DIRECTIVE 2021-001

January 4, 2021

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY OHIO UNIVERSITY TO REDUCE THE NON-RESIDENT GRADUATE SURCHARGE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN OHIO FROM AN OHIO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR.

§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, Ohio University (“OU”) requests to reduce non-resident graduate surcharge for graduate students who have completed an undergraduate degree in Ohio from an Ohio institution. The request applies to academic year 2020-2021, starting with fall 2020 and including all summer sessions beginning prior to June 30, 2021. This request will not include students admitted to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and students who are not degree seeking.

OU has demonstrated the following:

- OU’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on May 11, 2020. A copy of the resolution is attached.

- OU has submitted a specific request to reduce the non-resident surcharge for students who have completed an undergraduate degree in Ohio from an Ohio institution and enroll in a graduate program. This tuition surcharge reduction would not apply to students admitted to the College of Osteopathic Medicine or for students residing outside of Ohio.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Academic Year 20/21 Non-resident Surcharge</th>
<th>Requested Waiver</th>
<th>Surcharge After Waiver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens Campus</td>
<td>$496.00</td>
<td>$495.00</td>
<td>$1.00 per credit hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other campuses</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$1.00 per credit hour</td>
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- The specific amount being waived per credit hour may change depending on OU’s tuition rates, but the $1 per credit hour surcharge is applicable regardless of the amount to be waived.

- OU proposes that the duration of the waiver be for academic year 2020-2021, starting with fall session 2020 and including all summer sessions beginning before June 30, 2021. If the program is successful, OU intends to request the waiver be renewed for subsequent years.

- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will affect approximately 140 students currently, with the anticipation for additional students in subsequent years. OU determined this number to be reasonable based on the graduate students currently enrolled at OU who would meet the criteria for this surcharge reduction.

- The goal of this tuition waiver is to incentivize non-resident students who earned an undergraduate degree in Ohio to stay in Ohio and earn a graduate degree. Increasing enrollment at OU is also a goal.

- OU will track the students who qualify for this surcharge reduction to determine if the goal to increase enrollment is met. The information from this measurement will be utilized in the determination of future goals and objectives.

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 year 2020-2021, and any summer term that begins prior to June 30, 2021, as set forth above.

This directive will take immediate effect.

Randy Gardner
Chancellor
Ohio University Request for In-State Tuition for Graduate Students with degrees from Ohio institutions

Pursuant to the continued authority in §363.230 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 and Directive 2009-011, Ohio University is requesting approval to change the Non-Resident Fee for graduate students ($496 per credit hour for Athens campus programs and $19 per credit hour for programs outside Athens) to $1 per credit hour if they have received their bachelor’s degrees from an Ohio institution, as requested by the Chancellor to enhance the likelihood that they will remain in Ohio to be part of our state’s economic future.

The Chancellor asked that universities establish graduate tuition policies that support this request in as many disciplines as achievable, and the proposed rate consequently applies to graduate students in all programs who meet the prior degree criterion except those enrolled in the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The University proposes that the duration of the waiver be for the spring semester of the 2020-21 academic year and continuing through 2021 summer term.

At the August 18, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting a resolution was approved to authorize this waiver – see attached resolution.

Rationale and Goals

In March, Chancellor Randy Gardner submitted a request on behalf of Governor Mike DeWine that public universities adopt policies to provide in-state tuition rates to graduate students who have received their bachelor’s degrees in Ohio. The goal of such policies is to encourage Ohio college graduates to stay in the state for their advanced studies, thereby increasing the likelihood that they will remain in Ohio thereafter and contribute to the economic vitality of the state.

The non-resident fee is currently $495 per credit hour for programs on the Athens main campus and $19 per credit hour for off-campus programs. Thus, the waiver will be either $495 or $18 depending on the type of program resulting in a non-resident fee of $1 per credit hour after this waiver.

Approximately 287 of currently enrolled graduate students have degrees from Ohio universities so it is estimated that the proposed waiver would apply to those students but about half our students are in Athens programs where students have an assistantship that carries a full fee waiver so this waiver would be redundant for those students. This waiver would most likely benefit students in the off-campus programs so with 50% of our enrollments in off-campus programs, it is estimated that this would affect about 140 students with the anticipation for additional students in subsequent years.

The University will track enrollment of students coming into graduate programs and receiving this waiver to determine how well the goal is being achieved.
WHEREAS, the Governor and Ohio Department of Higher Education are asking universities to adopt policies to provide in-state tuition rates to graduate students who have received their bachelor’s degrees from an Ohio institution to enhance the likelihood that they will remain in Ohio to be part of our state’s economic future; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to strive to establish graduate tuition policies that support this request in as many disciplines as achievable; and

WHEREAS, preliminary discussions have determined that tuition for the College of Osteopathic Medicine should be exempted from this policy; and

WHEREAS, From Section 381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133rd GA:

“The board of trustees of a state institution of higher education shall not authorize a waiver or nonpayment of instructional fees or general fees for any particular student or any class of students other than waivers specifically authorized by law or approved by the Chancellor.”; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor has asked universities to submit this policy for approval through the ODHE tuition waiver process to comply with the above legislation; and

WHEREAS, the legislature expects universities to assess at least some minimal non-resident fee to non-resident students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees previously adopted Resolution 2020- 3836 wherein it waived non-resident fees for certain non-resident students; and

WHEREAS, the University now seeks to establish a non-resident fee of $1 per credit hour rather than waive the fee as provided in Resolution 2020- 3836.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adopts the policy of charging a graduate non-resident fee to $1 per credit hour for graduate students, with the exception of students in the College of Osteopathic medicine, who have received their bachelor’s degrees from an Ohio institution of higher education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy be submitted to the Chancellor for approval through the ODHE tuition waiver process effective Fall term 2020.