DIRECTIVE 2026-030

September 8, 2026

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE NON-RESIDENT TUITION SURCHARGE FOR VETERANS OR MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

§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. §381.270 of Am. Sub. H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for this biennium.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §381.270 of Am. Sub. H.B. 96 and Directive 2009-011, The Ohio State University (OSU) has requested that for academic years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, including any summer 2027 semester that begins prior to June 30, 2027. the non-resident tuition surcharge be reduced for veterans or military members and their immediate families as described in more detail below.

OSU has demonstrated the following:

- OSU's Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on May 14, 2025. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- OSU has submitted a specific request to continue to reduce the non-resident tuition surcharge for veterans or miliary members and their immediate families (defined below) while all other fees and charges are applicable:
    - Immediate family is defined as a spouse or dependent child of the veteran or military member. Stepchildren are not eligible for the waiver.
    - OSU will reduce the non-resident surcharge to $5 per semester regardless of the amount of credit hours taken. The Academic Year 2025-2026 non-resident surcharge for a full time undergraduate student is $28,782, which will be reduced by $28,772. The Academic Year 2026-2027 non-resident surcharge is $30,221, which will be reduced by $30,211. Each semester, this will be a reduction to $5 for the non-resident surcharge, which equates to a reduction to $10 per academic year for the non-resident surcharge.

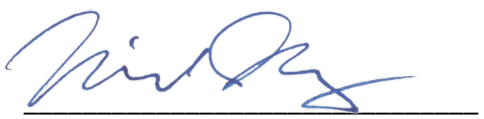
- The specific amount to be reduced per semester may change depending on OSU's tuition rates. In the event of a tuition increase, the amount reduced will adjust accordingly, such that the non-resident surcharge will remain $5 per semester.

- OSU proposes that the duration of the continued waiver for academic years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, including any summer semester 2027 that begins prior to June 30, 2027.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will affect approximately 70 students. This is based on the number of currently eligible students.
- The goal of this continued tuition waiver is to make OSU more welcoming to veterans and their families. This has been successful in past terms, as OSU has seen interest year after year with the following numbers of applications each Academic Year: 70 in AY 22-23, 48 in AY 23-24, 112 in AY 24-25, 71 in AY 25-26.
- OSU will measure the attainment of this goal by tracking the number of students who use the waiver and graduate. In addition, success will be measured by the number of service members and veterans who settle in Ohio after using the waiver.
- OSU understands it must remain in compliance with all applicable state and U.S. federal laws, including U.S. federal financial aid laws. OSU understands the Ohio Department of Higher Education ("ODHE") is only addressing a state requirement with this tuition reduction and is not considering in its determination and approval whether or not the administration of this reduction by OSU is in compliance with the laws, rules, and regulations governing U.S. federal financial aid. Any determination that the administration of U.S. federal financial aid is not compliant will suspend the approval of this reduction until OSU receives assurances that its administration of the reduction is not interfering with its compliance with laws, rules, and regulations governing U.S. federal financial aid.

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 continuation of the continued tuition waiver request from the Ohio State University which allows OSU to continue to reduce the non-resident tuition surcharge for Academic Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, including any summer semesters 2027 that begins prior to June 30, 2027, for veterans or military members and their immediate families as detailed above.

This directive will take immediate effect.



Mike Duffey
Chancellor

APPROVAL OF NON-RESIDENT TUITION WAIVER FOR OHIO STATE STUDENTS WHO ARE VETERANS, MILITARY MEMBERS, OR THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES

Synopsis: Waiver of the non-resident surcharge for Ohio State students who are veterans, military members, or their immediate families for Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 is proposed.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University supports academic programs that meet the needs of Ohio State students; and

WHEREAS Ohio State students who are veterans or military members, with 90 days or more of honorable service in the United States uniformed services, and their immediate families, defined as spouses and/or children, that do not qualify for in-state tuition because of the intricacies of federal and state regulations, would benefit from an expanded policy that extends a waiver of the non-resident surcharge; and

WHEREAS Ohio State has, since Spring Semester 2019, requested and received a tuition waiver that allows the university to assess a $5 non-resident tuition surcharge to eligible students, rather than the respective undergraduate non-resident surcharge based on their assigned tuition guarantee cohort; and

WHEREAS the university seeks to continue the fee waiver that reduces the non-resident surcharge to $5 for eligible veterans, military members, and their immediate families, but the current waiver expires at the end of Summer 2025 term; and

WHEREAS the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) requires a Board of Trustees resolution to consider a new tuition waiver per Ohio Revised Code and ODHE directive 2009-011:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves to waive all but $5 of the non-resident tuition surcharge for The Ohio State University students who are veterans or military members, with 90 days or more of honorable service in the United States uniformed services, and their immediate families, that do not otherwise qualify for in-state tuition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this approval will become effective for all semesters and terms, beginning Autumn 2025 semester, through June 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the administration will seek approval of a tuition waiver from the Ohio Department of Higher Education for state Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.