



DIRECTIVE 2020-026

May 22, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY OHIO UNIVERSITY TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ONLINE CLASSES

§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 the biennium.

Pursuant to §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 as well as Directive 2009-011, Ohio University (“OU”) has requested that for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to continue to waive standard tuition rates for undergraduate resident and nonresident students enrolled in online courses.

OU has demonstrated the following:

- OU’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the continuation of the tuition waiver at its meeting on June 21, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- OU has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition for undergraduate students enrolled in fully online programs.
 - For Ohio residents the standard tuition is \$499 per credit hour (\$441 for the instructional fee and \$58 for the general fee). The amount charged under this waiver would be \$240 per credit hour (\$237 for the instructional fee and \$3 for the general fee.) This is a total waiver of \$259 per credit hour.
 - For non-Ohio residents the standard tuition is \$941 per credit hour (\$441 for the instructional fee, \$58 for the general fee and \$442 for the out-of-state surcharge). The amount charged under this waiver would be \$243 per credit hour (\$237 for the instructional fee, \$3 for the general fee and \$3 for the out-of-state tuition surcharge). This is a total waiver of \$698 per credit hour.
 - The specific amount being waived per credit hour may change depending on OU’s tuition rates, but in any event, the amount that will be charged to students will be \$237 per credit hour for the instructional fee, \$3 per credit hour for the general fee, and \$3 per credit hour for the non-resident fee if applicable.

- OU proposes that the duration of the waiver be for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, including summer term courses beginning prior to June 30, 2021.
- It is estimated the proposed waiver will affect approximately 5,000 undergraduate students in the RN-BSN completion program and an additional 400-500 students in a variety of other online programs.
- OU's goal is to maintain its overall online enrollment as the demand for the nursing completion program declines as the market backlog is served and to expand enrollments in the other programs to replace those enrollments.
- Enrollments for the RN-BSN under the waiver has held fairly steady at over 5000 Ohio students each term since academic year 2012-2013. Nonresident undergraduate student enrollment in this program is increasing. Enrollment in non-nursing programs has increased slightly and more programs are being added.
- Measurements of the program will include enrollment of undergraduate students in these programs.

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, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from Ohio University be granted for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 as set forth above.

This directive will take immediate effect.



Randy Gardner
Chancellor

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Ohio University Request for Reduced Fees for Online Undergraduate Courses

Pursuant to the continued authority in §363.230 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 and Directive 2009-011, Ohio University is requesting approval continuance of the following discounted rate for students not enrolled at the main campus taking Online Undergraduate courses:

Instructional Fee - \$237 per credit hour

General Fee - \$3 per credit hour

Non-Resident Fee - \$3 per credit hour

The University proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be for the 2019-20 academic year (starting August 2019) and continuing through the academic year 2020-21 including any summer terms that begin before June 30, 2021.

The programs using variations of this rates are outlined below:

- The Bachelor of Science in Technical Operations Management (BSTOM) adds to this standard online rate a program fee of \$113 per credit hour to cover lab material costs.
- The Correctional Education program for incarcerated students adds to this standard rate a special materials fee of \$100 per credit hour to cover the cost of providing printed course materials since these students do not have internet access.
- These rates do not apply to students enrolled on the main and regional campuses. Those students pay the full, established rates for all courses regardless of delivery method.
- At the June 21, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting a resolution was approved to continue the online rates shown above – see attached resolution and fee tables.

The rationale for this discounted rate is as follows:

- The discounted general fee is associated with the concept that services supported by the general fee (student recreation, athletics, student health services, student affairs) are primarily available only to on-campus students. The current fee is \$58 per credit hour for Athens students not on the tuition guarantee and the reduction would be \$55 to a new fee of \$3 per credit hour. Regional Campus students already pay \$3 per credit hour so this is consistent with the rates charged to those students.

