



DIRECTIVE 2021-011

April 19, 2021

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE REGISTERED NURSE TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (RN TO BSN) ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAM.

§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, the University of Akron (“UA”) has requested that for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to continue to waive standard tuition rates for students participating in the RN to BSN online degree program.

UA has demonstrated the following:

- UA’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the continuation of the tuition waiver at its meeting on June 12, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- UA has submitted a specific request to continue to reduce tuition to \$8,940 for the 32 credit-hour degree program, or \$279.38 per credit hour. This is a waiver of \$79.72 per credit hour.
 - UA will waive an additional \$2,000 for Ohio resident RN students participating in this program for a total of \$6,940 or \$216.88 per credit hour. This is a waiver of \$142.21 per credit hour.
 - The standard 12 to 18 credit hour plateau will not apply to this program.
 - Additional standard fees that will be associated with the UA Online RN to BSN program are:
 - General Service Fee - \$35.70 per credit hour
 - Administrative Fee - \$30 per semester regardless of number of credit hours
 - Non-resident surcharge - \$1 per credit hour for non-Ohio residents (pursuant to approval of renewal of Directive 2017-088)

- The specific amount being waived per credit hour may change depending on UA's tuition rates, but in any event, the amount waived will be up to \$2,000.
- UA 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.
- UA expects the tuition waiver will affect approximately 81 students per academic year.
- UA's goal for this waiver is to enable working nurses to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. The additional waiver for Ohio residents is to specifically enable Ohio working nurses to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing in order to benefit Ohio residents.
- The previous tuition waiver was very effective in increasing and maintaining enrollment. Due to COVID-19, enrollment was maintained, but it's increases were difficult due to the state of the pandemic. However, the history of this waiver suggests positive enrollment and benefit to students, as well as the State of Ohio.
- UA will monitor student courses and degree completion data to determine if the goals from this waiver are being met.

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.

JSF

Based upon my review of staff recommendations, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from the University of Akron, which allows UA to continue to reduce standard tuition rates for students enrolled in the RN to BSN online degree program for academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, including all summer sessions beginning prior to June 30, 2021, as set forth above.

This directive will take immediate effect.



Randy Gardner
Chancellor

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

RESOLUTION 6-8-19

Continuation of RN-BSN Online Program Tuition Waiver and Program Pricing

WHEREAS, The University of Akron's Board of Trustees approved resolutions 4-4-15 and 8-16-17 authorizing and requesting the Chancellor's approval of a waiver of standard tuition and fee rates; and

WHEREAS, That tuition waiver was approved by the Chancellor through Directives 2015-034 and 2017-089; and

WHEREAS, The College of Health Professions seeks to continue to price the online RN-BSN program at \$8,940 with authorization to offer up to a \$2,000 scholarship per student for Ohio RNs only; and

WHEREAS, §375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly requires any waiver of tuition for a student or class of student not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education to be approved by the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the price for the online RN-BSN program will continue effective July 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as required by law, the administration will request approval from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education for the associated fee waiver.



M. Celeste Cook, Secretary
Board of Trustees

