the tuition, fees, and surcharges per credit hour for this population of students to \$115.54 for out-of-County and \$166.54 for out-of-State students, broken out as follows:

- Instructional Fee: \$95.04
- General & Technology Fee: \$19.50
- Out of County Surcharge: \$1.00
- Out of State Surcharge: \$1.00

Office of the President

District Administrative Services | 700 Carnegie Avenue | Cleveland, OH 44115-2878
216-987-4851 | Fax 216-987-4895

Cuyahoga Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

These figures are based on FY19 tuition rates and will be adjusted to reflect any future approved changes to tuition, fees and/or surcharges. In the event that a resident of Ohio is displaced by a natural disaster, the Out-of-State surcharge would not apply.

Eligibility of students displaced from Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria for the tuition waiver is assessed by the Hispanic Council at the College, which has been serving as a community entry point for this population. Students displaced by other disasters will be assessed by our Enrollment Centers and will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine eligibility through a variety of means, such as FEMA documentation, verification of travel to Northeast Ohio, and/or other relevant evidence, depending on circumstance. Students will also be required to sign a notarized affidavit, attesting that they resided in and were displaced from a disaster area. The Student Accounting team will, upon the recommendation of the appropriate referring parties, adjust tuition for relocated students as appropriate.

Rationale for this request:

Natural disasters can and do occur at any time, and tens of thousands of students are displaced by any number of natural disasters in any given year. Cuyahoga Community College wants to position itself to assist those who may find themselves in our community after being displaced by a disaster. This waiver will provide affordable educational opportunities for a population of students that need additional support and resources, which directly supports the State's goals of making college tuition more affordable.

Time period during which the waiver would be in effect:

This waiver begin in fall 2018 and we are requesting continuation of the waiver in the FY20-21 biennium. Eligible students would be able to receive the waiver for one academic year, as displaced students who reside in the state for one year will subsequently establish residency and will no longer need the waiver. Displaced students who reside in the state but in a county other than Cuyahoga County after one year will begin paying the regular Out of County surcharge. Residency determinations will follow the College's standard timeline for petition of residency as outlined on Tri-C's website. We anticipate the waiver to be ongoing, subject to the Chancellor's continuing authority and approval.

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

It is estimated that the proposed waiver may affect up to 40 students in the next academic year. However, due to the unpredictable nature of natural disasters, this number is only an estimate and could be drastically lower or higher.

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

Our desire is to make this program as inclusive as possible in order to support students who may be going through difficulties due to displacement. Our College's enrollment centers will track any students receiving this waiver through a cohort code and educational savings will be monitored.

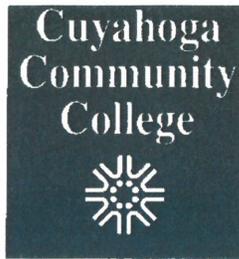
The Cuyahoga Community College District Board of Trustees affirmed the continuation of this tuition waiver at their meeting on March 21, 2019. A copy of the certified resolution is attached.

Thank you for taking the time to review our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Alex Johnson
President

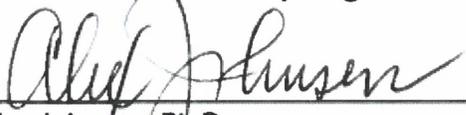


BOARD RESOLUTION
R2019-84

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District that:

- (A) The Board authorizes the reaffirmation and continuation of the tuition waiver for students displaced by natural disasters for the FY20-21 biennium.
- (B) This program will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- (C) The Executive Vice President for Administration & Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District on March 21, 2019.



Alex Johnson, Ph.D.
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Cuyahoga Community College District

Board of Trustees

District Administrative Services

700 Carnegie Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878

216-241-0032

**CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MATERIAL FOR REVIEW
BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee
- Community Affairs Committee
- Management Committee
- Investment Committee

SUBJECT: Reaffirmation of a Tuition Waiver for Students Displaced by Natural Disasters

COMMITTEE ACTION:

- Review for formal recommendation to the full Board of Trustees at the next regular scheduled Board Meeting.
- Background material for future Board of Trustees action item.
- Update information/status report. For informational purposes only.

SYNOPSIS:

The College is seeking approval to reaffirm the tuition waiver for students displaced by natural disasters.

Prepared by:


Vice President,
Finance and
Business Services

Office:

Submitted by:



Date:

2/25/19

Approved by:



Date:

3/1/19

Reaffirmation of the Tuition Waiver for Students Displaced by Natural Disasters

I. SUMMARY BACKGROUND

The College recognizes that natural disasters can and do occur anywhere at any time, displacing students who may find themselves relocating to Northeast Ohio for various reasons, and the College wishes to have a plan in place for those students who may need assistance in the future. This tuition waiver ensures that any student who is displaced due to a natural disaster is able to begin or continue their studies in as seamless of a manner as possible while being extended this benefit to help ease the emotional and financial stresses of displacement.

The College's FY19 tuition and fee structure for Out of County students is \$144.08 per credit hour, broken out as follows:

- Instructional Fee: \$95.04
- General & Technology Fee: \$19.50
- Out of County Surcharge: \$29.54

The College's FY19 tuition and fee structure for Out of State students is \$271.19 per credit hour, broken out as follows:

- Instructional Fee: \$95.04
- General & Technology Fee: \$19.50
- Out of State Surcharge: \$156.65

This tuition waiver reduces the Out of County and Out of State surcharges for this population of students to \$1 each, reducing the tuition, fees, and surcharges per credit hour to 115.54 for Out of County students and \$116.54 for Out of State students, broken out as follows:

- Instructional Fee: \$95.04
- General & Technology Fee: \$19.50
- Out of County Surcharge: \$1.00
- Out of State Surcharge: \$1.00

These figures are based on FY19 tuition rates and will be adjusted to reflect any future approved changes to tuition, fees and/or surcharges. In the event that a resident of Ohio is displaced by a natural disaster, the Out-of-State surcharge would not apply.

This tuition waiver was approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2018. The Ohio Department of Higher Education requires reaffirmation of tuition waivers each biennium; therefore, the College is seeking reaffirmation and continuation of this tuition waiver for students displaced by natural disasters in the FY20-21 biennium.

II. BOARD RESOLUTION

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College District that:

- (A) The Board authorizes the reaffirmation and continuation of the tuition waiver for students displaced by natural disasters for the FY20-21 biennium.
- (B) This program will be implemented subject to the authority of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- (C) The Executive Vice President for Administration & Finance, or his designee, is authorized to take all steps necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.