- The discounted instructional fee reflects the concept that students who will never be physically on any of our campuses do not consume the same amount of physical campus resources. The current fee on the Athens campus for Non-Guarantee students is \$441 per credit hour and the reduction would be \$204 to a new fee of \$237 per credit hour. This is also basically the same rate that students pay on regional campuses for instructional fees.
- The discounted non-resident fees are related to our goal to expand our online offerings to complement our traditional offerings, which are constrained by the physical capacity of the campus. Without discounting, high non-resident fees are a major deterrent to increasing these enrollments because of the competitive nature of the national market for online courses since a similar approach is used at other IUC schools and universities in other states. The current fee is \$442 for Athens students and the reduction would be \$423 to a reduced fee of \$19 per credit hour. For regional campus students, the non-resident fee is either \$86 for campuses at the state border or \$189 for campuses more centrally located. The reduction would therefore be either \$67 or \$170 compared to regional campus students.

Goals and Assessment – RN-to-BSN

- The proposed continuation of this waiver will affect the 4800 students in the RN-to-BSN completion program and an additional 750 students in a variety of other programs.
- The University’s goal is to maintain its overall online enrollments as the demand for the nursing completion program declines as the market backlog is served and to expand enrollments in the other programs to replace those enrollments.
- The University will track enrollment of students outside our campus locations in these programs to determine if this goal has been achieved.
- The achievement of these goals is as follows:
 - Enrollment in the RN-BSN program has been fairly steady – since the peak enrollment around 2014, the overall enrollments have softened as expected:

Nursing Overall	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Fall	5790	5454	5518	5516	5220	4828
Spring	5704	5751	5573	5459	5154	

- As the market demand in Ohio has softened as the backlog is addressed, the number of out-of-state students is increasing indicating that this reduced pricing model is effective

NonRes Nursing	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Fall	1408	1323	1452	1546	1656	1668
Spring	1315	1406	1504	1601	1650	

- Enrollments in Non-Nursing programs including the BSTOM program has steadily increased also indicating the effectiveness of this pricing model at attracting national enrollments

Other	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Fall	417	541	540	526	600	742
Spring	459	462	547	488	565	

- Enrollments in the Correctional Education program have remained fairly steady and are expected to remain that way.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Fall	193	194	158
Spring	182	158	144
Summer	130	153	118

FISCAL YEAR 2019-20
OHIO UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20 TUITION, FEE AND RATE INCREASES

RESOLUTION 2019 -

WHEREAS, the appropriate planning and consultations within the University have been completed, resulting in the recommendations for establishing tuition, fee, and rate increases for proposes of investing in strategic priorities and to support quality off-campus, graduate programs detailed in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate planning and consultations within the University have been completed, resulting in the recommendations for maintaining the current reduced instructional, general and non-resident fee rates for certain eCampus, off-campus graduate, and undergraduate programs as detailed in Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, the reduced instructional, general, and non-resident fees in Exhibit B require the review and approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education each biennium; and

WHEREAS, these tuition, fees, and rate changes must be authorized and consistent with legislation enacted by the General Assembly.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adopts the fee schedules attached hereto as Exhibits A and B, effective Fall Semester 2019, unless otherwise noted and pending approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education as noted above.

Exhibit B

OHIO UNIVERSITY
MAINTAINING CURRENT REDUCED RATES
2019-20 STUDENT TUITION & FEE SCHEDULE
 (PER CREDIT HOUR)

eCampus Undergraduate Tuition Rates	Instructional Fee	General Fee	Program Fee	Special Svcs / Materials Fee	Ohio Resident Total	Non-Resident Fee	Out-of-State Resident Total
eCampus Undergraduate Programs	237	3	-	-	240	3	243
BSTOM Program ETM Courses	237	3	113	-	353	3	356
Correctional Education	237	3	-	100	340	3	343
Off-Campus Graduate Programs with Reduced Rates	Instructional Fee	General Fee	Program Fee	Special Svcs / Materials Fee	Ohio Resident Total	Non-Resident Fee	Out-of-State Resident Total
Standard Rate for all Off-Campus Graduate Programs and Certificates	505	3	-	-	508	19	527
Early Child Generalist Endorsement Certificate (4th/5th)	346	3	-	-	349	19	368
College of Education Graduate Workshop	130	3	-	-	133	19	152
Undergraduate Reduced Non-Resident Fee	Instructional Fee	General Fee	Program Fee	Special Svcs / Materials Fee	Ohio Resident Total	Non-Resident Fee	Out-of-State Resident Total
University of Bayreuth - Dual Degree, B.S. SportsManagement	441	58	-	-	499	10	509