

## Quality and Value Discussion – The University of Cincinnati Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013

A group representing seven colleges and universities (two-year and four-year, public and private) in the Cincinnati area joined Chancellor John Carey and Dr. Gordon Gee for the fourth in a series of statewide meetings to discuss the new Quality and Value initiative.

Chancellor Carey and Dr. Gee welcomed the group and thanked everyone for contributing to the discussion and the work being done to bring better quality and value to higher education in Ohio. Dr. Gee said the issue of increasing quality and moderating cost will require “leadership on behalf of the universities and colleges. What we can do is come up with a number of ideas. We have to change the way we model ourselves in order to be successful.”

After welcoming remarks, Chancellor Carey and Dr. Gee opened the floor to attendees to share comments and ideas during the discussion. Some of the comments shared by those in attendance are as follows:

*“There is a high correlation between meeting demonstrated need and student success. There is a merit-based program with a need-based component in Georgia. Students that apply fill out the FAFSA but have to be a 3.0 student. The amount of money that is (awarded) is about \$3,500 per year for UGA. That can have a remarkable effect on first-year retention. I would like Ohio to consider some sort of scholarship program.”*

*“One of the biggest things that kept me in school besides my own desire is a program such as federal work study. I worked in the school admissions department, and that helped me stay motivated and work harder.”*

*“PSEO is wonderful, and encourages students to think about college. Sometimes we are put in adversarial situations with the high schools. If we could get PSEO to where it isn't adversarial, that would be helpful.”*

**Chancellor Carey responded to the PSEO comment, saying “In the last budget we were tasked with submitting a report to the legislature on dual enrollment and PSEO. Some of the things you are talking about will be addressed in the College Credit Plus report. We've had very good collaborations on this.”**

*“Students should have the ability to take Advanced Placement courses. I came in to college with 68 credit hours. Not all of them applied to my degree, but AP is a great opportunity for students to see what college is like, and it doesn't take them away from the extracurricular activities.”*

*I came to college with a lot of credit hours through AP and dual enrollment. That gives you an incentive to go to college because you have paid some money for classes. The nice thing about taking those is I've been able to be more creative with my schedule. I've taken classes not related to my major, but I've taken some fascinating classes, and I wouldn't have been able to have them otherwise. I could*

*have graduated early, but I've been able to do other things with my dual enrollment credit, and that adds value to the education."*

*"Some schools offer STEAM education, which includes the arts in addition to the STEM disciplines. Broadening those offerings can improve graduation rates and have an impact on the bottom line."*

*"Ohio is ahead of most of the nation in our articulation agreements, but having an agreement and having a smooth pathway is not always the same thing. Miami (University) just partnered with Columbus State (Community College); we look at cost as well as time to degree, which is every bit as important. We have to make sure those pathways are clearer and stronger from the get go. As we look at the cost side of things, we can find more efficient ways to do things."*

*"Beyond shared services and pathways, one thing that comes up regarding efficiency is technology. Sharing that knowledge between institutions might be effective."*

*"We have been having conversations like this in Kentucky. It's interesting that you've invited institutions from both sides of the river and the public and private schools together. We have a statewide agenda that focuses on dual credit and AP, to make sure that the credits for dual credit are included in the funding formula even if they are taught by high school teachers. It is not costing the university anything, and that is an incentive for those types of partnerships."*

*"We want college to be affordable for students and we want them to get done in four years. Is there any benefit to flipping that model and saying, 'Why don't we give students the ability to take more technical courses at the beginning of their degree, get jobs, co-ops, get paid, make money, and slow the process down. What is the rush?'"*

**Chancellor Carey mentioned that the Ohio Board of Regents moved into the same building as the Ohio Department of Education, and said "we are having a conversation about those career connections ... how can we embed that into the preschool curriculum? You can't wait until your senior year. The connection between K-12 and higher education is something we want to have continued emphasis."**

*"One of the important things when students are in high school is to offer courses that might help them decide where they want to go. They will probably be less likely to switch majors, which would add time to your college career. Offer those classes that would help students to be more efficient with their time."*

*"State could look at being an education-friendly state as well as a business-friendly state. If you bring the best and brightest into the state you're going to attract business."*

*"Coming back to advising, I think the statewide development of advisers would be really helpful. Could we have a symposium or daylong training session for types of advisement to understand the options students have across the state as they begin to transfer?"*

**Chancellor Carey said Governor Kasich is "very concerned about advising and we haven't figured out a strategy yet for looking at this." He added that "if students don't have an idea that higher education is relevant, they are less likely to go to college."**

*“Community colleges are more responsive to the needs of the workforce. The challenge for the four-year schools is how we know if we're accomplishing those goals. The quality agenda is going to be advanced as we advance our assessment agendas, and that can be a huge component to determining if we are graduating students with the skills to be productive.”*

**Dr. Gee said “the endgame for us is to have an educated citizenry and create jobs. We want to build a fence around Ohio to keep the best and brightest here, and the close the gate behind them.”**

**Chancellor Carey and Dr. Gee concluded the meeting by assuring attendees that the discussion will continue, and encouraged everyone to provide additional ideas as they have them.**

**The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Jan. 27 at Columbus State Community College’s Delaware County campus.**